

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 2017



Opt Outside

From the Executive Director:



Photo by Douglas K. Hull

In 1987, the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust was run by dedicated volunteer trustees. However, by the following summer, both the overwhelming membership response and the number of land preservation opportunities validated the need for full-time staff. My position was for one year and the agreement was that at the end of the year, an assessment of the year's activities would be made by the Board and a decision would be made whether to renew my role as Executive Director.

As a start-up organization, the Board recognized that running a nonprofit is not easy. Nonprofits are faced with constant fundraising challenges and the difficulty of meeting mission goals with limited resources. Although not publicly vocalized, the Trustees gave themselves a five-year window to determine if the land trust would succeed. Thirty years and 11,117 acres later, Ausbon Sargent is still going strong!

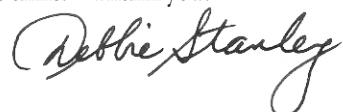
Most non-profit consultants will agree that the key to success is a well-defined mission that is the centerpiece of what it does and is not an afterthought. Since the very beginning our mission has been to preserve and protect the rural character of the region by conserving land. What has changed is the growing stewardship obligation that

comes with our increased acreage and Ausbon Sargent's ability to use technology to examine criteria when deciding how to proceed on each project.

Technological advancements like GPS (Global Positioning Systems) and GIS (Geographic Information Systems) have helped us make informed decisions when evaluating a potential project. Over the years, our Land Protection Policy and Criteria has been amended to reflect current data such as the updated 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan.

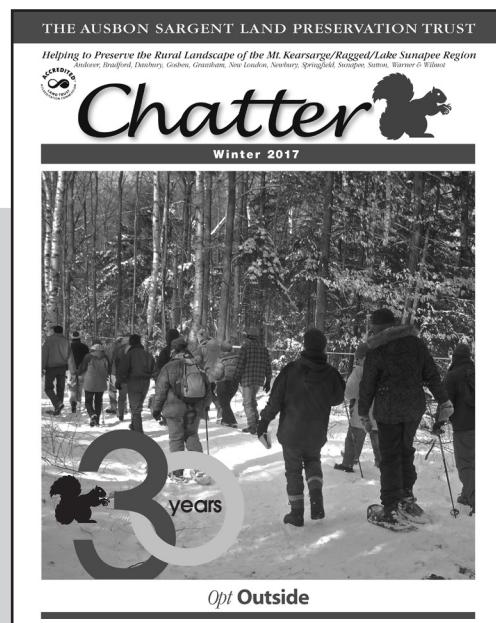
This year Ausbon Sargent will spend time gaining an understanding of how our land protection efforts can strategically increase the chances that natural systems will adapt by identifying climate-resilient lands. Connectivity of conservation lands is important as it allows species to move (in elevation and/or north) in response to climate variations.

In closing, I'd like to thank all of our supporters. Your generosity has ensured that Ausbon Sargent has the resources to protect land and steward it forever. By saving land, we strengthen the NH economy and bring health and well-being to you, your family and thousands of residents and visitors alike. Thank you!



ABOUT THE COVER

Read more about our 2017 Winter *Chatter* theme **"Opt Outside"** in our special articles on pages 3 and 13. We have so many opportunities for outdoor experiences in a beautiful landscape. ***We hope you'll consider it.***



The Phillips Preserve offers a couple of great hikes.



Photo by Bob Brown

Let Ausbon Sargent Help You to “Opt Outside”

by Peggy Hutter

As a non-profit organization, The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust regularly receives notices from other organizations regarding innovations and events that they are proud to share. In early November of 2016, Ausbon Sargent received an email from the REI outdoor equipment retailer that caused us to stop, think and share their special message with our members. The REI concept became the inspiration for the theme of this Winter 2017 Chatter newsletter: “Opt Outside.”

A year ago, in 2015, REI closed its stores and online sales on Black Friday, the traditional post-Thanksgiving shopping day, and gave its 12,000+ employees the day off. This was an attempt to encourage their employees to abandon the Black Friday shopping frenzy and, instead, use the day to play outside. While it may appear counterintuitive, REI’s efforts did not harm their position in the market as they reported record earnings in 2015.

REI CEO, Jerry Stritzke, announced in October of 2016, “This year REI will be shut down on both Thanksgiving and Black Friday because fundamentally we believe that being outside makes us our best selves—healthier and happier, physically and mentally.” This philosophy seems to parallel the beliefs of Ausbon Sargent. Our mission is to “preserve the rural landscape of the region” and we continually encourage people to get outside to enjoy the beauty of their surroundings.

“Opting Outside” is one of the least expensive ways to stay healthy. Research from medical institutes, from sport and fitness testing, from studies done with children through the elderly population, all point to the benefits of spending time outside. Exposure to nature tends to leave us with a sense of calm and well-being. Time spent in green outdoor spaces helps to boost focus and concentration in both adults and children. While more aggressive hikes may contribute to the improvement of your physical condition, there are many positive benefits that result from a casual walk on a woodland path.

Ausbon Sargent now protects 139 properties, encompassing 11,117 acres of land in our 12-town region. Many of those properties offer public access; many have stunning views and others protect the wildlife habitat, offering you the possibility of seeing an interesting bird or animal along the way.

On our Ausbon Sargent website, www.ausbonsargent.org, we offer maps for hikes on some of our properties. In addition, there are many hiking trails and walking paths that can be found on the websites of the individual 12 towns that we serve. You may be surprised to find an interesting trail very close to your home.

We are so fortunate to be surrounded by forests and fields, by hillsides, mountains and waterways. Tourists make our area a destination and we live in the area that many come to vacation. Make a promise to yourself to “Opt Outside” and Ausbon Sargent will continue its promise to steward these special places forever.

Peggy Hutter is the Communications Coordinator for Ausbon Sargent. In her “other life,” Peggy taught middle school physical education for thirty-six years before retiring from the Kearsarge Regional School District in 2010. Peggy and her husband, Bob, live on a scenic, dirt road in Elkins boasting two beautiful Ausbon Sargent protected properties.



Thirty years of Challenges and Accomplishments

by Peggy Hutter

As Debbie Stanley shared in her “Message from the Executive Director” on page 2, the year 2017 marks the 30th anniversary of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. Now, as nations go or as some of us mark our own birthdays, we realize that thirty years is rather young. Some thirty-year-olds are just getting their lives together, finally maturing. But that’s not so in the case of Ausbon Sargent. In thirty years, we have matured beautifully and we are so together!

Following the inception of the land trust in 1987, when it was run as a startup by volunteers, Ausbon Sargent has grown by leaps and bounds every year. The organization has been fortunate to attract bright, committed and forward-thinking trustees to their board. As our thirtieth anniversary approaches, I invited the seven trustees who were Ausbon Sargent board chairs at each of our five-year anniversaries to share some of their memories. My prompt to them was “Reflecting on your term as Ausbon Sargent board chair, what was your most significant challenge or your most significant accomplishment?” Their responses are an affirmation of the great work that Ausbon Sargent does for our region.

Woody Blunt, owner of Dartmouth Coach and Concord Coach

Woody served as the first chairman of the board in **1987**. He reflects back thirty years as he remembers the thoughts and struggles of the founding board members for what is now an award-winning nonprofit land trust:



My most significant challenge as the first board chair of ASLPT (even before it had this name), was to define a lasting mission statement and adopt a set of bylaws that would describe what this fledgling area nonprofit was all about and then, to get the word out. After many meetings in kitchens and over coffee with Heidi Lauridsen, Dale Garvey and Don Sisson, this first crucial step was completed. From the beginning, we realized that this ship could not float without a captain. All the members of the original board were busy local volunteers with not enough time to devote. Money was needed. I believe that my most significant contribution, way back when, was to solicit and raise the funds necessary to hire a full-time executive director.”

Marilyn Kidder, owner of Better Homes and Gardens Milestone Real Estate

Marilyn took no time in responding to my question. As she thought back to her term as chair during our five-year anniversary in **1992**, Marilyn said:



My response qualifies as both my most significant challenge and my most significant accomplishment. At that time, it was working to bring together all the moving pieces for the Esther Currier project in Low Plain and then actually making it happen!!”



Dan Wolf, owner of Hodan Properties Inc. and the New London Inn

Dan served as chair of the Ausbon Sargent board in **1997**, our 10th anniversary. With only ten years under our belts, Ausbon Sargent was recognized as a leader in its field, a proud recognition for Dan and the Ausbon Sargent team. Dan shares:



• In 1997, Ausbon Sargent was honored by the Corporate Fund, in partnership with the NH Charitable Foundation and selected as a recipient of the 10th annual Walter J. Dunfey Excellence in Management Award. This was such a meaningful recognition for Ausbon Sargent. We knew we were a very good small non-profit organization doing good things, but receiving an award such as this validated all we believed to be true. A great accomplishment during my term was the protection of the Main Street Meadow, one of the ‘gateways to the town’ open space meadows at the south end of Main Street. When neighbors heard that house lots had been staked out on this property, they raised over \$70,000 to help protect forever this property and the view it provides.”

Terri Jillson White, CIC, AAI at Maloney Associates Insurance

Terri was the board chair during Ausbon Sargent’s 15th anniversary year in **2002**, our first chair in the twenty-first century!



• The largest challenge at that time was that ASLPT was experiencing ‘growing pains.’ It was a very pivotal time for ASLPT as it transitioned from a strong, start-up nonprofit to the next phase of its life cycle which would position ASLPT for the future. During this time, the office moved, staff was added, Outreach Centers were established in 12 towns, total acreage protected was 2,964 and our first website was established. I believe the greatest accomplishment during this time was the growth of the membership. I felt, and the board agreed, that membership growth would not only grow the financial resources of ASLPT, but would also provide us with the opportunity to educate more people on the value of ASLPT and our mission. We focused



on growing the membership which included starting the Phone-A-Thon that has now become an annual ASLPT event. We also began looking at Planned Giving as another opportunity that would be invaluable to helping fulfill the ASLPT mission. In 1987, the founders of ASLPT formed the organization as a 'temporary' response to the real estate pressures of the late 1980's. It is rewarding to look back over the history of the organization and note that ASLPT has transitioned from 'temporary' to a 'permanent', well-respected organization in our community conserving and protecting land in our area that will be enjoyed by future generations."

Nancy Teach was Director of Academic Affairs and International Programs at Colby-Sawyer College

Nancy served as Ausbon Sargent's board chair in **2007**, at the time of our 20th anniversary. Nancy thought on my question for a long time, and with some angst. She finally concluded that our 20th anniversary was rich with both challenges and accomplishments as she considered space, staffing, land protection, national accreditation and leadership:



Space: *I recall early meetings, as one of at least six members of the Lands Committee who crammed into a very tiny room in the former Ausbon Sargent office in the Kidder Building; often needing to move to the New London Town Office meeting room. We were growing, our work expanding and it was very exciting to find a new, much larger office location just around the corner on Pleasant Street.*

Staff: *It became very clear with the increased public interest in land preservation, that additional staff would be necessary to relieve the backlog of projects and to ensure the continued successes of ASLPT. The board approved hiring our first Land Protection Specialist, Beth McGuinn.*

Land: *Wow, right here in my home town of Andover, the Hersey family wisely and generously chose to conserve 267 acres. This property known as the Hersey Family Farm is a beautiful gateway to the eastern edge of Andover. (After my time on the board, the Gross family chose to conserve 100 acres. This created a gateway to the western edge of the Andover village. Taa Da!!)*

Accreditation: *Achieving accreditation allowed ASLPT to become recognized regionally and nationally by the Land Trust Alliance. Board members invested in the LTA.*

Leadership: *As board chair, I liked to lead with humor and calm sensibility. This led to partnerships with the 12-town conservation commissions and Colby-Sawyer College. We recognized the importance of allowing the staff and volunteers to do their jobs without too much oversight and unnecessary interference and that led to success."*



Greg Berger, owner of Spring Ledge Farm

Greg was one of our youngest board chairs, serving during our 25th anniversary year in **2012**. Regarding challenges, accomplishments and the celebration of 25 successful years as a non-profit land trust, Greg shares:



We were challenged with celebrating years of growth while ensuring that we had enough resources to steward all of the properties in perpetuity (forever is a mighty long time). Our goal was to work on a central theme, and we ended up with the 25th Anniversary celebration as well as the Saving Land for Tomorrow capital campaign. There were diverse talents spread across the committees, the board, the staff and the volunteers. Helping coordinate the year-long series of hikes, publications and fundraisers, along with the meetings and organization required to bring it all together was the biggest accomplishment. Both these projects dovetailed and in the final analysis, we were successful in celebrating and ensuring protection of the lands under easement in our beautiful neck of the woods."

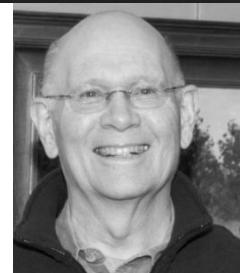


Doug Lyon, retired CFO for Colby-Sawyer College, is our current board chair

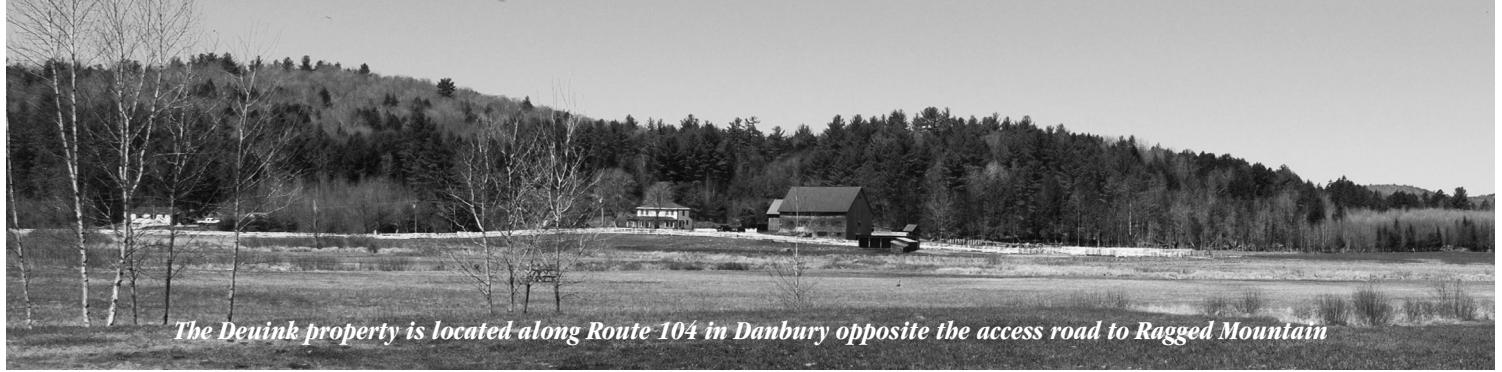
Doug will be serving through our 30th anniversary year in **2017**. He not only shares some challenges and accomplishments, but states the concerns that probably all board chairs feel when they consider the responsibility they have to continue the success associated with Ausbon Sargent. In typical form, Doug gives us a chuckle as he shares:



As the current chair of the Board of Trustees, I'm inclined to say that my biggest challenge is to avoid screwing it up. Past chairs have laid a wonderful groundwork for today's group, and I think my work is to help fine-tune a smoothly running machine. We've modified our investment policy and our investment strategy a bit. We've reviewed all of our policies and adjusted them where appropriate. We've constructed a new five-year strategic plan with assistance from professional facilitators and extensive board of trustee dialog. We've continued to put easements in place on desirable properties, and we've continued the successful record of generating community support that makes the organization so envied in the land trust community. So far, so good; I haven't made too big a mess!!



Every five-year term brought new challenges as the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust grew from its fledgling start in 1987. The important theme to note from each of our past board chairs above is that though there were challenges, a strong and dedicated team at the land trust always seemed to face them head on and turn them into accomplishments. Ausbon Sargent is a small nonprofit that plays like a giant in its field. As we celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2017, we have a great deal to be proud of and many people to thank for our successes. We hope you'll continue to support us in the Ausbon Sargent mission of "preserving the rural character of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region.



The Deuink property is located along Route 104 in Danbury opposite the access road to Ragged Mountain

Prominent Farm in Danbury Receives LCHIP Funding

Ausbon Sargent is excited to announce that we have been awarded a \$153,000 LCHIP (Land Community Heritage Investment Program) grant to be used towards the purchase of a conservation easement on the approximately 450-acre Deuink property in Danbury, provided the project fundraising goal is met. Although Ausbon Sargent is very excited about the grant award, it will not cover the entire purchase price of the easement, and there still will be an extensive fundraising campaign for funds to protect this important property. We have until June 30, 2018 to compile all documentation and reach our fundraising goal in order for LCHIP to release the grant funds. The Deuink property represents the predominant view to the north of Route 104 as you leave the center of Danbury and head towards Bristol. In addition to the scenic view, the property has extensive frontage on the Smith River and valuable wildlife habitat. LCHIP awards grants to both land and historical conservation projects throughout the State of New Hampshire. This year's grant round was highly competitive and there were several deserving projects that were not funded. Please be on the lookout for future news concerning the Deuink property in Danbury.



*Present at the LCHIP Grant Awards are (front L-R):
LCHIP Chair Doug Cole, Governor Maggie Hassan, Ausbon Sargent
Executive Director Debbie Stanley, Dijit Taylor from LCHIP and
Ausbon Sargent Trustee Graham McSwiney. (Back row): Rep. David
Kidder and Rep. Karen Ebel from New London and Ausbon Sargent
Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan.*

Calendar of Events

We are in the process of planning many events for 2017 and our 30th anniversary year. Visit our website regularly at www.ausbonsargent.org/calendar to find out what events are coming up.

Join our mailing list on the homepage of our website to receive e-blasts of upcoming events.

Nowell Conservation Easement Closes

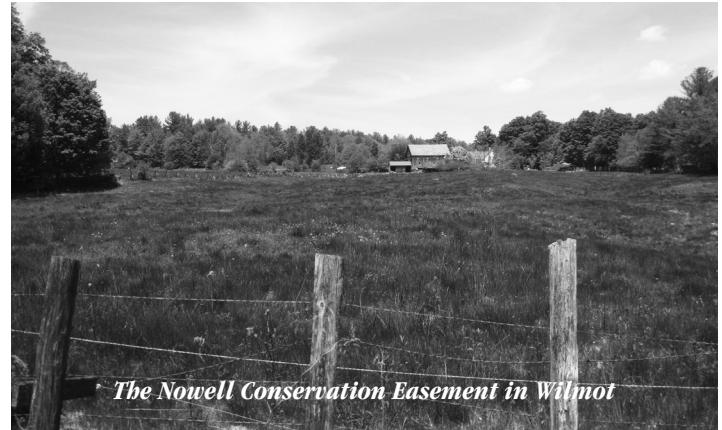


Photo by Andy Deegan

The Nowell Conservation Easement in Wilmot

Thanks to the help of the Wilmot Conservation Commission, the Burton D. Morgan Foundation, The Brown Foundation, Inc., of Houston and other generous donors, we have reached our fundraising goal on the 28-acre Nowell Conservation Easement in Wilmot. This property has been farmed, used for maple sugaring, and managed for timber production since the late 1950's. Due to its open fields, prime agricultural and forestry soils and significant road frontage along the well-traveled Grafton Road and Walker Brook, this land would be a prime location for eventual development. Owner, Clayton Nowell, the residents of Wilmot and the Ausbon Sargent community are happy to report that, due to the diligence and support of many, this scenic and valuable property will now be protected forever. The closing has been scheduled for February 9, 2017 at 7 pm.

Clark Lookout Expansion

by Peggy Hutter

Clark Lookout, also referred to as “Big Hilltop,” is owned by The Town of New London with a conservation easement held by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. The property and trails, located just off Davis Hill Road in New London, are managed and maintained by the New London Conservation Commission.

This property has always been a premier property in New London because of the spectacular view afforded at the end of the short 0.4 mile walk up the “Clark Lookout Trail.” Unique to this property is the ability for those with limited mobility to visit this wonderful overlook of Lake Sunapee with Mt. Sunapee facing us in the distance. A gate key is available by special request at the New London Town Offices to those who could only access the top by car.

The value to this already important property increased this year when the Town of New London had the opportunity to purchase the right of way easement and additional acres of fields and woods approaching Clark Lookout. No taxpayer-dollars were spent in this transaction as all of the funding came from the existing Mary Haddad Trust.

Clark Lookout is a favorite destination for New London resident and NH State Representative, Karen Ebel. Karen remembers fondly the many trips she’s made to this special spot as well as the history of Syd Crook’s extraordinary gift to the town. Karen shares:

“Having served with Syd Crook for many years on the Planning Board, I remember well when he decided to give the town the land for the Clark Lookout. This was a beloved spot of Syd’s mother and named in her honor; Clark being Syd’s mother’s maiden name. As she got older she had trouble getting to the lookout by foot. Syd felt strongly that those, like his mother, who couldn’t walk to the gorgeous view should be able to access the top by car, so I knew the terms of Syd’s gift included access to those who were disabled. My mother, Doris Ebel, now 90, has been able to walk to Clark Lookout until recently. Having moved here in 2011 after my father passed away, she thoroughly enjoyed the short walk to rest on the granite bench and gaze down on beautiful Lake Sunapee and the surrounding mountains.

This fall, as one day after another proved more heavenly than the next, Mom spoke frequently of that view. How wonderful that I could take her by car to enjoy it on a stunning October day! After getting the key from the New London town office, it was an easy trip up the hill to make Mom’s wish come true. Without Syd’s generosity and Ausbon Sargent’s and the Town of New London’s dedication to provide access for all to that ‘multi-million dollar’ view, Mom would never have been able to see it again. We are so grateful for the opportunity to visit Clark Lookout now and in the future. We know we’ll be there again when Mom is 91!”
(See photo of Doris on page 13.)



Photo by Debbie Stanley

Facts about Clark Lookout Conservation Easement

Town: New London
Location: Route 103A and Davis Hill Road
Total Acreage: 14 acres

- The project consists of 9.5 acres that were purchased by the Town of New London in September, 2016 and were added to the existing Clark Lookout Easement. The 1.5-acre access road that the town purchased was already subject to a conservation easement.
- The property is managed by the Town of New London Conservation Commission.
- The property protects the access to Clark Lookout which provides spectacular views of Lake Sunapee and Mount Sunapee.
- The property protects the water quality of Lake Sunapee.
- The property provides for low-impact public recreation.
- The property protects approximately 544 feet of frontage on Davis Hill Road and 120 feet of frontage on 103A.
- Ausbon Sargent is the conservation easement holder on the entire 14 acres and is responsible for perpetual stewardship.

The New London Conservation Commission appreciates the ongoing commitment of the Department of Public Works for their help in maintaining town trails like this one. They also thank Peter Stanley for his long time support of conservation projects. The newly acquired one acre lower field at Clark Lookout had not been mowed in 10 to 12 years. Peter gave his time, expertise, and equipment to opening this field and he is committed to keeping it mowed to improve the wildlife habitat.

If you haven’t had the opportunity to visit this special place, please put it on your list. You’ll find yourself not only returning, but introducing your family and friends to this gift.

This article was written by Peggy Hutter with contributions from Karen Ebel and New London Conservation Commission Chair, Bob Brown.



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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 Lee Morrill, OnTrack Design
 Robert Jensen Floral Designs

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 Extraordinary Taste Catering –
 Laura Powers
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 The Millstone at 74 Main
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 Tarte Café and Bakery
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WOODS WITHOUT GILE HIKE LEADERS

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 Dode Gladders
 Matt Tarr
 Tim Wallace

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Our sincere appreciation to those who share their passion for natural places through land and easement donations.

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 Kezar Conservation Group, LLC
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 Knight's Hill Nature Park
 Nelson F. Lebo III

*denotes deceased





Ralph Spofford Memoriam

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Ralph Spofford on May 17, 2016 at the age of 79. In 2001, Ralph and his wife, Mickey, granted Ausbon Sargent a conservation easement on a wonderful 21-acre property in New London. The Spofford Conservation Ease-

ment includes forests, a meadow, and amazing views of Mt. Kearsarge, Pleasant Lake and Mt. Sunapee. It is rich with historically significant attributes from the late 18th century and was something that Ralph devoted many hours researching. The property has many trails, maintained by the New London Conservation Commission, that are open to the public. We are thankful to the Spoffords for conserving their special place, and we have made a promise that it will remain, as is, forever. Through the land, Mickey, Ralph's daughter, Kim, her husband and their three children, as well as all those who knew Ralph, his memory and his legacy will live on.

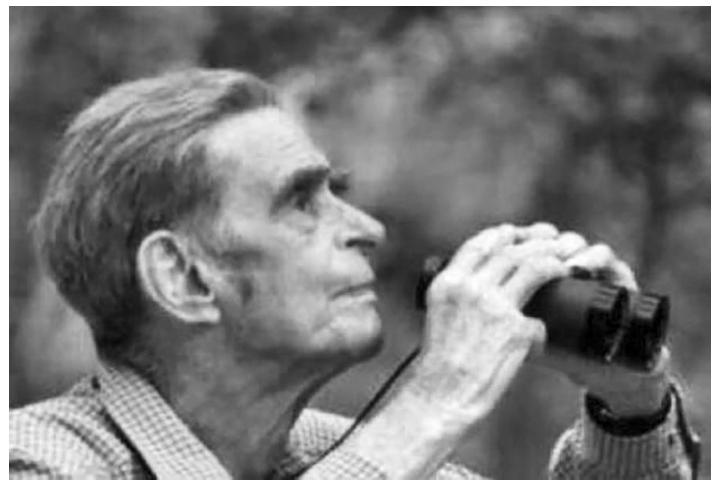


Amy Blitzer Memoriam

On October 29, 2016 Ausbon Sargent lost a special friend, member, and easement donor. Sadly, Amy Blitzer passed away at the age of 90 while on vacation with her family. Amy, a sculptor who taught art at the Buckingham Browne & Nichols School

in Cambridge, MA, married her husband Dr. John Blitzer in 1948. The couple purchased their house in Bradford, NH in 1967 and after raising four children, retired there full-time in 1987. The Blitzers donated an easement to Ausbon Sargent in 1999 on a 149-acre parcel on Rowe Mountain Road in Bradford, to insure it remained a working tree farm forever. John passed away in 2004 and ten years later, Amy donated another easement to Ausbon Sargent on a 41-acre parcel on Center Road in Bradford. Amy was always generous to the land trust, served on the Membership Committee in the mid 90's, and was an active member of the Bradford Conservation Commission. We are grateful to Amy and John for recognizing the importance of the land and for helping to insure that it remains wild and wooded forever.

Photo courtesy of Webb Family



Remarks for Dick Webb's Memorial Service held on August 14, 2016 at the R. H. Webb Forest Preserve in Sunapee

by Debbie Stanley

In 1987 two conservation initiatives were started which were important to Dick. A local land trust was formed called The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and New Hampshire's Land Conservation Investment Program (LCIP) was launched.

For Ausbon Sargent the early support from Dick, who was considered a legend in the conservation field, was a huge confidence builder to our land trust. And for Sunapee's local LCIP project, the 76-acre donated conservation easement by Dick and Betsy was the catalyst for neighboring landowners the Nielsens, Harrisons and Jolyon Johnson to sell their development rights on 383 acres for less than their appraised values. The Sunapee project helped the LCIP exceed the state's goal of setting aside 100,000 acres of strategic conservation and recreation areas for the people of NH.

Dick was a generous benefactor to Ausbon Sargent and a wonderful mentor and sounding board to me personally. Over the years Dick and the land trust shared a number of milestone occasions. As the easement backup holder of the R. H. Webb Forest Preserve, Ausbon Sargent was pleased to be part of the 11th Annual Granite State Tree Farm Field Day recognizing the Webbs as the Tree Farmer of the Year for 2000.

At Dick's 85th birthday celebration in July 2006, Van honored his father by granting conservation easements on the last two Webb family "wood lots" which meant that more than 3,400 acres of Webb lands are conserved in five towns. The final two lots are located in Sunapee and are identified as the Harris Lot (69 acres) and the Dane Lot (74 acres). Dick told us that years ago while working on the Dane Lot, he was taking a break with George Nielsen when a friend came running out to ask them if they had heard the news that President Kennedy had

been shot. Dick also remembered when another friend joked that the price he paid for the Dane lot was, at that time, just about the price of a new Cadillac.

In 2008 when the land trust moved into its new office, Dick and Betsy gave us a 3 foot x 9 foot harvest table which is rich with Webb family history. The table is made from a yellow birch that was timbered from their Wilmot property and then milled at the Trow's in Sunapee. For many years this table was the gathering spot for Thanksgiving dinners and sugaring season at their Wilmot cabin. We are pleased to use it every day in our office.

Over the years Dick has quietly and generously contributed to a number of Ausbon Sargent's strategic goals including helping to partially underwrite both our first and second land protection specialist staff positions. Dick also understood the importance of stewardship. He was an early supporter of our Saving Land for Tomorrow Campaign, our campaign to insure that Ausbon Sargent would be able to fulfill its stewardship responsibilities for all our conservation easement and fee-owned properties.

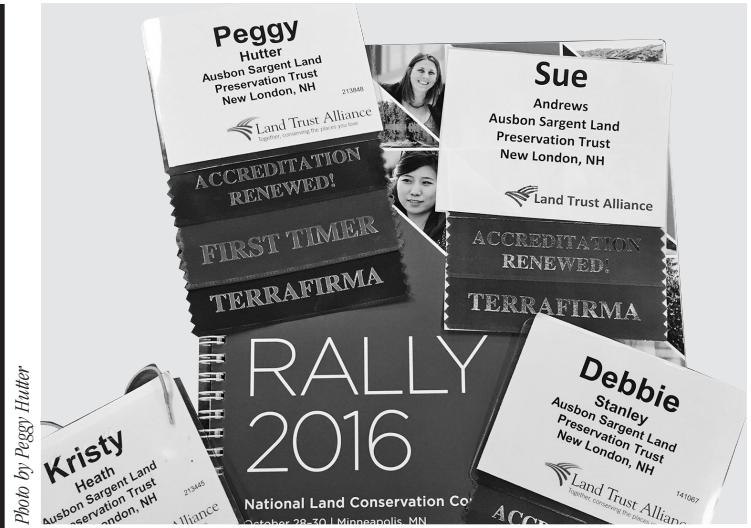
Last July 2015, Dick attended what would be his final Ausbon Sargent event when we celebrated the successful protection of Wendell Marsh North and South insuring that a 300-acre block of contiguous land will continue to protect the water quality within the marsh and adjacent Sugar River.

Today's dedication of "A custodian of these woods" is a most fitting tribute to Dick who was one of the most dedicated and influential conservationists and tree farmers of our time. We thank Dick for the many lasting gifts he has given us to be enjoyed now and for generations to come.



Three generations of Webbs—Dick, grandson Tyler and son Van.

Photo courtesy of the Webb Family



An Anonymous Donor Provides the Ausbon Sargent Staff with a Unique Opportunity

by Kristy Heath

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, four Ausbon Sargent staff members and one trustee were able to attend the Land Trust Alliance's national conference, known as "Rally," held this year in Minneapolis, MN. Attending Rally is a wonderful opportunity to hear from experts in the land conservation field about new practices, methodologies, changes in IRS regulations, and useful tools that can be employed to get the most from conservation dollars. It is a great opportunity to network with others and see how our small organization aligns with others to form a broad base of people striving to accomplish the same thing: preserving the land.

We attended workshops that gave insight on how to keep donors and the community engaged in the work we do. Experts shared how the healthcare system can use green space as medicine. We viewed new database technologies that are available and learned about insurances a land trust should have. Attending workshops on re-accreditation guidelines were important as we strive to make that process most efficient every five years. We learned about best practices for writing development committee fundraising letters and the importance of board members building donor relationships and engaging with members. There was even a workshop exploring the future possibility of using drones to monitor properties. Without a doubt, it was an experience that we feel very fortunate to have had. We left Minneapolis with our heads buzzing with ideas, strategies, and in many cases, a confidence that practices currently employed at Ausbon Sargent are sustainable.

What an amazing opportunity our anonymous donor afforded Ausbon Sargent. Being able to attend a conference like this, where education is coupled with excitement about the field of land preservation, is vital to our organization staying on top of its game. We enter our 30th year of land preservation in 2017 with excitement about how we can put some of our newfound knowledge to work to carry on the tradition of excellence, trust, and permanence at the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust!

Kristy Heath is Ausbon Sargent's Development and Administrative Coordinator and was excited to attend Rally for the first time. She found the experience to be most helpful as someone relatively new to land conservation. Kristy and her husband Nate reside in Springfield, NH with their three daughters, who all enjoy a walk in the woods!

Ausbon Sargent Welcomes Martha McLeod to the Board



Ausbon Sargent welcomes Martha McLeod as its newest trustee. Martha and her husband, Ryan, moved to New London in 2011 and currently live in Andover. She has a BS in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting from the University of New Hampshire and a MS in Accounting from the University of Massachusetts. Martha's background in accounting and her non-profit experience makes her a great fit for Ausbon Sargent and will be valuable in the organization's succession planning for a future treasurer.

When we asked Martha what about Ausbon Sargent or the mission of the land trust influenced her to accept her role as a board member, she was happy to share the following thoughts:

"I first learned about Ausbon Sargent by exploring hiking trails in New London when my husband and I moved here five years ago. We thought it was so great that there is an organization that helps facilitate the use of open space in our area and ensures it will be protected for future generations to use. A few years later I met Debbie Stanley through the Rotary Club. I saw how passionate she was about the mission of the organization and that inspired me to ask how I could become more involved. My thought was to volunteer as an easement monitor, but Debbie had bigger plans. She talked with me about joining some of the committees, but within a few months of our conversations, Debbie asked me to join the board."

Martha graciously agreed to serve on Ausbon Sargent's Lands Committee and the Finance Committee, as well. She is an active member of the Newport, NH Rotary Club and served as president from March 2014 to June 2015. In her free time, Martha enjoys hiking on various Ausbon Sargent properties and spending time with her husband and their cat, Trudie.

Martha's rich credentials and her strong interest in the work of the land trust complement the strength of the current board and make her a natural fit. Welcome to our team, Martha.

Meet our Newest Volunteer: Katie Potter!

In the Summer 2016 issue of Chatter, we included a request for a volunteer to manage the recycling in our office. We were so excited to hear from Lin Potter almost immediately! Lin's 6th grade daughter, Katie, had been looking for an opportunity to volunteer, and the job at Ausbon Sargent seemed to be a perfect fit. "We feel that volunteering is important in our community and want to encourage our children to do so" shared Lin, whose older daughter volunteers at their church thrift shop.



Photo by Debbie Stanley

When asked about volunteering at Ausbon Sargent, Katie said when her mom told her that ASLPT needed a volunteer, she wanted the job. "I knew they had something to do with land and I thought that was cool. I have learned more about ASLPT."

Katie and her mom, who drive by the building every day, stop in about once every two weeks to pick up boxes, cans, and paper and take it to the New London Transfer Station. Katie says "It is important to recycle and I'm glad that ASLPT does it and I'm glad that I can help them do it."

We are fortunate to have Katie as our youngest volunteer, and to have families in the area that instill volunteerism as an important part of living within their community. Thanks, Katie and Lin!



We are hoping to get to 565 likes by the end of 2017!

If you are on Facebook, we would love to have you "Like" our page. Having a small niche in the Facebook world, "Likes" are of significant value to us. They are an indicator of our reach, as well as how engaged our audience is. We try to post an interesting photo two times a week, keeping our followers up to date on our activities, or just showcasing a pretty property.



Steve and Nancy Allenby 'Opt Outside' with their grandchildren

Opt IN with a Child

by Steve Allenby

During the Thanksgiving weekend, Ausbon Sargent had the wonderful idea of locally promoting the nationwide "opt out" campaign, encouraging folks to enjoy one of Ausbon Sargent's preserved landscapes instead of shopping the sales. However, after taking the "opt out" challenge with my grandchildren, it strikes me that a better name might be "opt in."

Opt in to exploring the history and natural beauty of our area. Opt in to walking off that large Thanksgiving meal. And especially when it comes to grandchildren, opt in to the serendipity of walking in the woods with a curious child.

Have you ever tried an apple from every one of the old apple trees in the field by the Bunker Farm cellar hole? (It was a unanimous decision that the yellow apples were the best.) Have you bushwhacked down by Great Brook to find unusual stone formations that you could sit in like a cave? Have you competed to see whose stick would float the farthest down a stream or how fast you can hike the length of the Bunker Loop? These are just some of the great adventures you might experience if you take a child with you when you hike one of Ausbon Sargent properties! You will also have time to talk about what is going on in your lives, your views of the world, what your life was like as a child, and to answer questions about nature – just don't expect these conversations to be linear!

Studies have shown that children benefit greatly from being outdoors. Gains include lowered stress, increased attention span and improved social skills. But there are two benefits not mentioned that are perhaps even more important. 1) Children gain an appreciation of the natural world and their place in it – so important because they will one day be the stewards of the environment, and 2) You both grow closer, especially if you allot enough time to allow their curiosity to guide your walk.

We are fortunate to have such beautiful preserved land and trails throughout the area, often less than a five-minute drive away. So, plan to "opt in" soon... and take a child with you as you explore and appreciate what so many people have worked so hard to provide.

Steve and his wife, Nancy, moved to New London six years ago, after living 30 years in Vermont. He is a member of the Ausbon Sargent Board and Chair of the Lands Committee. When he is not hiking, biking and playing with his grandchildren, Steve is involved with developing and financing energy efficiency and solar projects and consults with the utility industry and the Federal government regarding improving their energy security.



Photo by Lindsey Allenby

Opt Outside

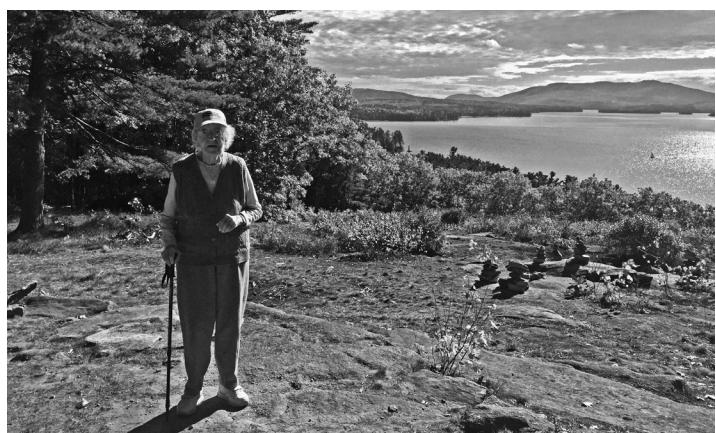


Photo by Karen Ebel

Doris Ebel at Clark Lookout. Read more on page 7.

Ausbon Sargent Does More Than Conserve Land

by Peggy Hutter

There is no question that the most important achievements of the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust are its 139 conserved properties covering 11,117 acres in its 12-town region. Rarely does a winter or summer issue of the Chatter newsletter go to print without the celebration of one to multiple successful projects. But, in addition to that very significant work, we also take pride in introducing people to these properties and offering workshops on subjects related to managing a property, protecting wildlife habitats, and educating the public about issues that may affect the land.



Photo by Peggy Hutter

Amy Papineau of the UNH Cooperative Extension

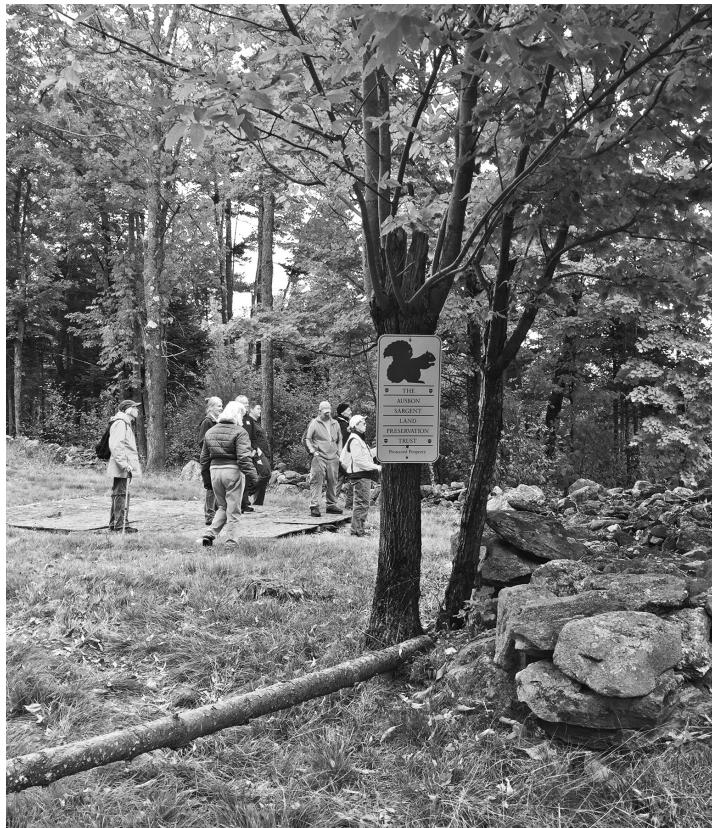


Photo by Debbie Stanley

The October 1st "Woods Without Gile" bike in Springfield

We Offer Workshops

The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension has partnered with Ausbon Sargent throughout the years to share current topics that are relevant to property owners, land stewards and those who use the land. In September Amy Papineau, a pollination specialist at the Cooperative Extension, led a free workshop entitled "Supporting Pollinators in the Landscape."

Amy shared that "pollinating insects are critical to the success of local agriculture and to the maintenance of biodiversity in our natural ecosystems." She educated the audience of more than 50 people about the many types of bees that we would likely find in our NH backyards and the role of these insects in the environment. We left the session with new ideas of how to design our gardens and landscape to provide these pollinators with the resources they need. Amy also offered her professional services to answer our future questions or to help design our gardens for pollinators.

We Plan Hikes and Activities on Our Properties

Ausbon Sargent Land Protection Specialist Andy Deegan features a number of our protected properties each year during his Dragonfly Walks or nature hikes that explore subjects such as vernal pools, wetlands, timber cuts and lakefront issues. Some hikes are planned with the intent to highlight a special property or share a scenic view.

On October 1st, that special property was the 475-acre Woods Without Gile easement property in Springfield, owned by Ann and Marc Davis. During the hike, participants covered about two miles in an hour and a half. The Davises were joined by NH licensed forester Tim Wallace, UNH Cooperative Extension Associate Professor/Wildlife Specialist Matt Tarr, UNH Cooperative Extension Forester for Sullivan County Dode Gladders and Andy Deegan of Ausbon Sargent.

Hikers were treated to some stunning views as the early fall colors were just erupting. They witnessed the results of an active timber management project and saw evidence of various forms of wildlife, including beaver activity. Ausbon Sargent is ever mindful of the treat at the end of the event, so refreshments are always served.

The mission of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is "to help preserve the rural landscape," but in order to meet this goal and gain support, it is important that we help to share an understanding and appreciation of the environment that we are hoping to protect. We hope you'll join us in the upcoming year for one of our events, which are always free and open to the public. Visit our website regularly at www.ausbonsargent.org to see our plans as they evolve.

Memorial Gifts Honor the Individual and the Work They Were Passionate About

by Kathy Carroll

During the summer and fall of 2016, Ausbon Sargent lost three exceptional friends. Richard “Dick” Webb, Brian Faughnan and Amy Blitzer extended our mission as leading advocates. Each was a quiet and generous benefactor in ways unique to them.

Executive Director Debbie Stanley recalls that Dick Webb, an early and avid supporter, was “one of the most dedicated and influential conservationists and tree farmers of our time. Of the more than 3,400 acres of land that the Webb family has protected, 549 acres on four separate easements are held by Ausbon Sargent.” Dick was a true “custodian” of his woods for the benefit of future generations. (See “Remarks for Dick’s Memorial Service” on page 10.)

Brian Faughnan was a model easement monitor and a “pioneer” in GPS mapping for Ausbon Sargent. His passion for nature and the outdoors was also valuable in his stewardship. A tribute to Brian noted that “he devoted much of his energy and intellect to preserving the natural environment” through his involvement with local conservation groups.

Amy Blitzer had a 20-year connection to Ausbon Sargent. She was passionate about conservation throughout her life and served on the Bradford Conservation Commission. Amy was an easement donor of two Bradford properties and was actively involved in the effort to conserve Battles Farm.

The designation by the families of Dick, Brian and Amy for memorial gifts to come to Ausbon Sargent was extremely gratifying. We received numerous gifts in celebration of their lives and in affirmation of their commitment to land protection, and we are honored to be the beneficiary of such thoughtful generosity.

Memorial Gifts can be powerful for any organization. This is certainly true for Ausbon Sargent. These gifts are heartfelt tributes to people who were important to us, and they offer a meaningful way to enrich work they cherished and often in which they were engaged. My giving to Ausbon Sargent began with a memorial gift to support a cause that was important to me while also honoring a prominent community member who was central to the work of Ausbon Sargent from its earliest days.

We are grateful to the families and the donors whose gifts to remember Dick, Brian and Amy, by helping to preserve our rural landscape, are a source of pride. We invite your consideration of a memorial gift to Ausbon Sargent when it is appropriate for you.

Kathy Carroll is retired from the non-profit sector, and resides in New London. She joined the Ausbon Sargent Board in the Fall of 2015.



*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
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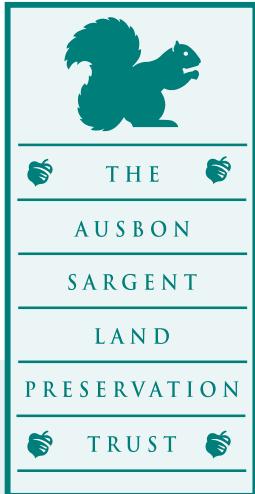
dstanley@ausbonsargent.org

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

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

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Virginia Anthony Soule*
Peter and Debbie Stanley
Libby Trayner*
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Mary-Seymour “Sissy” Wastcoat*

*denotes deceased



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Stewardship Manager

Sue Ellen Andrews,
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Kristy Heath,
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Patsy Stevenson,
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Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!

Newsletter layout & design by Lee T. Morrill, On Track Design

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

02/17