

# 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*

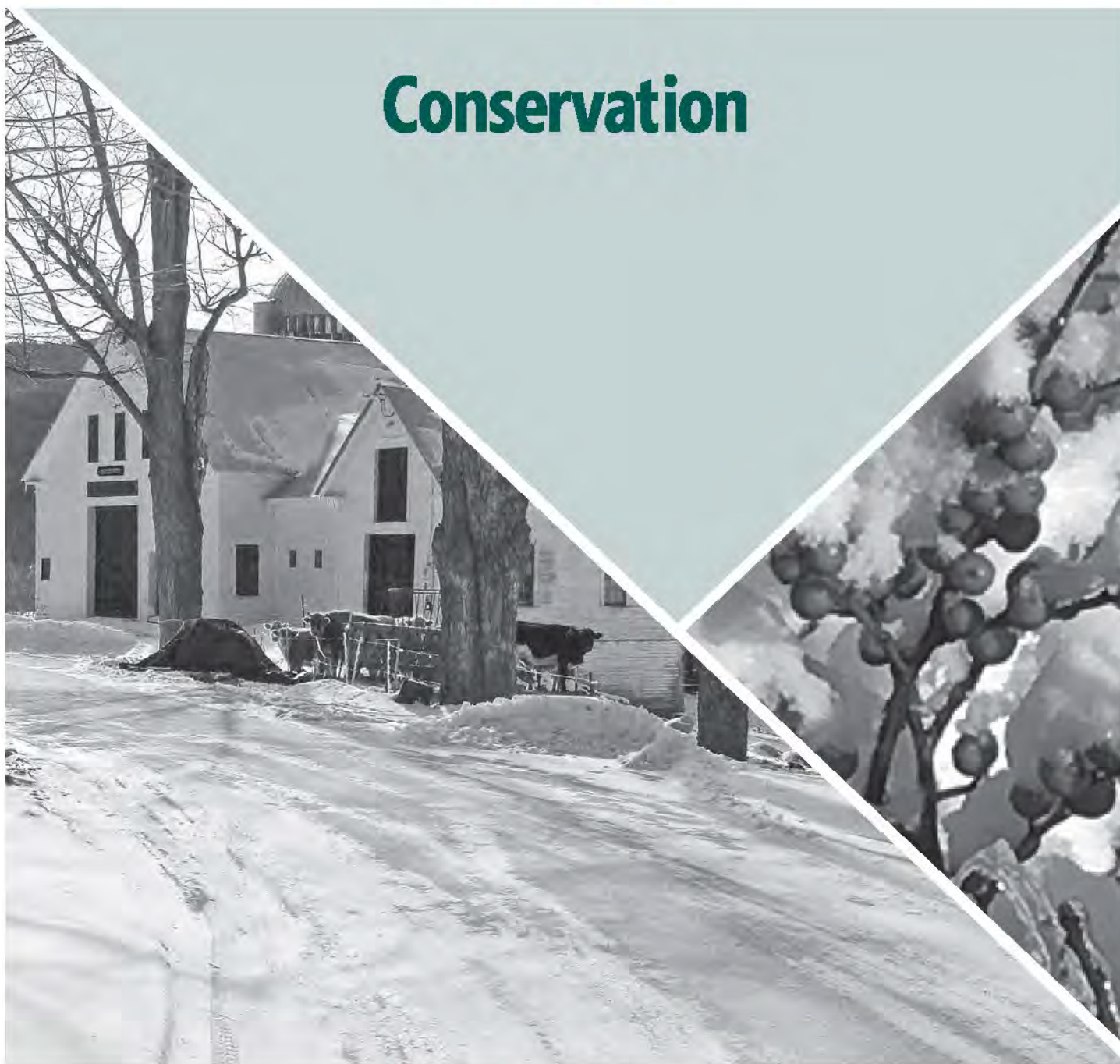


# Chatter



WINTER 2020

## Conservation



*Conversations*



## *From the* **Executive Director:**

This past October Andy, Sue, Kristy and I had the opportunity to attend “Rally,” the national land conservation conference held in Raleigh, NC. Rally is a gathering of 1,800 conservation leaders and provides the opportunity to learn, connect and grow.

Throughout Rally we heard the climate change message and discussed how to adapt and mitigate the wide-ranging implications of a changing climate to our work. Land Trust Alliance President Andrew Bowman challenged the land trust community to meaningfully address climate change in its work.

There are a number of ways Ausbon Sargent can play an important role in natural climate solutions. We should focus on protecting and restoring natural ecosystems consisting of native plants and animals. We can provide information about how critical it is to shift to sustainable land management practices on the lands that we timber and that provide our food and fiber. Land trusts are encouraged to demonstrate climate-smart practices as we steward forests, wetlands and agricultural soils.

While at Rally we chatted with colleagues from across the country whose forests, farmlands and food supplies are at great risk from fires and lack of water. The value and importance of land trusts’ efforts to save our nation’s existing farms and ranches is critical to insure our country’s food security.

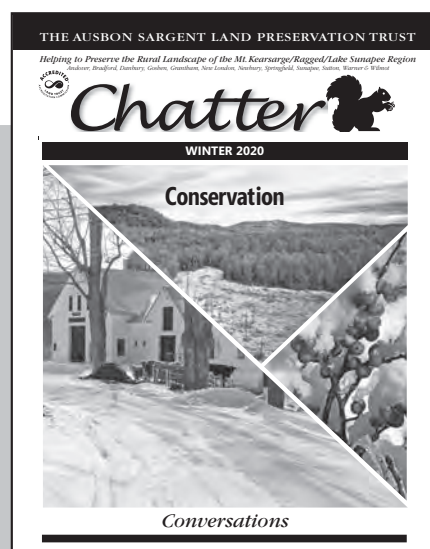
As Ausbon Sargent prepares for its upcoming March Board Retreat, we will review our 2016-2020 strategic plan goals: Land Conservation, Stewardship, Community Commitment and Organizational Integrity. We will ask ourselves a number of questions. Have we been successful in meeting our goals? Are there new pathways to achieving our goals? What are our strengths and weaknesses? Are there threats and opportunities relevant to our work? How can Ausbon Sargent help the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region adapt to and diminish the threats of climate change?

I have confidence that the Ausbon Sargent Board will thoughtfully study these questions as we prepare our next five-year Strategic Plan. We have both a responsibility and an opportunity to take our conservation and stewardship work to new levels of scale, effectiveness and sustainability.

Thank you,

## ABOUT THE COVER

Whether we are considering farms, forests and wetlands or natural habitat, Ausbon Sargent continues to have conversations about our special New Hampshire landscape. These conversations are important for those of us appreciating these lands today and for our next generations to enjoy forever.







## Those “Conservation Conversations” and How They Happen

by Peggy Hutter

It’s said that every conversation begins with good listening, but in the twenty-first century, it can be more difficult to be certain when and if anyone is listening. In the past, when many of our conversations took place face-to-face, it seemed easier to communicate. We saw who we were speaking with and could sense their level of engagement from their facial expressions, their focus and their immediate responses. Today, four to five “generations” have been identified, based on the year in which you were born, and each of these groups seems to engage and converse slightly differently from the others. As you read on, consider the people in your life and the “generation” they represent. It may provide you some insight on how to connect.

Many of us are “Traditionalists,” born pre-WWII, or “Baby Boomers” born between 1945-1960. Though we find ourselves surviving with and even enjoying some technology, we still prefer face-to-face meetings, phone conversations, white papers, newsletters and print publications, much to the bane of our children and grandkids.

Those born in 1960-1980 are referred to as “Generation X.” If we want to have conversations and engage them, we should create opportunities to hang out and mingle, preferably at happy hours, dinners, family nights, etc. They value productivity and getting things done—quickly! Communications should be concise and the processes simple.

“Generation Y” (aka Millennials) include those born between 1981 and 1996. Millennials are the ultimate multi-taskers. They want their information shared through content that is short and direct. They love their conversations to exist through blog posts and social media. Put it out there and you have a better chance that they will “Like” you.

And finally, we have “Generation Z,” those born between 1997 and the present. “Gen-Z-ers” do everything online. They are heavy users of mobile devices, and a Smartphone is their preferred method of communication. A face-to-face conversation and reading paper mail happens infrequently and is to be avoided, if they can manage it.

*Our dragonfly walks, like this one on the Sawyer Brook Headwaters property in Grantham, provide opportunities for many “Conservation Conversations” with multiple “generations.”*

Despite its variability, communication is important. For Ausbon Sargent, having “Conservation Conversations” is imperative. We recognize that people don’t save what they don’t value. Our task is to help them understand the importance of protecting land—to their personal well-being, to their daily lives, for the next generations and to the earth itself. As Mark Twain is credited for saying, “Buy land, they’re not making it anymore.” We need to value what we have before it’s lost.

Face-to-face conversations are an Ausbon Sargent favorite. When we are all fully present with one another, we speak and we listen. We all enjoy the experience of being heard and feeling understood and of gaining empathy for many views and sentiments. Through the year, Ausbon Sargent offers workshops and hikes, Thursday’s Child and Progressive Dinners, meetings and celebrations—all of which encourage direct conversation.

Technology is a part of everyday life, however, and, as we’ve learned, it is often the communication method of choice. To stay abreast with the twenty-first century, and especially with our “X-Y-Z-ers,” we are proud to march forward, conversing through social media. Along with our print media of newspapers, newsletters and mailings, we also communicate through our regularly updated website, Facebook, e-blasts and Instagram.

“Face-to-face conversation is the most human and humanizing thing we do,” says Sherry Turkle in her book, *Reclaiming Conversation—The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*. The staff and board of Ausbon Sargent would whole-heartedly agree. Our mission to “preserve the rural landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region” is critical and our work enriches all generations. It is important, therefore, to be mindful that our “conservation conversations” reach all generations. Let us know how we’re doing.

*Peggy Hutter has spent the last nine years as Ausbon Sargent’s Communications Coordinator following a 36-year teaching career. She and her husband, Bob, enjoy living and “playing” in Elkins and look forward to more and more travel excursions in their future.*

## ***Conversations and Teachable Moments***

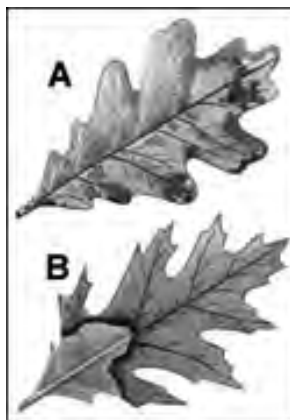
*by Chuck Bolduc*

I grew up in the Kearsarge area and spent my free time hiking, trail running, canoeing, and cross-country skiing. Whenever life became overwhelming I knew that I could get outside to feel at peace. College and then work took me away from this area, but when my daughter was born six years ago I was drawn back here. I wanted her to have the same exposure to the outdoors I had growing up. I wanted her to feel comfortable being outside, to use the experience to build strength and self-confidence and to have a way to find solace whenever she needed it.

I took her outside frequently as a toddler, stuffed in the hiking backpack going up Kearsarge. She would look around and grab for tree leaves and branches. In the winter she loved being pulled in the sled behind my cross-country skis while munching on snacks and laughing when the sled tipped over. It wasn't long before she was traveling under her own power. Many of her early hikes were on Ausbon Sargent properties, stumbling around in her pink bear onesie. It was slow going, but she never complained. Now, at six years old, she's perfectly comfortable backpacking for days in the Adirondacks or summiting a 4000-footer in the White Mountains. I am proud that the foundation for her love of the outdoors was built right here on the land that I grew up on.

I feel so fortunate that we are able to get out for hikes after school, taking our picnic dinners with friends to the top of Kearsarge or Lake Solitude or Bog Mountain. My daughter isn't the most talkative kid. When I pick her up from school and ask how her day was, she responds, "Good!" But when we get out on the trail she starts telling stories about school and talking about her life and her future plans (being a school teacher and mom). She asks endless questions about geology, trees, and animals while her hiking buddy identifies mushrooms. It is such a pleasure to witness another generation whose love of the outdoors was formed in this beautiful area that we live in.

When coming down Kearsarge this past summer my daughter asked me: "Dada, can I just keep hiking forever?" Her question made me think about all the work that has been done by past generations to protect land and build and maintain trails. I thought about the ongoing efforts of Ausbon Sargent, town conservation commissions, and our community. And I envisioned an older version of my daughter working on a trail crew, completing the Appalachian Trail, and taking her kids to the top of Kearsarge. My answer to her was, "Yes." And on that note, it is time for me to get our cross-country skis down from the attic.



Oak Leaves showing symptoms of **oak wilt**: a) white oak leaf and b) on a red oak leaf.

## ***A Danger to Our Precious Oaks***



*by Dode Gladders,  
NH Cooperative Extension  
Sullivan County Forester*

***Forest health experts in New Hampshire are on the lookout for oak wilt, a disease that primarily affects trees in the red oak group, including our northern red oak which is quite common throughout central and southern New Hampshire. Oak wilt is a fungal disease of uncertain origin that has emerged as a major forest health issue in the midwest over the past few decades.***

More recently oak wilt has been detected in other locations as close as upstate New York and Long Island. New infections are started by small beetles ("picnic beetles") that are attracted to exposed wood, such as wounds from branches broken off in a windstorm. The beetles introduce oak wilt spores onto the exposed wood and the fungus spreads rapidly through the tree's vascular system, plugging the vessels that move water up to the leaves. The leaves take on a scorched appearance and then drop from the tree in a matter of just a few weeks in July or August. Infected trees usually die the same year. The disease then spreads underground from tree to tree through root grafts between red oaks. Control measures are available to limit the spread of oak wilt, but these measures are much more effective when the disease is caught in its earliest stages. Residents are asked to keep an eye out next summer for red oak trees that have browning and falling leaves. If you think you might have found oak wilt, go to [NHbugs.org](http://NHbugs.org) and click the "Report a Suspect Tree" button to upload photos and description. We'll take a look!

*Chuck Bolduc lives in Sutton Mills with his six-year old daughter, Helen. Chuck has been an easement monitor for Ausbon Sargent for five years and serves on the Sutton Conservation Commission. In his spare time, you can find him on a bike, in a canoe, or out on the trails.*



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## Sawyer Brook Headwaters Update

By Sheridan Brown

Great news! We've reached our fundraising goal of \$515,000 to cover the total project cost of the Sawyer Brook Headwaters Project in the Town of Grantham! In December Ausbon Sargent received a \$215,000 grant from New Hampshire's Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and a \$24,000 grant from the State's Moose Plate Conservation Grant Program. Thanks to these grants, the

Photo by Sheridan Brown



*Looking NW over the Beaver Pond Wetland on the Sawyer Brook Headwaters property.*

Eastman Charitable Foundation, the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, generous private donations, and the Town's appropriation of up to \$300,000 for the project, the Town will soon take full ownership of the property and grant a conservation easement to Ausbon Sargent, ensuring its permanent protection.

The Sawyer Brook Headwaters property includes high ranking wetlands and wildlife habitat as designated by New Hampshire Fish and Game, as well as a critical section of an existing wildlife corridor between nearby conserved parcels. These features, along with public access from one Town-maintained road and three unmaintained (Class VI) roads, have made it a popular place for nature observation, hiking, hunting, mountain biking, running, snowshoeing, skiing, snowmobiling, and other low-impact activities by individuals of all ages and abilities.

This gem was almost lost forever in spring of 2018, when a timber investment company acquired the property and announced its plans for a large-scale timber harvest. This would have left the property largely cleared, diminishing its natural resource and recreational value. It may also have been a first step toward the parcel's development. Since that time, the Grantham Board of Selectmen has worked in close partnership with Ausbon Sargent to acquire the property and permanently protect it—and the quality of life provided by local areas for recreation and enjoyment of nature.

This project has been a partnership in the truest sense of the word. The Conservation Fund, a national organization, was able to acquire the property jointly with the Town of Grantham before a single stick of timber was cut. Ausbon Sargent then provided its expertise in grant writing and private fundraising to secure substantial funding to leverage Town dollars. Meanwhile, the strong support of the Board of Selectmen, Town

Administrator, and residents of Grantham sent a powerful message to LCHIP grant reviewers about the importance of this project to the Town.

While we are still collecting pledges, it appears that the Town will keep some of its appropriated funds, holding Town residents' share of the project cost to—or possibly even below—fifty percent (\$267,500), as was our goal.

Time is often of the essence in land protection efforts, and we are pleased that Ausbon Sargent was here to help the Town succeed in this urgent project. We hope you will monitor our upcoming announcements and join us for a celebratory event when the transaction is officially completed.

*Sheridan Brown is one of Ausbon Sargent's newest members elected to its Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Debbie, live in Grantham where he has a law practice. Read more about Sheridan on page 10 of the Chatter.*



Ausbon Sargent thanks  
LCHIP for their  
contributions to so many  
of our land projects.



*Looking toward Mt. Sunapee.*

## Facts about the Rowell MacWilliams Woodlot Conservation Easement

**Town: Sunapee**

**Location: Perkins Pond Road**

**Total Acreage: 265 acres**

### ***This property:***

- has a snowmobile trail that runs through it and will be open to the public for snowmobiling.
- has extensive wetlands and protects frontage on a large beaver pond.
- is highly ranked for wildlife habitat in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.
- is adjacent to other conserved land.
- can be managed for forestry and agriculture and has good soils for both activities.
- will be open to the public for low impact recreation.

## ***Landowner Conversations through the Generations—***

*How the Rowell MacWilliams Woodlot Came to Be*  
by Kristy Heath

D. Selwin and Annie Rowell owned the woodlot for many years, which served as pasture for cattle. In 1938 Robert and Dorothy MacWilliams moved next door with six-week-old Sandra. The MacWilliams found the Rowells to be wonderful neighbors and the families had a very good relationship, to the extent that the Rowells became like grandparents to children, Sandra and eventually, Cora. The Rowells helped the MacWilliams by letting them trade cash for a written check when a transaction required this form of payment, assisted with loans, and even offered the use of their telephone, before this luxury was in everyone's home.

When Mr. Rowell passed away in the early 1950's the entire estate was left to his wife Annie, who was unable to live in the home alone. Although the MacWilliams offered for "Grammy Rowell" to move in with them, she declined, believing that her presence in the home would cause undue stress to everyone, who would surely try to keep the children from pestering her. Upon Mrs. Rowell's death in 1954, it was discovered that her will directed the MacWilliams be offered \$2,000 or the piece of land. The MacWilliams decided having the land was the best choice, as it would be their source for firewood, and they had grown fond of it over the years. The property was transferred to Robert and Dorothy MacWilliams by Henry Sawyer, executor of the Rowell estate.

Cora reflected on the importance of this land to her family: "After you own the land and experience the serenity of being in the woods, you come to love the land. When my dad lost a sibling or close friend, he always went to the land to work. The peaceful woods are a comfort and you feel closer to God in the woods."

Around 1971, a seven-acre lot was subdivided from the parcel by Cora and her husband Larry Collins. Here, they built a home in which they lived for 24 years. Besides the home on the property, the only impact to the land has been the result of the removal of some timber and some firewood for personal use.

In 1982, with rising taxes becoming burdensome on the MacWilliams, Sandra and Cora were approached by their parents to see if they would like to take over the property; otherwise, they would have to sell it. The notion of owning the land appealed to this second generation of MacWilliams, and they decided to take ownership of the property. Cora explained that her dad, being an "old yankee" had always refused to put the land into current use believing that if his taxes were lowered, someone else's would be increased. Sandra and Cora did not agree with this line of thinking, and upon taking ownership of the land, put it into current use to reduce their tax burden. >>



### ***Cocoa's Path Hike***

*Attendees of our October hike on Cocoa's Path leading to the Spofford Easement stop for a "Wish You Were Here" photo.*

***Maybe next time?***



Cora's husband, Larry passed away in 1993 and she remained in the home until 1997 when she moved in with her mother, Dorothy, who was unable to live alone. Always feeling it was important to keep the property in the family, Cora gifted the seven-acre parcel and home to Sandra's son, Tad Blackington, who still lives there today.

Sandra shared, "We decided we wanted the land and have always been happy with that decision. We are happy now, knowing it will not be developed."

The 265-acre Rowell MacWilliams Woodlot was conserved on October 24<sup>th</sup> with help from the Town of Sunapee Conservation Commission and Ausbon Sargent. The sisters, Sandra Blackington and Cora Collins Kangas, want to keep the property open to the public for snowmobiling, hiking, hunting, and exploring. They want the future generations to be able to enjoy the peacefulness and beauty of the woods that have been so meaningful to their families through the years. We are thankful to all the generations of MacWilliams for recognizing the value of the land, and for passing along this concept to their children. The result of this belief is the ultimate display of appreciation, which these two sisters have shown in the protection of a special place, forever. Please contact Ausbon Sargent if you have a property you would like to preserve for future generations. We would be happy to share with you all of the available options.

*Kristy Heath has worked for Ausbon Sargent for almost five years, writing grants and planning events. She enjoys camping and outdoor activities with family and friends.*

## ***The Appropriate Stewards of the Land***

*by Chris Fore*

We are the current stewards of our land and conservationists at heart. At Ragged Farm, this is our mental model and how we view our property. We deeply value the impact of protected land, woodlands and pasture. In this capacity, we see conservation as a major strategy to protect our communities, landscapes and ecosystems. This made buying a rural property in conservation easy for us. When we discovered this unique property in 2008, we got to know its owners, Lin and Mary Ellin Stiles. We discovered we had the same intent for this property—protection. The Stiles had placed 82 acres into conservation with Ausbon Sargent. They were able to convince us we were the next stewards of Ragged Farm; this was not your typical real estate transaction, but, for the Stiles, the process of finding the next stewards to care for this incredible place. This resonated with us, since who could really intend to "own" a home built in 1824?

Early in 2019, several lots were divided and offered for sale. These lots were immediately adjacent to our conserved property and directly in the line-of-sight to our amazing view of the Danbury Bog and state >>



Photo by Andy Degan

*The Stiles/Fore property now totals 89 acres.*

### ***Facts about the Fore Addition to the Stiles Conservation Easement***

**Town: Danbury**  
**Location: Wiggin Road**  
**Total Acreage: 7 acres**

#### ***This property:***

- adds acreage to the existing Stiles Easement and is adjacent to a large block of conserved land that extends into Andover.
- has an extensive wetland and protects frontage on a large beaver pond.
- protects wetlands that flow into Danbury Bog.
- is highly ranked for wildlife habitat in the 2015 Wildlife Action Plan.
- is visible to people traveling to Ragged Mountain.
- can be managed for forestry and agriculture and has good soils for both activities.

managed Wildlife Conservation Area. We also knew this land well and recognized it is often wet, representing a rich riparian ecosystem leading directly into the bog. We knew time was critical, and although the timing was less than ideal, we brokered a deal and purchased these seven acres with an intent to conserve them. Our established relationship with Ausbon Sargent made the process of protection well-informed and easy to negotiate. We have successfully added this to an existing 82 conserved acres. This process has been a big success for us and the natural environment in the New Canada Valley.

As the current stewards of our land, we feel obligated to continue to advocate for the natural beauty around us. In this simple act of additional land protection, we recognize we are simply fulfilling our job, being stewards. We believe Ausbon Sargent, and other land conservation organizations, are tremendous partners in this endeavor. We hope this recent addition to our property helps protect this robust ecosystem by further connecting the New Canada Valley to the Danbury Bog. This is an area frequented by bear, moose, and plentiful snow-shoe hare. It has been an honor to protect this land in perpetuity. Stewardship is the work of everyone, and we are glad to have done our part.

*Christopher and Jennifer Fore live happily on their beautiful farm in Danbury. They are avid permaculturists, gardeners and raise animals on their beautiful hillside farm.*



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



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

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

*This list has been prepared with care. However, if we've inadvertently omitted your name, please contact us.*

## **CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS**

IBM  
National Grid  
Pfizer Foundation  
Shell Oil Company Foundation  
William Blair and Company

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Town of Sunapee  
Conservation Commission  
Town of Sutton  
Conservation Commission

## **GRANTS**

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Eastman Charitable Foundation  
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## **NH CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FUNDS**

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## **IN KIND DONATIONS**

The Country Press and  
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Donald and Mary-Lou Hinman

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## **MARILYN KIDDER AND THE STAFF AT BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS MILESTONE REAL ESTATE**

*(for donating a portion of their sales commissions to Ausbon Sargent)*

Anne Marie Appel  
Kim Armen  
Emily Campbell  
Donna Forest  
Sharon LaVigne  
Chris Murray McKee  
Judy Merrill  
Susie Moore  
Jane Snow  
Sonja Torkelsen  
Joan Wallen

## **WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK**

Nick Andrews  
for shredding documents  
Kat Fink  
for creating an interpretive trail brochure

The Kearsarge Shopper  
for all they do for us  
Lee Morrill, On Track Design  
for graphic design & advertising  
Katie and Lin Potter  
for recycling

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## **OFFICE VOLUNTEERS**

Barbara Faughnan and Kathy Walker  
for volunteering in the office on a regular basis

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Debbie Chrisman  
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Kristy Heath  
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Susan Showalter  
Debbie Stanley

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Kathleen Belko  
Rebecca Courser  
Betsy Forsham  
Carol Foss



Photo by Peggy Hutter

*Debbie Stanley shares an informative slideshow at the Ausbon Sargent Annual Meeting in October.*



Susan Giaccotto  
Kate Gordon  
Cynthia Hayes  
Janet Howe  
Linda Ray Wilson

# **HOLIDAY PARTY SUPPORTERS**

Allioops!  
The Coach House Restaurant  
at the New London Inn

# **FOOD DONATIONS TO THE HOLIDAY PARTY**

74 Main  
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Peggy Hutter  
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Glenda Cottrill

Tom and Martha Cottrill  
Ann and Marc Davis  
Andy Deegan  
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Laura Beth Foster  
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Diane and Bill Robbins  
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Mark and Marilyn Wendling  
Chris White  
Jane Williamson  
John Wilson  
Dave Wood

# **Land & Easement Donors**

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

Dorothy Adams\* and  
Edith Nordstrom\*  
Cathy Aranosian  
Sydney R. Badmington\*  
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Children of Peg Dewey Carroll  
Gary Clark\*  
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Fred William Courser, Jr.  
Family Trust (4 phases)  
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Cheryl Cummer/Jack Lyle\*  
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and Cross children  
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Donald\*, Raymond and  
Richard Gross

Cynthia W. Hayes and John Trachy  
Gerald E. Hersey  
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Beatrice Jillette  
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Judith M. Oates  
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Otter Pond Protective Association  
Dr. Edward C. Parkhurst\* and  
Loren B. Sjostrom\*  
Dr.\* and Mrs.\* Edward C. Parkhurst  
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Thomas and Janet Paul  
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Marcia Wright  
Sarah Yerkes  
Marjorie Young\*  
Steven\* and Susan Youngs

\*denotes deceased



Photo by Lee Morrill

Andy Deegan and Debbie Stanley greet guests  
at the annual Holiday Party.



We had a large group of participants for our Bradford Bog bike in July.



John Garvey and Cotton Cleveland  
share the history of the "Wayne's Woods"  
Garvey property in Gosben on an  
Ausbon Sargent summer bike.

Photos by Ginny Gwynn

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## ***Transitions in Leadership at Ausbon Sargent***

*Ausbon Sargent's Annual Meeting each October marks a new term of board leadership; however introducing our new trustees must be preempted by acknowledging those trustees who have recently completed their terms of service. This year, three trustees have stepped down, making way for new individuals to lend their expertise and appreciation of our region, and assume a leadership role in the land trust.*

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**Joe DiClerico** has been on the Ausbon Sargent board for nine years, serving as the secretary the last four. His perspective, knowledge and sound judgement have been important to our strategic planning and to the Executive, Leadership, and Land Protection Committees on which he has served. Joe's legal expertise and wisdom have been vital to Ausbon Sargent.

**Graham McSwiney** has been a valued member of the Ausbon Sargent board and the Land Protection Committee for six years. He has also been an easement monitor during his tenure. Graham's legal knowledge and expertise contributed to thoughtful discussion and sound decision-making to uphold the land trust's goals.

**Suzanne Tether** has sat on the Ausbon Sargent board for six years, serving on the Development Committee, and was Chair of the Membership Committee for four years. Under her leadership, the land trust experienced substantial growth in annual membership support and significantly increased visibility in Ausbon Sargent's 12-town region.

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**IT IS WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE**  
*that we give thanks for the time and efforts provided by these three individuals. Their dedication and commitment during their years of service to Ausbon Sargent will be reflected forever in the living legacy of protected land within the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region.*



*Ausbon Sargent Chair, Frances Harris, bids retiring board members Joe DiClerico and Graham McSwiney goodbye.*



*Photo by Peggy Huttler*

### ***New Board Members (L-R)***

*Bob Zeller, Sheridan Brown, Laurie DiClerico and Susan Ellison.*

---

*We are happy to introduce Ausbon Sargent's newest board members, voted in at the 2019 Annual Meeting. We seek qualified candidates to serve on our board and make sure that their background and skills are a good match with Ausbon Sargent and our mission. It is always interesting to hear why new trustees became interested in the land trust. Here's what they had to say:*

**Bob Zeller**, a Managing Director for Kaufman Hall & Associates, has long-range strategic and financial planning experience that will help support Ausbon Sargent's mission. Bob shared, "I am a long-time supporter of ASLPT's mission to preserve the open landscape and unique beauty of the region. Every ASLPT activity in which I have participated over the last 15 years has been well-organized and fun. My participation on the Board is a way to show my appreciation to the ASLPT team and deepen my commitment to helping achieve its goals."

**Sheridan Brown**, an attorney from Grantham in solo practice, hopes to further the organization's mission by drawing upon his past experience assisting a myriad of organizations with policy, public relations and legal matters. He has served as Selectman, member of the Conservation Commission and Zoning Board, is the founder of the Grantham Bird Club, and is the Town Coordinator for the Sawyer Brook Headwaters Conservation Project. Sheridan shares, "As a birdwatcher and all-around nature lover, I could never say no to an organization that has saved so many places and things I love. Joining the Board of Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust means stepping onto the shoulders of giants. Its board, executive leadership, and staff have built a strong, widely-respected organization known not only for careful stewardship of lands, but also of >>





**Officers of Ausbon Sargent Board (L-R)**  
*Secretary Jim Owers, Vice-Chair Jeff Hollinger,  
 Chair Frances Harris and Treasurer Mike Quinn*

donors' financial contributions and its community relationships. I'm eager to contribute in every way I can to Ausbon Sargent's important work to protect the lands and opportunities to enjoy nature that are so important to our quality of life in the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region."

**Laurie DiClerico** is a past employee of Ausbon Sargent from November of 2001 until her retirement in 2016. She initially served as the Administrative Assistant and ended her tenure at Ausbon Sargent as the Development Associate. When asked about her newest role within the land trust, Laurie said: "I am delighted to have the opportunity to join the Board of the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust. I have enjoyed a long association with the organization in a variety of capacities and now look forward to contributing to the continued success of ASLPT as it furthers its mission to protect the rural heritage of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee region."

**Susan Ellison** is currently the Director of the Office of Visa and Immigration Services at Dartmouth College. She and her family feel fortunate to live in such a beautiful part of New Hampshire and are active in their community. Susan shared, "Preserving and protecting our land, especially now with our rapidly changing climate, is a critical and compelling mission. I am grateful for the opportunity to help further that mission as a member of the Ausbon Sargent Board, and look forward to doing what I can so that my children's generation and the generations that follow can enjoy this very beautiful place."

## In Thoughtful Memory

*The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust lost three important easement donors in 2019, representing lands protected in three different towns.*



**Dot Gordon** passed away on April 22, 2019 at the age of 103. She and her husband, Frank, conserved 63 acres of property on Davis Hill Road in New London and Jobs Creek Road in Sunapee that protected over 3,000 feet of shoreline on Lake Sunapee. In 2006, Dot made a gift to the Otter Pond Protective Association of 7.8 acres that includes the Otter Pond Beach.



On August 15, 2019, **Gary Clark** passed away. As his health was failing in 2017, Gary made sure he protected his beautiful 63-acre family property in Bradford. He named his conservation easement the George Clark Woods in honor of his father who had first owned this land.



On September 20, 2019, **Don Cline** of Andover passed away. In 2010, Don and his wife Lorraine placed a conservation easement on their 33-acre Shaw Hill Road property. This land lies between the Broshek and Barclin conservation easements held by Ausbon Sargent, creating over 95 contiguous acres of protected land along Shaw Hill Road.



*These landowners will be remembered forever and the land they protected in perpetuity will be the forever memory to their neighbors and friends at Ausbon Sargent. We extend our thoughts and thanks to their families for the generous and conscientious gifts they provided our area.*

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## Conservation Conversations and the Webb Family

by Kelly Webb

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When Richard Webb purchased a farm near a ski mountain in 1948, I'm not sure he dreamed a fourth generation would learn and explore on this same land. It takes dedication and perseverance to keep a plot of land in the family for several generations. Pop (Richard), Van, and Tyler fortunately have those qualities in common. Family conversations always circle back to how we best take care of the land so it can take care of us. That's why Pop requested his memorial in the 'Webb Woods' dedicate him as the 'custodian' of those woods and nothing more.

Van, however, is quick to comment, "When I think about the legacy here, I always include the women who make this all work. First my mom, then Robin, who has toed the line and put up with a lifetime of my shenanigans while raising the wonderful children who will take over the reins. Now, Kelly who has joined Tyler in trying to make this work. Everyone has been involved, with heart and soul, for the long term stewardship of this property." I'll admit there are days I wonder why I got myself into this mess, but I too share a love of land stewardship — plus I married into a lifetime supply of maple syrup.

Over the years, Harding Hill Farm has been host to forestry and farming activities. In the early years, it was a bed and breakfast "before Gram burned it down," as many say—a story for another day. Pop managed the woods, selling timber and firewood. He raised a flock of 200 sheep and started maple sugaring in that beloved old building on the Johnson farm in the 60's. Van & Robin continued the farm—logging, selling firewood, and keeping some livestock to maintain pastures. Under his management, the sugaring business grew to 4,000 taps before the '98 ice storm damage. Tyler joined and added another enterprise — residential tree care services. Then he met me, and we started our herd of Belted Galloway cattle and expanded the maple syrup sales.

The family conversations continue as we nurture this land and business Pop gave us. The tree care business is thriving. We actively manage the woods and boosted our firewood production. Tyler and I enjoy providing grass-fed beef and maple syrup to the local community. Please visit us this maple season on the corner of Stagecoach Road and NH Route 103 in Sunapee for the grand opening of our newly built sugarhouse. After, we may even send you on a walk in the woods to enjoy this beautiful place we are honored to call home.



*Van Webb (L) with son Tyler and grandson Brooks.*



*Three generations of Webbs (L-R) Tyler and wife Kelly with Brooks in front, Van and wife Robin.*

Photos by Miss Megabug LLC



*With farming roots that go back 10 generations, Kelly Webb has a passion for all things agriculture. She helps Tyler and Van run many aspects of Harding Hill Farm in addition to her 'off-farm' job in agricultural lending. When she isn't chasing cows and their little boy, she can be found exploring the woods on foot, skis, or horseback.*



## Thank You, Peggy!



Photo by Kristy Heath

Peggy Hutter has been on the staff at Ausbon Sargent since February, 2011, just eight months after retiring from a 36-year career teaching physical education. Originally hired in a temporary capacity, Peggy was tasked with coordinating Ausbon Sargent's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. After the year of celebrations was over Peggy was asked to remain on staff to help coordinate the "Chatter" and handle other communications functions as needed. Now, nine years later, Peggy has decided to retire, again! We will surely miss her organizational skills, attention to detail, energy, and friendly smile at the office.

Her work organizing "Chatter," maintaining the website, and coordinating events like the Kearsarge Klassic bike event has helped to bring awareness and education about land conservation to the citizens of our 12-town region. With plans to travel with her husband, Bob, and to spend more time visiting with her grandchildren, family and friends, Peggy is looking forward to this second retirement with excitement. We all wish Peggy the best and thank her for all she has done for Ausbon Sargent!



Photo by Peggy Hutter

Visit our Ausbon Sargent office at 71 Pleasant Street in New London.

## Rally in Raleigh!

by Kristy Heath

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, four Ausbon Sargent staff members were able to attend the Land Trust Alliance's national conference, known as "Rally," held this year in Raleigh, North Carolina.

As in prior years, Rally proved to be a valuable experience, immersing each participant in all things "land conservation" for three days. Staff members filled their days attending workshops that focused on topics most relevant to the work they do at Ausbon Sargent. Throughout the day the ASLPT staff would regroup and discuss how they might implement new ideas at the land trust. Topics varied from working with millennials, to creating sustainable trails. Sessions focused on tax laws to donor relations, and learning about IT security issues to planning special events. In addition to the wealth of information available at Rally, it is also a prime place to network and learn about how other land trusts handle situations similar to ours. We made several new connections and reinforced others from prior conferences, all in an effort to keep listening, learning and implementing things that will help us to continue doing good work.

We feel very fortunate to have been able to attend Rally this year. It was an amazing opportunity that is sure to help Ausbon Sargent continue to grow and be prepared for changes ahead.



Photo by Kristy Heath

Andy Deegan leading the Ausbon Sargent Lands Committee meeting.

# 2020 *Calendar of Events*

## February

### Blue Mountain Sled Dog Race in Grantham

**Sunday, February 16, 2020 9:00 AM**

Join us for an interesting, outdoor adventure on properties near the Sawyer Brook Headwaters protected property in Grantham.

## March

### Visit the New Webb Sugarhouse

**Tuesday, March 10 2-4 PM**

*(snow date Thursday, March 12)*

You're invited to join us on the Webb property in Sunapee. Visit the new sugarhouse and observe the process of boiling sap, then visit interesting aspects of the Webb property near the sugarhouse.

### Trails for People and Wildlife

**Wednesday, March 25, 2020 6:30-8:00 PM**

Tracy Memorial Library on Main St., New London  
Read more about this event in the article on this page.

## May

### Thursday's Child at the New London Inn

**Thursday, May 28, 2020 5:30 PM**

Once again, Ausbon Sargent will be part of the New London Inn's Thursday's Child dinners where a percentage of the evenings' proceeds directly benefits a local non-profit. Make your reservation "sooner than later" to insure you get the table you want for your group at the time that works best for you.

## July

### Ausbon Sargent's Annual Progressive Dinner

**Thursday, July 23, 2020 5:30 PM**

This is one of our most popular members-only events of the year. Mark your calendar for the date and be sure to RSVP soon after you receive your invitation in mid-June. This event regularly sells out.

*Please visit [ausbonsargent.org/calendar](http://ausbonsargent.org/calendar) for more specific details. Unless noted, all events are free and open to the public. We request that you RSVP for all events.*



## Join Us for an Upcoming Workshop

### *Trails for People and wildlife*

The "Trails for People and Wildlife" project was initiated through the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership (a collaboration of conservation organizations in the coastal region that promotes landscape-scale land conservation and stewardship). The program and materials were then developed by GIS Coordinator Katie Callahan, State Lands Habitat Biologist Jim Oehler, and Wildlife Ecologist Rachel Stevens, all staff members with NH Fish and Game.

The purpose of the project is to help landowners, conservation groups and natural resource professionals develop a thoughtfully located network of well-maintained trails that allow people to get outside to enjoy nature while minimizing disturbance to wildlife. Trails are created for many uses and often a trail is accessed for multiple types of activity. Consideration of wildlife is just one piece of the puzzle, but an important aspect not to be overlooked.

On Wednesday, March 25, Ausbon Sargent will co-host a workshop at the Tracy Library on Main Street, New London (see Calendar of Events on this page) to share some important information and suggestions for those wishing to develop trails on their land or interested in this topic. The workshop is free and open to the public. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the Ausbon Sargent office.



*Photo by Peggy Hutter*

*Our guests always have a great time at our Progressive Dinner. Bob and Debbie Zeller hosted cocktails at their Pleasant Lake home.*



## ***Dr. Charles Kane: Leaving a Legacy to the Area He Loved***

*by Ginny Gwynn*

ASLPT recently received a generous bequest from the estate of Dr. Charles Kane. A long-time resident of Newbury, Dr. Kane supported ASLPT for more than twenty years through his membership contributions. His interest in protecting the Lake Sunapee area likely originated during his years at Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Medical School where his hiking and skiing adventures throughout New Hampshire began. As well as exploring the Lake Sunapee region from his Newbury home, Dr. Kane extended his hiking to mountains in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire, sumitting 96 of the 100 highest peaks in New England. He also received membership in the Appalachian Mountain Club's 4,000-Footer Society by climbing all 48 New Hampshire mountains exceeding 4,000 feet. Each winter as snow fell on Mount Sunapee, his mountain interests turned to skiing, which he enjoyed until age 89. After he hung up his skis and hiking boots, Dr. Kane continued to enjoy the view of his beloved Mount Sunapee from his kitchen window and from his vegetable garden. Dr. Kane died in 2018 at the age of 96.

The ASLPT trustees and staff are very grateful to Dr. Kane for contributing to this organization's past successes through his membership and to its future through his bequest. His contributions will help to protect the natural beauty and the recreational opportunities which abound in our area. It is a fitting legacy for such an avid hiker and skier. If you would like to find out about leaving your own legacy, please contact Executive Director Debbie Stanley at 526-6555.

*Ginny Gwynn is a trustee of Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and chairman of its Development Committee. She and her husband retired to Sunapee where they enjoy hiking, kayaking, skiing, and volunteering.*

### **“Subtle Conversations”**

We learn that the messages we use to promote the good work of The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust are important tools to begin conversations with new friends. *For example:*

Just before Thanksgiving of 2019, Sue Andrews received a donation to Ausbon Sargent from an unfamiliar source. Bert Klimer was not a member, nor a resident of the area. In her Thank You response to Mr. Klimer, Sue included, “I like to understand why our donors feel a connection to us and I was just curious what your connection is . . . your Alabama address is a little bit of a mystery to me!”

Bert promptly returned this message to Sue, “*There is actually no connection to the area or anything of that nature. I randomly will donate to different causes which I feel are worthwhile and yours popped up on a search for land preservation. What was most intriguing to me is more the endowment aspect which allows the donation to provide income for the cause year after year, as opposed to being spent/allocated all at once, so it's a way to effectively, continuously give to a particular cause.*”

**You never know who your message will reach. Thank you, Bert.**



*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 (11)**  
**Rich and Heidi Anderson**  
**Theodore D. Bacon, Jr.\***  
**Ann Bemis\***  
**Seth Benowitz**  
**Catherine Bogardus\***  
**Roland P. Carreker\***  
**Michael and Susan Chiarella**  
**Naia L. Conrad\***  
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**Gerard and Jane Gold**  
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**Rachel and Myron\* Rosenblum**  
**John and Sage Scott**  
**John and Nancy Denny Solodar**  
**Virginia Anthony Soule\***  
**Peter and Debbie Stanley**  
**John Tilson**  
**Libby Trayner\***  
**Betsy Denny Warner**  
**Mary-Seymour “Sissy” Wastcoat\***

*\*denotes deceased*



THE  
AUSBON  
SARGENT  
LAND  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

71 Pleasant Street

P.O. Box 2040

New London

New Hampshire

03257-2040

603.526.6555

#### STAFF (L-R)

**Deborah Stanley**  
*Executive Director*

**Sue Ellen Andrews**  
*Operations Manager*

**Andy Deegan,**  
*Land Protection Specialist/  
Stewardship Manager*

**Kristy Heath**  
*Development and  
Administrative Coordinator*

**Patsy Stevenson**  
*Bookkeeper*

**Peggy Hutter**  
*Communications Coordinator*



*Special Thanks to all of our guest authors!  
Newsletter layout & design by Lee Morrill, On Track Design.*

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**Vice-Chair: Jeff Hollinger**

Secretary: Jim Owers

Treasurer: Mike Quinn

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Aimee Ayers

Sheridan Brown

Kathy Carroll

Laurie DiClerico

Susan Ellison

Garry Gwynn

Deborah Lang

Steve Root

Bob Zeller

## 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: [AusbonSargent.org](http://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.*

02/20

