

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 2018



“Whose woods these are I think I know”

From the Executive Director:

During my 30 years at Ausbon Sargent, one of the biggest changes I've witnessed is the increase in the number of people discovering the outdoors. For many years, whenever I went to Clark Lookout, it was rare if I'd see anyone enjoying this local gem. Now I just smile as I see families hiking up the ½-mile trail to be rewarded with a fabulous view of Lake Sunapee and beyond.

Each town has wonderful conservation properties to explore. Consider visiting the Bradford Bog, Sunapee's Webb Forest Preserve, the King Hill Reservation and many more special places. Ausbon Sargent's website www.ausbonsargent.org provides you with trail maps and information to "Connect with the Land."

Since 1987, we have protected 143 properties while making communities more vibrant. Our success is grounded in you—our supporters, volunteers, partners, board members, dedicated staff and especially the landowners who have given us something very special to enjoy. Get out on the land to explore, exercise and recharge. And when you're travelling in your car, take the time to slow down and capture more than a glimpse of some incredibly magnificent views across Ausbon Sargent conservation lands.

Thank you,

Debbie Stanley



CONGRATULATIONS, DEBBIE

Ausbon Sargent is pleased to announce that Debbie Stanley was voted as the 2018 – 2021 TerraFirma Members Committee representative for the Northern New England region (Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont).

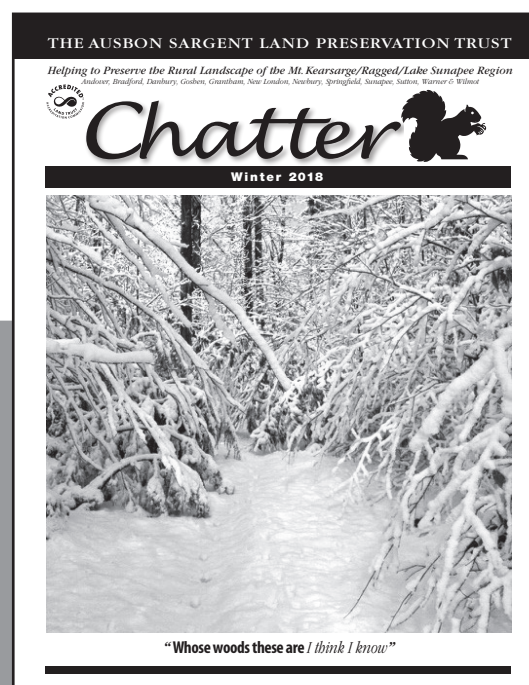
TerraFirma is a tax-exempt conservation defense liability insurance service. Its mission is to protect the permanence of land conservation by funding the legal costs of defending conservation easements and preserve properties from violations or legal challenges. Although Ausbon Sargent has an Enforcement Fund that supports the legal defense of our conservation properties, we also feel that insurance provides another level of protection.

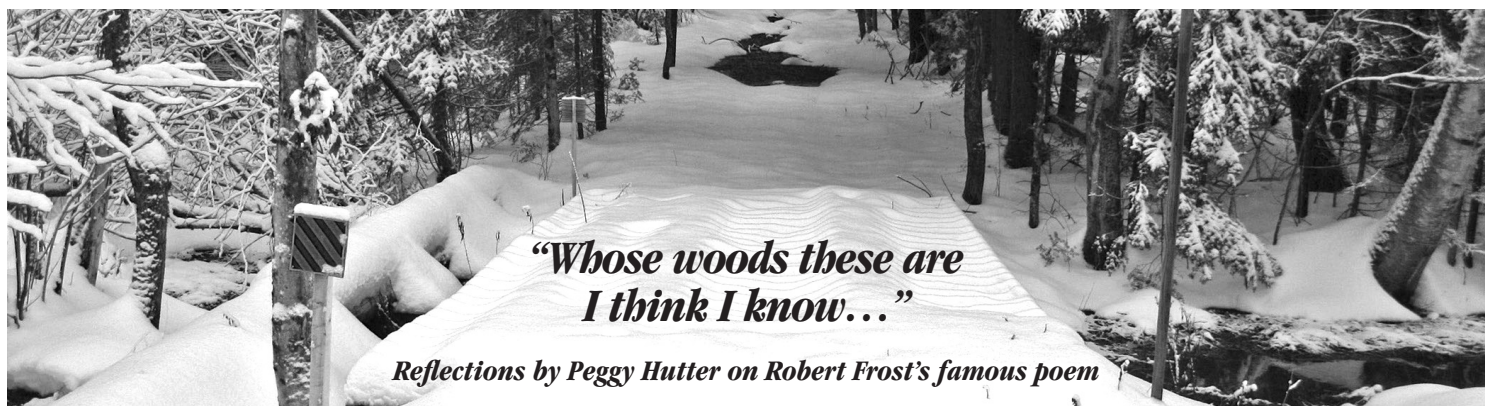
The Members Committee represents the 510-member land trusts of TerraFirma Risk Retention Group LLC and is responsible for approving its policies and strategic direction. The nine-member Committee also performs specific oversight functions with respect to TerraFirma contractors, consultants, operations, budgets and legal compliance.

ABOUT THE COVER

Robert Frost's poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," inspires us to envision some of the many Ausbon Sargent protected properties that are so special to us as we "watch them fill up with snow." The front cover photo, "Winter in the Webb Forest," was taken by Sue Mitchell.

Read more on Page 3





“Whose woods these are I think I know...”

Reflections by Peggy Hutter on Robert Frost’s famous poem

The Sorento Conservation Easement in Sunapee.

American poet Robert Frost wrote these words in his famous poem, “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening,” at his Shaftsbury, VT home in 1922. As in many of his other well-known poems, such as “Mending Wall,” “The Wood Pile,” “The Road Not Taken” and “The Birches,” Frost speaks to us in a stereotypical New England dialect. I was always drawn to his use of natural settings and New England routines and images as metaphors to express his deeper message.

My 6th grade English teacher in Delaware required each of us to select a favorite poem to memorize and recite in front of the class. I chose “Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening.” Many readers read only the words that Robert Frost composed while other readers “read between the lines” and debate whether Frost’s tone is dark and depressing or if it is calm and peaceful. Some literary critics believe this poem reflects a time when Frost was feeling a bit depressed during the holidays. My 6th grade self could only sense that the author was “pretty much in love with the world around him created by the new falling snow.”

In Delaware we didn’t get that much snow and only a few record-breaking snowfalls happened in all of my years living there, so snowstorms were magical to me. As I watched my yard fill up with snow, I could anticipate a possible snow day from school, the fun we would have playing outside, the coziness of our house as we were trapped inside playing family board games, and, yes, even the clean-up outside was fun as a kid.

One could think that, living in New Hampshire for the past forty years, I might not be as passionate about the snow as I once was, but that’s not so. We live in a stunning environment and I am always mindful of its beauty. I work for Ausbon Sargent and I am always thankful for its commitment to preserving that beauty. Unless you are in the center of one of New Hampshire’s larger cities, you can’t drive very far in any direction without passing woods and fields in your travels. Each and every time they fill up with snow, I find it, once again, to be magical.

As adults, we have many responsibilities, and “promises to keep.” We often have decks, patios, driveways and roofs to clear, and “miles to go before I sleep.” But it’s hard to deny the beauty that surrounds us.

Ausbon Sargent’s mission is to preserve the rural character of the region. With 143 protected properties covering 11,263 acres of land, many of us pass by or walk onto these properties regularly. Perhaps you’re like me. I often find myself looking at the woods and fields along my route and wondering “whose woods these are.” I don’t always know the owner, but I do know I don’t want to lose this land to development. Like Robert Frost, I prefer to find the serenity that these special places offer in a sometimes crazy world, and stop for a bit to enjoy the wonder.

Keep up the good work, Ausbon Sargent!

Peggy Hutter is the Communications Coordinator for Ausbon Sargent. She lives in Elkins with her husband, Bob, and loves to play on the many Ausbon Sargent protected properties near her home.

Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.
His house is in the village though;
He will not see me stopping here
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer
To stop without a farmhouse near
Between the woods and frozen lake
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake
To ask if there is some mistake.
The only other sound’s the sweep
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,
But I have promises to keep,
And miles to go before I sleep,
And miles to go before I sleep.

The Anatomy of a Land Transaction

-a summary of a 2015 Chatter article by Andy Deegan

When we approach landowners about conserving their land, we're sometimes told that they did not believe that their land was worthy of conservation. Often, people think that their property isn't large enough for conservation, or that it isn't as special as some of the land that has been conserved in the past. The truth is that we look at many different criteria to determine if a property is worthy of conservation. Each property is unique, and many are good candidates for conservation.

Determine Goals of the Landowner:

The goals of the landowner can vary from protecting a piece of land that has a special significance, to the landowner's hope of obtaining a tax deduction. The landowner's goals can help us determine whether and how to go forward with the project. In some cases, if a landowner insists on retaining rights that are inconsistent with conservation, we may decide not to go forward with a project.

Gather Information about the Property:

After the initial conversation, the staff will review maps from the Granit Data Mapper to determine the various resources that would be protected if the land was conserved. Some of these resources may include valuable soils, water resources, critical wildlife habitat, uncommon plants, animals, or natural communities, and the property's location in relation to other conserved land. We must be able to demonstrate a public benefit for conservation. Protection of valuable resources is one type of public benefit.

Review the Town Master Plan:

Another place that we turn to for information on a property is the town in which the property is located. We will review the town's master plan to determine if the property or the resources contained on it are referenced in the plan, and we often speak with town administrators and/or conservation commissioners. This will help us determine if the town would also be interested in seeing the land protected. A town's interest in a particular property is important to our decision-making process.

Conduct a Site Visit to the Property:

After our initial conversations with a landowner and our research on the property, the next step is to arrange a visit to the property. This allows Ausbon Sargent staff to see the condition and resources of the land first hand. Does the land have trails that are open to the public? Does it have scenic views or protect significant road frontage or frontage on a water body? During the site visit we also look at the past management history of the property, as well as whether there are any structures or sources of contamination on the land (old dumps, spill sites, etc.). In the end, it all comes down to whether there is a significant public benefit to conserving the land. There are a lot of different ways that conserving land can provide a public benefit, but each project must meet this benchmark in some way.

Presentation to the Ausbon Sargent Lands Committee:

Following the site visit, all of the data about the land, the goals of the landowner and the interest from the town are compiled into a report that is presented to our Lands Committee. *(Please read Nan Kaplan's article on the Lands Committee for its specific function.)*

The process for conserving a piece of land is slightly different for each property that Ausbon Sargent works to protect. The basic steps, however, remain constant, and we're happy to talk about the process with landowners at any time. If you are interested in talking to us about your land, please give us a call.



Photo by Debbie Stanley

Members of the Ausbon Sargent Lands Committee review all prospective land projects.

Lands Committee

by Nan Kaplan, Lands Committee Member

*O*f all of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust's eight standing committees, the Lands Committee has the greatest responsibility and directly addresses the mission of the land trust to preserve and protect the natural resources within the 12-town geographic area served by Ausbon Sargent. On this committee, many of the Board members get their orientation as to the purpose of what a land trust does in researching and prioritizing properties for protection. After a vote of recommendation by the Lands Committee, the Board then deliberates and determines final approval.

When a project is presented to the Lands Committee by the Executive Director and Land Protection Specialist, much deliberation takes place. The committee reviews the landowner's goals and intentions and the public perception of the conservation values of the property, as well as keeps in mind the public benefit of the project.

The Lands Committee evaluates and selects conservation projects with input from Conservation Commissions, Town Master Plans, individuals and concerned citizens and reviews maps of soils, roadways, trails, views, water resources and, recently, discusses land resistance to climate change. A list of criteria favoring the project and consideration against the approval are reviewed with the intention of preserving wetlands, wildlife habitat and scenic views and to plan for careful stewardship of the conservation easement. Another consideration is the location and the proximity to other conserved lands. Also discussed by the Lands Committee are the compelling reasons for the project and reasons not as compelling.

All of these discussions are noted in the minutes, as well as reports on earlier projects and stewardship updates. The committee also keeps apprised of Board-approved active and inactive projects and a list of properties Ausbon Sargent might like to conserve at a later date. The committee assigns a member to be the advocate for the project to oversee the steps taken for it to become a conservation easement. Also, the committee ensures the ongoing responsibilities for monitoring and maintaining all of its protected properties.

The Lands Committee members find it to be a pleasure to be involved in saving special places we love, to be enjoyed by generations to come.

A past member of the Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees, Nan Kaplan lives in Andover and serves on the Andover Conservation Commission and the Ausbon Sargent Outreach Committee.

Our Disappearing Forest

By Kristy Heath

A summary of Steve LeBlanc's Article "New England's Funding for Preservation of Open Area on Decline" from the Concord Monitor, September 19, 2017.

"The conversion of forest and farm lands to permanent structures is really changing the face of the New England landscape." These words, expressed by Harvard Forest Director, David Foster, seem to encapsulate the force behind Ausbon Sargent's mission: to preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region. It is the whole reason we do what we do!

Foster's study finds that New England has been losing forestland to development at an alarming rate of 65 acres per day. With public funding for preservation cut in half between 2008 and 2014, the landscape as we know it could become nothing more than a memory. Using satellite imagery, encroaching development can be seen in southern New England, along the coastline, around cities like Burlington, VT and in rural areas where forest has been intersected by private homes.

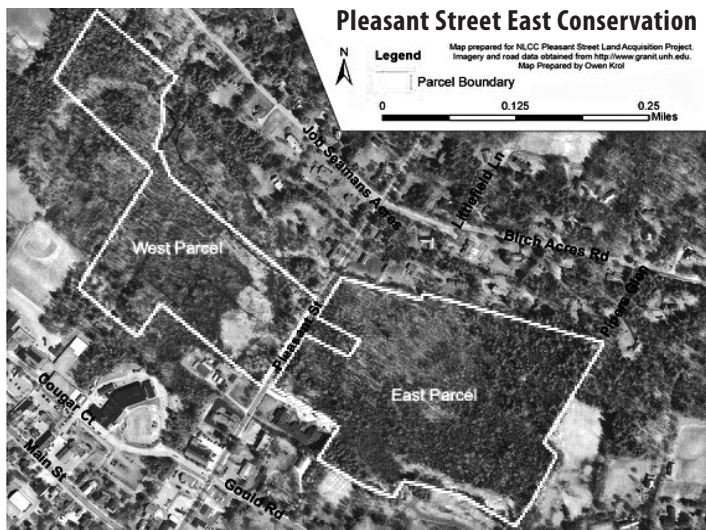
Senior ecologist for Harvard Forest, Jonathan Thompson, believes forested lands should be seen as valuable natural infrastructure around roads and bridges, as evidenced by the results of recent weather events. All six states are losing open space after 150 years of forest reclamation.

Foster says, "One of the things that makes New England one of the most compelling places to live is the green space." Here in our little corner of New England, we know this to be true. We must remain vigilant and steadfast together in our mission to keep preserving our special places, for generations to come.



Ann and Marc Davis manage their 470 acres for timber and wildlife habitat. Ausbon Sargent holds the easement on this property.

Property Talk:



Pleasant Street - New London

Ausbon Sargent is working with the Town of New London to permanently protect 26 acres of land on Pleasant Street. The Town purchased this land (aka Pleasant Street-East) along with the already conserved Cleveland and Kidder Tract (aka Pleasant Street-West) in June of 2016. This parcel has wetlands on it that are important for wildlife as well as the water quality of Pleasant Lake. These wetlands are the headwaters of Red Brook which is a major tributary for the lake. Before Ausbon Sargent and the Town are able to close on this project, the Town will need to vote at Town Meeting in March to proceed with the project. If you are a New London resident, consider attending Town Meeting to show your support for conservation! Ausbon Sargent looks forward to working with the Town of New London on this important project.



Photo by Peter Bloch

An aerial view of the Webb/Crowell Forest in Sutton that will soon become an Ausbon Sargent conservation easement.

Webb/Crowell Forest - Sutton

In August of 2017 Ausbon Sargent was given an 8-acre parcel of land in the Town of Sutton. This parcel is located adjacent to the 86-acre Webb/Crowell Forest, which is owned by the Town of Sutton. The Webb/Crowell Forest has frontage on both sides of the Lane River. It has an extensive trail network that includes a significant bridge over the river made from a steel I-beam turned on its side. There are abundant signs of wildlife on the property including moose and deer, and habitat for wildlife is exemplary (highest ranking in the state by the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan). Our goal is for Ausbon Sargent to gift the 8-acre parcel to the Town of Sutton and in return have the Town gift a conservation easement to Ausbon Sargent on the entire preserve (about 94 acres). This will allow for permanent protection of water quality along the Lane River, recreational opportunities for local hikers, and the property's high quality wildlife habitat. We look forward to the completion of this project early in 2018.



Photo by Peter Bloch

An aerial view showing the newest Wendell Marsh Expansion property we are presently raising funds to protect.

Wendell Marsh Expansion - Sunapee

If you read our summer *Chatter*, you know that we are working with the Town of Sunapee to purchase approximately 40 acres that includes a significant portion of Wendell Marsh. This is the well-known view as you are heading west out of downtown Sunapee on Route 11. The Town and the current landowner have agreed on the purchase price and we are currently raising funds for this project. We are excited to expand on this existing block of almost 300 acres of conserved land, and we're in the home stretch. If you are interested in helping to raise funds for the Wendell Marsh Expansion project, please let us know. Stay tuned for a closing announcement for this project sometime in the first half of 2018.

The Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm

by Peggy Hutter



Photo by Peter Bloch

An aerial view of the Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm in Warner

The 150-acre Brown family farm has frontage on Brown Road and Mason Hill Road in Warner. The Browns have owned various pieces of this property since the 1800's and have sold and repurchased sections of land in the years since. This has been a family affair and a labor of love to reacquire the acreage and clear and manage it as the current working farm that it is today. Though it has been the intention of the family to hold on to this property forever, they weren't certain how they could insure that this would take place, believing that their 150 acres would not be large enough to put into conservation.

In September of 2016 the Browns contacted Andy Deegan, Ausbon Sargent's Land Protection Specialist. They had read an article in Ausbon Sargent's summer *Chatter* about Clayton Nowell conserving his 26-acre property in Wilmot and were interested in talking with Andy about the future of their property. One family member shared that "it was always our hope to conserve the property to guarantee that what we had worked so hard to reacquire would never again be broken up. We just never considered it was possible to do it at this time. After talking with Ausbon Sargent's Land Protection Specialist, we realized that making our dream a reality might happen sooner than later." And the process began.

Andy submitted a lengthy grant request to the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) which is an independent state authority that provides matching grants to New Hampshire communities and non-profits to protect and preserve the state's most important natural, cultural and historic resources. LCHIP has assisted Ausbon Sargent in the conservation of many other projects through the years and the success of the Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm project would depend on the help that LCHIP could provide.

On December 4, 2017, the winners of this year's LCHIP grants were announced. LCHIP awarded a \$180,000 grant to Ausbon Sargent to help conserve the 150-acre Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm property in Warner, provided the project fundraising goal for the remainder of the costs is met. The Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm is one of the seven farms selected to receive a portion of the 2017 LCHIP grant funding. Funding will also come from an in-kind donation from the landowners, and the Warner Conservation Commission, but Ausbon Sargent will need to secure \$43,000 more in grants and local fundraising.

Ausbon Sargent is excited to assist in the conservation of the Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm. Not only does it reward the diligence of the Browns to restore and manage this working farm, but the property has many assets as a conservation property:

- *It has valuable forestry soils and is managed for forestry.*
- *It has farm soils of local and statewide interest and is managed for agriculture.*
- *There are streams that flow through or alongside the property and it has extensive wetlands on the eastern side of the property.*
- *The property is very close to the Courser Mud Pond parcel as well as hundreds of acres of other protected properties.*

The Brown Family's Frazier Brook Farm is one of the properties that make our state and local area special. Our fundraising campaign for this project is underway and all those interested in being a part of the conservation of this farm are encouraged to visit the Ausbon Sargent website (www.ausbonsargent.org/donate) to make a contribution.



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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*(for donating a portion of their sales
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SPONSORSHIP OF FULL PAGE AD IN KEARSARGE SHOPPER

Jack Harrod

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK

Nick Andrews for shredding documents
Betsy Forsham for proofing easement
deeds
Al Golden and the Town Planner
The Kearsarge Shopper
for all they do for us
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
Katie Potter for recycling
Suzanne Tether and Colby-Sawyer
College for organizing the Changing
Landscape presentation



Photo by Kristy Heath

Thanks to Star Lake Farm for hosting an Ausbon Sargent summer bike.

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Thanks to Randall and Lisa Costa for hosting a neighborhood gathering at their East Andover home.

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Meg Fearnley
FHS Associates, LLC
John B. Garvey Trust
Frank H. Gordon* &
Dorothy B. Gordon
Dr. Lincoln Gordon*
John Graves, Cordelia F. Graves*
Revocable Trust
Green Crow Corporation
Donna Vilsmeier and Russell,
Donald*, Raymond and
Richard Gross
Cynthia W. Hayes
Gerald E. Hersey
Roger Hersey*
Edwin R. Hiller
Beatrice Jillette
Hazel Johnson*
Jolyon Johnson
Thaddeus C.* and
Virginia D. Johnson
Kezar Conservation Group, LLC
King Ridge, LLC, Frank Stewart
Knight's Hill Nature Park
Nelson F. Lebo III
LEJ Revocable Trust
Mark Lennon
David and Mary MacMillin
Brooks McCandlish and Janet Sillars
J Dale McLeod Co.

Monetta Properties, Inc.
Nelson Farm
Newcomb and Ourusoff Families
"Kentlands"
New England Forestry Foundation
New London Outing Club
Town of New London
NH Audubon
Clayton Nowell
Judith M. Oates
Otter Pond Protective Association
Dr. Edward C. Parkhurst* and
Loren B. Sjoström*
Dr.* and Mrs.* Edward C. Parkhurst
Malcolm, Dallas and Mabel Patten
Thomas and Janet Paul
Pelfor Corporation
Alice Perry
Mrs. Bessie W. Phillips*
Pine Summit, LLC
Robert and Timathy Poh
Gerald R. Putnam
Lisa K. Putnam
Ring Brook
Barbara and David Roby
Rachel and Myron* Rosenblum
Janice W. Sahler Trust
Rachel* and Murray* Sargent
Sharon and Duffy Sheehan
Patricia Sorento
Ralph* and Mary Lou Spofford
Stanley Farm Association
Stanley Point Trust
Star Lake Properties, Inc.
Robert Stevens*
Linford E. and Mary Ellin Stiles
Bill and Betty Stockwell
Sugar River Savings Bank
Town of Sunapee
Town of Sutton
Kit and Nancy Tatum
Libby Trayner Trust*
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



Laura Beth Foster and Sue Showalter monitor the Baldwin/Garzia property on the corner of Seamans Road and Rt. 11 in New London.



Photo by Lee Morrill

Sue Andrews and Peter Bloch review the property map before launching the drone at Star Lake Farm. Photo right: Peter launches the drone which will fly about 30 minutes photographing a specified grid area.

The Use of Drone Technology Improves Our Monitoring

By Kristy Heath

Shortly after receiving a grant by an anonymous donor, Ausbon Sargent enlisted the help of Peter Bloch of EarthAerial Productions to use his drone to gather baseline aerial images of 53 protected properties. The work was completed in early December. The properties that were photographed were chosen because of their large size or challenging topography, making the interiors of them difficult to monitor by foot. The photos Peter took will help us to pinpoint any changes in the land over time. It is our plan to have these images taken every six to eight years to augment work by our monitors on the ground. All property boundaries will continue being monitored by volunteers on foot each year.

Ausbon Sargent recognizes that the use of drones is a rather new technology in the field of land conservation and we see this as an opportunity to attract a different audience to our work. With the help of a second generous anonymous grantor, Ausbon Sargent is thrilled to be able to continue work with Peter to create some artistic videos to showcase our activities and some of our special places. It is our hope that we can create educational opportunities for those who may not be familiar with Ausbon Sargent and land conservation, but who may be familiar or interested in drones or with the amazing viewpoint the technology offers.

Overall, the use of drone technology has provided us with new and attractive visual materials for use on our website, newsletters and emails. Additionally, a considerable number of Ausbon Sargent properties that are either not open for public access or too difficult for individuals with physical limitations to walk, will now be visually accessible. The overall visibility of Ausbon Sargent's work, and a more meaningful understanding of its importance, will be evident to all.

Again, we must share that without the assistance from these very generous anonymous grantors, this work would not be possible. We are proud to be one of the first accredited land trusts using this advanced technology, and we are confident that it will help us uphold our promise to watch over all of our lands to the absolute best of our ability, forever.

Kristy is Ausbon Sargent's Development and Administrative Coordinator. In her role, she is responsible for securing a number of grants that benefit the land trust. Kristy and her husband, Nate, live in Springfield with their three daughters and love to explore new areas for family camping.

Photo by Grounds staff



A NOTE OF THANKS

Ausbon Sargent thanks Grounds Coffee Shop on Main Street, New London for their generous support during the November 20-26th Thanksgiving holiday week. Karen and Matt Conway, owners of the shop, pledged to donate 10% of their sales during this busy week to the land trust. As a small non-profit, Ausbon Sargent relies on its membership, general donations and special events such as this and the New London Inn's Thursday's Child dinner. Thanks to all of you who took part in this fun event.

Wish List

10 Suunto MC2D Navigator Compasses
with inch scales and UGS scales

\$460 (including shipping)

1 - 8" Circular Glass Security Mirror

(for office)

\$40



Photo by Lee Morrill

A MEASURABLE IMPACT

The Land Trust Alliance's latest Land Trust Census data shows that **accredited land trusts**:



Have protected
5 times more land



Are 5 times more likely to have **100% monitoring** and a **baseline documentation report** for every easement



Have **significantly more money** to defend and steward their holdings



- Sound Finances
- Ethical Conduct
- Responsible Governance
- Lasting Stewardship

Ten years of data prove that accredited land trusts like Ausbon Sargent save more land and are better prepared to protect it forever than land trusts that aren't accredited.

What does this mean to our community and our donors? Assurance that the land we protect today will always be there to provide food security, habitat, clean water and so much more. We are proud to be one of only 386 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated a commitment to high standards and our communities.

Welcome New Trustees



Ginny Gwynn

Ginny Gwynn and her husband have owned property in Sunapee since 1999, and in 2017 moved from Connecticut to their Sunapee home full-time. She holds a BA in Economics from the University of Virginia and an MBA from Stanford University. In Connecticut, Ginny most recently retired as Executive Director of the Greenwich Land Trust, but she has also worked in museum fundraising and as a finance and marketing manager. Ginny served on the Greenwich Board of Education, the Greenwich Symphony Board, the Greenwich Tree Conservancy, was the PTA president, and volunteered with the local Head Start.

Debbie Stanley seeks board members who have demonstrated their skills in other arenas and who would fill a niche on the Ausbon Sargent board. It's interesting to hear from our new trustees what inspired them to accept the position as an Ausbon Sargent board member. When I asked Ginny about this, she wrote:

“Our family was lured to the Lake Sunapee area by the sparkling lakes, dense forests, fall foliage, and many recreational opportunities. Ausbon Sargent quickly became known to us because of the “squirrel signs” at many places where we hiked and snowshoed. Once we became members, we learned more about Ausbon Sargent’s land preservation efforts and were impressed by the scope. Now retired, I look forward to helping the land trust advance its work so that families in the future can enjoy the area’s natural beauty as much as our family does now.”

Ginny and her husband, Jon Bellis, have been longtime members of Ausbon Sargent. Ginny joined the Development Committee in 2017 and she has been helping Kiki Schneider on Ausbon Sargent hikes and is now an easement monitor.

Ginny has three adult sons and one granddaughter. She enjoys hiking, traveling and gardening. We welcome Ginny to the Ausbon Sargent team.

Jeff Hollinger

Jeff Hollinger's family first started coming to New London in 1968 when his parents were early members of the Slope-N-Shore Club. After vacationing here for years, Jeff and his wife, Roberta, moved to New London in 1983, where they raised their four children.

Jeff has a BA in Economics from Macalester College and an MBA from Plymouth State College. He retired as President and CEO of EPTAM Plastics in January 2017 after working there a total of 25 years, 17 as President and CEO.

Community service has always been important to Jeff. He served multiple terms as a member of the New London Planning Board and has been an Elder at the Kearsarge Community Presbyterian Church for many years. He also served on other Lakes Region area boards in the communities near his EPTAM office. With four athletic children, Jeff played a long-standing role as a youth basketball coach in the community. Since his recent retirement, Jeff joined a work crew for Habitat for Humanity.

Jeff has been a member of Ausbon Sargent for over 17 years. In 2017, he joined the Investment and Finance Committees, agreed to accept the role of a board trustee beginning in late October of 2017 and has become an easement monitor. When Jeff was asked what it is about Ausbon Sargent and its mission that influenced his decision to accept the role of a board trustee, he was quick to respond:

“One of the reasons we moved to New London was the beauty, open spaces and character of the area. It is hard to drive around town without enjoying the many beautiful views. The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust is helping to protect this beauty and much of the open land associated with it. I want to be a part of something that will help protect this community and its beauty for generations to come.”

Jeff's other interests include skiing, biking, and golfing. We're happy to welcome Jeff to the board.

Rally 2017—Quite Impressive

Reflections by Frances Harris

Everything is bigger in Colorado? I have always heard that is true of Texas, but my recent trip to Denver to attend the National Land Conservation Conference convinced me it also holds true for Colorado. The event, commonly known as Rally, is an annual event hosted by the Land Trust Alliance and draws participants from all over the country; the big blue bear is the official greeter at the Convention Center. As a recently added Ausbon Sargent board member, I had heard other trustees and staff give glowing reports about their earlier trips to Rally; when this year's event was announced I decided to experience it for myself. The three-day conference in late October offered more than 125 educational sessions on a wide array of land conservation topics as well as field trips in the local area, exhibits, and awards presentations celebrating accomplished conservation leaders. In the sessions I attended, the focus ranged from public recreation partnerships in conserved spaces to designing the best "brand" for your land trust and discussions about board recruitment, diversity, and retention. While the workshops were led by skilled professionals, the most useful part was listening to the anecdotes and real experiences described by the participants who readily shared problems and dilemmas and offered tactics for solutions. I learned something from each conversation and was inspired by the excitement and dedication of everyone I met. People are saving ranch lands, fostering sustainable agriculture, promoting open spaces in urban areas, protecting rural environments, working on clean water projects -- as the Land Trust Alliance motto says, *"Together, conserving the places you love."*

Frances Harris has been a property owner in Sunapee since 1986 and a full-time resident since 2006. She is a retired financial manager who serves on the Ausbon Sargent Board as Vice-Chair and on the Membership, Executive, and Finance Committees. Her love of this area is evident in the work she does for the land trust.



Photo by Frances Harris

Officers for the Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees



Photo by Peggy Huttler

(front L-R) Vice-Chair Frances Harris and Treasurer Susan Nooney;
(back L-R) Secretary Joseph DiClerico and Chair Doug Lyon.

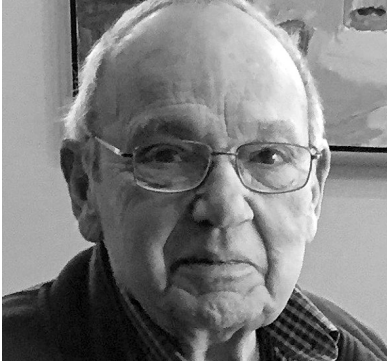


**Help us by liking us on Facebook
and inviting your friends to like us.**

*Having you like us on Facebook is a great way for us to get
more exposure, cultivate relationships and communicate with
our audience.*

If you like one of our posts, that is a great start, but more importantly, we would like you to like our Page. You can do this by searching for Ausbon Sargent, opening our page and then clicking on the thumbs-up icon. That is all you have to do! When you like one of our posts, your friends will see it and our message will start to spread!

MEMORIAM



Jack Lyle

Jack Lyle died peacefully in his home in Springfield, NH on June 24, 2017 at the age of 88. Jack and his wife, Cheryl Cummer, have been long-time land conservation supporters and preserved their family homestead in Mandarin, Florida on the St. Johns River through a conservation easement. With this in their history and conservation on their mind, they decided to preserve their family land in Springfield, NH through Ausbon Sargent. The Springfield property represents 26 acres of fields and forest on both sides of Nichols Hill Road and offers nice views of Croydon from the heights of their land.

Jack was known for his scholarship and his love of teaching. He authored many books and articles and served on numerous boards such as the Hawaii Opera Theater, Young Audiences of Massachusetts, and Boston Lyric Opera. Ausbon Sargent is pleased to have the memory of Jack last forever through the Cummer-Lyle Conservation Easement in Springfield. We are honored that the family has suggested that Ausbon Sargent be the beneficiary for those who wish to make gifts in Jack's memory.

Calendar of Events

We are in the process of planning events for 2018.

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.

Plan ahead and mark your personal calendar for May 24th and make reservations with the Coach House Restaurant at the New London Inn for a Thursday's Child dinner to benefit Ausbon Sargent.

By the Numbers

44,880 Feet of protected shoreline

11,263 Acres protected

9,231 Acres monitored by drone in 2017

4,700 Feet of protected shoreline on Lake Sunapee

1,144 Members in 2017

248 Volunteers in 2017

143 Properties protected

12 Towns we serve

1 YOU – can make a difference



View from the height of the Springfield Cummer-Lyle property looking toward Croydon.

Photos by Andy Deegan

Expanding Libby Trayner's Legacy

By Ginny Gwynn

In the summer 2016 issue of *Chatter*, several friends of Libby Trayner wrote tributes that honored her life, her appreciation of nature, and her decision to preserve her land through a postmortem conservation easement. Now that her estate has been settled, Ausbon Sargent's management discovered that her generosity went beyond this gift of land. Her bequest consisted of the conservation easement, funds to complete the easement transaction, and additional funds that will be used to create a new Land Action Fund.

Years ago, Libby Trayner discussed with Debbie Stanley permanently protecting her New London property. She wanted to be cautious and decided to donate the land after her death to ensure that she had adequate resources to live out her life. In her will, Libby provided for the creation of a postmortem conservation easement on 18 acres of her land. This easement protects scenic views along Shaker Street and Mountain Road and allows for low-impact public recreation.

Libby knew that completing a land transaction requires expenses for surveys, legal documents, and administrative fees. She was careful to provide financial resources in her will to assure that Ausbon Sargent would incur no unfunded costs to complete the conservation easement.

The generosity of her bequest resulted in an additional \$11,000 to Ausbon Sargent after the conservation easement was finalized. The Ausbon Sargent trustees have decided to designate this gift as seed money for a Land Action Fund. This fund will be used to cover future shortfalls to complete land transactions. This may be a situation where fund-raising for a new property falls short or where a land donor does not have adequate cash resources to cover all transaction costs. These shortfalls are rare today, but may become an issue in the future as public and private programs change.

Libby planned for the future. The newly created Land Action Fund demonstrates that Ausbon Sargent is doing the same. Libby Trayner's legacy will live on with her multiple gifts to our community.

Ginny Gwynn is one of Ausbon Sargent's two newest board members. Prior to moving to her Sunapee home full-time, she was extremely active in Connecticut, serving on multiple boards and working in the field of land conservation. Her experience makes her a perfect fit for Ausbon Sargent and the Development Committee.



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

*If you would
like more information,
feel free to call the
Ausbon Sargent office at
603-526-6555
or email
dstanley@ausbonsargent.org*

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

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

Mr. and Mrs. James D. Abbott*
Anonymous (10)
Rich and Heidi Anderson
Theodore D. Bacon, Jr.*
Ann Bemis*
Seth Benowitz
Catherine Bogardus*
Roland P. Carreker*
Michael and Susan Chiarella
Naia L. Conrad*
Chris and Janice Cundey
Tim and Lorraine Davis
Joe and Laurie DiClerico
Neil Donnenfeld
Barbara Faughnan
John and Maggie Ford
Cotton Cleveland & John Garvey
Gerard and Jane Gold
David Karrick
Doug Lyon
Andrew J. McDonald*
Dave and Bev Payne
Rachel and Myron* Rosenblum
John and Sage Scott
John and Nancy Denny Solodar
Virginia Anthony Soule*
Peter and Debbie Stanley
Libby Trayner*
Betsy Denny Warner
Mary-Seymour "Sissy" Wastcoat*

**denotes deceased*



71 Pleasant Street
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New London
New Hampshire
03257-2040
603.526.6555

STAFF (L-R)

Kristy Heath,
*Development and
Administrative Coordinator*

Peggy Hutter,
Communications Coordinator

Sue Ellen Andrews,
Operations Manager

Deborah Stanley,
Executive Director

Patsy Stevenson,
Bookkeeper

Andy Deegan,
*Land Protection Specialist -
Stewardship Manager*



*Photo by Rich Stockwell of Millstone at 74 Main.
Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!
Newsletter layout & design by Lee T. Morrill, On Track Design.*

OFFICERS

Doug Lyon, *Chair*
Frances Harris, *Vice-Chair*
Joseph DiClerico, *Secretary*
Susan Nooney, *Treasurer*

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Steve Allenby
Kathy Carroll
Peter Fichter
Charlie Foss
Ginny Gwynn
Jeff Hollinger
Martha McLeod
F. Graham McSwiney
Jim Owers
Suzanne Tether

Won't you become a Member?

Won't you join us and become part of the living legacy created through land conservation?
You can find out more about us on our website at: www.ausbonsargent.org

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

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

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



Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donations to Ausbon Sargent are tax deductible as provided by Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code. 02/18

