

THE AUSBON SARGENT LAND PRESERVATION TRUST

Helping to Preserve the Rural Landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Ragged/Lake Sunapee Region

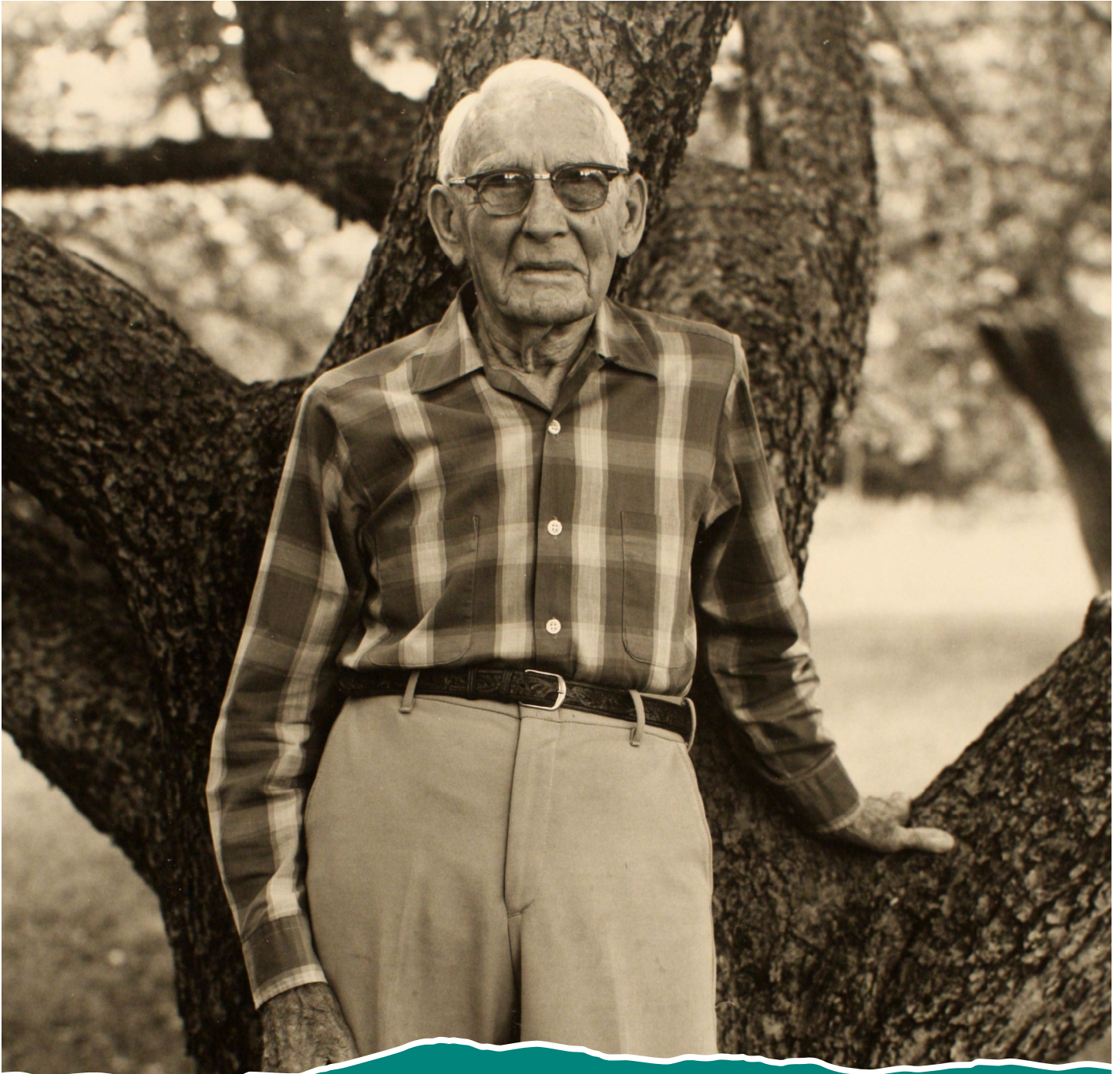
Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Goshen, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner & Wilmot



Chatter



Winter 2026



Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

From the Executive Director Hans Carlson



You will be reading this early in the new year, but I'm writing about two weeks before Christmas. After a warm November, we had our first snow last week, and December has given us all the winter weather we could want. We are expecting a few more inches today, which will add to my holiday spirit, but before I start thinking about that too much, I want to take a minute and highlight a couple of things for you that will be coming in the new year.

First, I want to tell you about our ongoing strategic planning process. Our current plan is coming to a close and we are working now on the next one. We have worked internally this fall, and in the new year we will be reaching out for input from various stakeholders in our work. Hearing from our members and our volunteers will be central, but we also want to engage with other community partners in this part of planning. We work closely with other nonprofit environmental organizations, like LSPA, and with town conservation commissions. We engage regularly with Colby-Sawyer, both students and faculty. All these other partners have perspectives that are important for us to hear as we think about the future.

This information gathering will happen through several mechanisms. There will be a survey to gather general information, as well as one-on-one and group conversations. Ausbon Sargent has been part of this region for nearly four decades, so we are interested in hearing perspectives on the work we have done, but also how that work will continue and evolve within the context of all the changes happening in the world today. I hope you will take whatever opportunity you have to participate in the process with us. The more information we get, the better our planning will be, and the more valuable we can be as an organization to this region going forward. We very much look forward to hearing from you.

The second thing I want to tell you about is work that will be going on at our offices here in New London. Starting in February or March, we will be having a solar array installed on the south-facing portion of our roof. The new system will allow us to produce much

of the electricity we use here and put what is not used here, into the grid. We are eligible for a federal rebate on the project, and this will allow us to make other energy upgrades for heating and cooling the building. This is all being made possible by a donor who has supported our land conservation for years and wanted to see Ausbon Sargent make these changes. It's an amazing gift.

Making the building solar powered feels especially good because it aligns some of the basic infrastructure of the organization with our values and mission. Land conservation is the work we do, but this is part of a larger constellation of work that is happening in this area for environmental and community benefit. We align ourselves with the values and work of all the stakeholders I mentioned above, and this will be a very tangible expression of how we are participating in addressing climate change in a different way. We are very grateful for this generous support. Please keep an eye out on our social media and newsletters for updates on the installation.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Chatter, it's full of more information about the various work we are doing. I want to thank everyone who has supported us through membership and other donations. We could not do any of this without your help. I hope your holidays were lovely and that you are looking forward to the new year as much as I am. There is a lot that needs to be done, but together we can make it happen and keep the legacy of Ausbon Sargent alive in the work we will do in the future.

Onward!

Hans Carlson,
Executive Director



ABOUT THE COVER >

This is Ausbon W. Sargent: a retired maintenance worker of no inherited wealth, at age 94 took his life savings and bought the three-acre Main Street "town green" parcel from Colby-Sawyer College. Sargent immediately gave the land to the Town of New London on condition the parcel remain forever undeveloped. The year was 1985 and land prices had soared amid a building boom. The financially struggling college, where Sargent had worked for 25 years, had offered the parcel for sale. Fearing the town green, the center of community life of his boyhood, would go the way of the mini-mall, Sargent paid \$150,000 to guarantee its preservation. In our region, this is probably the most important seed that has been planted, creating a movement towards land conservation for future generations.



The Seeds We Plant

By Kristy Heath, Development and Communications Coordinator

“Planting a seed” means more than burying a seed in soil, watering it, and waiting to reap its rewards. A thought, idea, or an action can serve as a “seed” for someone else. Over the last ten years working at Ausbon Sargent, I’ve heard many times: “I see that my neighbor put a conservation easement on their land. It got me thinking... could my land be protected too?” or “I read in the *Chatter* that someone protected their small property. I didn’t realize that could be done. Will someone come look at my property to see if I could protect it?” An eventual call or visit to our office represents a seed that has been planted.

I’ve always felt like seeds were magical; one minute they are hard, dried-up little pods, and the next they produce lush greenery, which then goes on to produce intricate flowers or delicious and nutritious food that can sustain life! My grandfather used to remark, when seeing a bloom on his yellow rose bush “How do they know how to do that?” Tiny seeds like a carrot (2-6mm), or large like an avocado (about 3”) undergo an amazing transformation to provide their intended bounty. Just look at what happened when one wayward seed found its way into a crevice between my father’s house and the paved driveway – an absolute explosion of cherry tomatoes in the most unexpected and unplanned space!

Like a seed in the soil, the idea to protect a property can lie dormant for months, years, or even decades, but once the conditions and timing are right, it will flourish. The benefits of protecting a property to retain its natural resources are just as amazing as that crazy tomato plant and creates a bounty even more valuable. In conservation, the rewards are harvested forever, not just during one growing season, and can then serve as someone else’s seed who may be drawn to the idea of conservation and are waiting for their opportunity to plant.

The next time you read or hear about someone who protected their land with a conservation easement, you can bet that a seed had been planted in their mind and heart at some point, and the idea took hold in them until it was time for them to plant. Protecting your land, or being a member of an organization that does, is something we can do in our lifetime that will matter long after we are gone and is vital for the generations to come. And while those cherry tomatoes were plentiful and sweet like candy, there is nothing sweeter than knowing that important properties with high values for resiliency against a changing climate, that sustain plentiful wildlife, preserve rural character, and offer protection to our waterbodies, forests and agricultural land, are protected forever.

“The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.”

- Kalu Ndukwe Kalu



Photo courtesy Mickey Pillsbury

Kristy is the Development and Communications Coordinator at Ausbon Sargent. She enjoys glamping throughout New England and taking advantage of the recreational opportunities afforded by the region's mountains and lakes. A NH native, she resides in New London.

LAND PROJECT UPDATES:

HEDGEHOG HILL – 109 acres in Sutton



A view from the Hedgehog Hill property in Sutton.

On July 31, 2025, the 109-acre Hedgehog Hill property was protected by the donation of a conservation easement from Hedgehog Hill Preservation LLC. According to the NH Wildlife Action Plan, this property includes habitat that is Highest Ranked in the State, and Highest Ranked in the Biological Region and Supporting Landscapes. It contains good forestry and agricultural soils and is currently managed for agriculture. A six-acre field currently has row crops and fruit trees. Hedgehog Hill contains important wetlands, including vernal pools. It is open to the public for low impact recreation, and is listed as an important area for protection in the Sutton Master Plan.

We are thankful to the landowners for entrusting Ausbon Sargent with the important task of watching over and stewarding this important property, forever.

HAYES HILL PRESERVE – 63 acres in Springfield

On November 21, 2025, Gene and Susy Hayes donated a conservation easement on their 63.3-acre property, which is adjacent to over 2,200 acres of conservation land and is open to the public for low-impact recreation. There are existing trails on the Preserve, and a portion of a snowmobile trail crosses a section of it. Hayes Hill Preserve is managed for forestry and is home to abundant wildlife. It provides views from Stony Brook Road and I-89, and was a sensitive area identified in the Springfield Master Plan that should be protected.

Susy and Gene shared:

“We’d spent years exploring our property and thought we knew it well. But walking the property with foresters, ecologists and other experts changed everything. Through their eyes, we discovered a landscape rich with stories - traces of its past that explain why it appears as it does today. This understanding has only heightened our sense of responsibility for protecting it and our role as stewards for doing so.”

Ausbon Sargent is thankful to Gene and Susy for entrusting us with their special property, which will be forever protected from development.



Susy and Gene Hayes along with Hans Carlson (Executive Director) and Andy Deegan (Land Protection Specialist) at the closing of the Hayes Hill Preserve on November 21, 2025



Cascade Brook flows around the Cascade Preserve, making its way to Cascade Marsh.

CASCADE PRESERVE – 7.3 acres in Wilmot

On Monday, December 15th, Ausbon Sargent recorded a transfer of property of 7.3 undeveloped acres along Cascade Road in the town of Wilmot. In the most recent NH Wildlife Action Plan, Cascade Preserve is listed as Highest Ranked Habitat in the State, and Highest Ranked Habitat in the Biological Region and Supporting Landscapes.

This property is fronted on two sides by Cascade Brook, which flows into Cascade Marsh and is part of the Blackwater River watershed. Although not contiguous, Cascade Preserve is near over 6,000 acres of conservation land. This important property helps to protect wildlife habitat, ground and surface water resources, and the scenic enjoyment for the public along Cascade Road. It is open to the public for low-impact recreation.

We are grateful to the landowner, George Duncan, and his daughter Alison for recognizing the importance of this property and the thoughtful donation to Ausbon Sargent.



Haying is one of the reserved rights that are part of the Hersey conservation easement in Andover, NH.

Planning for Today, Tomorrow and Forever: What are the Reserved Rights of a Conservation Easement?

By Andy Deegan, Land Protection Specialist

When a landowner places a conservation easement on their property, the terms of the easement are part of the property forever. Future landowners must meet the terms of the easement but can also benefit from the terms that guide them on what they can do with the land. At times there are things a landowner would like to allow that are not typically part of a conservation easement. Ausbon Sargent must evaluate the request to determine if it is something the Land Trust wants, or is able to steward in perpetuity.

Most easements allow for two types of commercial activities: forestry and agriculture. These activities are considered renewable and can occur on the property repeatedly. If you stop haying a field in New Hampshire, young trees will grow in just a few years, but well-managed hayfields can produce valuable hay year after year. These activities are guided by management plans which consider the condition of the land and best management practices. The guidance of a management plan allows for these activities to occur on the property for many years to come. On the contrary, activities like mining or removal of soil from a conservation easement are not permitted. These resources have a larger impact on the land and do not regenerate year after year.

Some landowners think ahead about activities that could occur on their property, which they do not plan to do, but understand that a future landowner may want to. Sometimes, landowners ask that certain types of structures be allowed in an easement

that generally are not, such as camping platforms or lean-tos. These structures allow people to experience being out in nature and connecting with the land. One must consider that these structures also have an impact on the land because they will typically include the use of fire pits, the potential for litter on a property, and a lack of bathroom facilities. This kind of request must be evaluated by looking at the entire project. *How large is the property?* Camping will have a larger impact on a smaller property than on a larger one. *Are there sensitive areas on the property?* If so, we would want to avoid having a higher impact in these sensitive areas. *Is the location going to encourage inappropriate use of the property?* Some areas are more visible to the public and may attract nuisance visitors to the property. All these considerations and more are considered when we evaluate a request from a landowner.

When a landowner has a request that is different from the typical easement, the Ausbon Sargent team works to determine if we can meet the request but also ensure that the resources on the property are not diminished by future use of the land.

Andy has worked at Ausbon Sargent for 17 years as its Land Protection Specialist. He lives in New London with his wife and two children. In his free time, he enjoys birding, kayaking, hiking, and generally being outside.

Monitoring Through the Generations

By Jamie Wilson, Stewardship Manager

There is a silence that snowfall brings to the forest that is one of my favorite “sounds” in the world. It feels beautiful yet somehow unnatural. I have always assumed my love for winter came from growing up in Vermont, and it confused me when some fellow Vermont friends did not share the same excitement for snow. On a recent snowy walk with my family my sister paused and commented on how quiet it felt in the woods. It clicked when she said that, that our mutual love of winter came from seeds that were planted by our parents. Ski weekends with hot chocolate breaks, doing donuts in an empty parking lot, trudging across a golf course to get to the best sledding hill, making sugar on snow, reading *The Christmas Miracle of Jonathan Toomey* while sitting by the fire, building giant snowmen in the front yard, and enjoying the silence of snowfall while on a hike in the woods. These core memories from my childhood established my love for the cold weather and short winter days.

Similar memories shaped my desire to work in conservation, and I see and hear similar seeds being planted among our volunteers. We have over 170 dedicated volunteer monitors who help us visit every conserved property at least once a year. Many of our monitors walk with their partners, siblings or friends; but some have invited the younger generation of their family to join them. When asked why he invited his son to join him on his yearly monitoring walk Greg Swick said “I monitor because I like to support the Ausbon Sargent mission and to be involved in the local community. I invited Zachary to join me so that he can experience that same sense of involvement. It also gave us something that we can do together.”

Chuck Bolduc has been a volunteer for Ausbon Sargent since 2015 and often brings his daughter Helen with him on monitoring walks. In a 2019 article that he wrote for *Chatter* he said “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...It is such a pleasure to witness another generation whose love of the outdoors was formed in this beautiful area that we live in.”



A flashback to Jamie Wilson's mother and older sister playing in the woods.

Appreciation and care for the outdoors is often passed down from older generations to younger generations, but it can go both ways. Glennie LeBaron has volunteered or worked for Ausbon Sargent for the past five years and invited her dad to join her as a monitor on one of the protected properties so that she could show him how and why she cares so deeply for the land. Despite a hot and buggy first walk together she watched her dad's attention change as he started to look for wolf trees and barbed wire and asked who was stewarding other properties. Glennie said, “His curiosity in my world demonstrated a pride I don't think he could have felt without joining me in the woods.”

When Ausbon Sargent protects a property, we commit to stewarding it forever. It is important to plants seeds in younger generations so that they treasure the land as much as we do and want to care for it when we no longer can.

Jamie works as the Stewardship Manager at Ausbon Sargent and oversees the stewarding of conservation easement properties and properties owned by the Land Trust. She enjoys hiking, mountain biking, skiing and cooking. Jamie currently resides in Sunapee with her cat, Poppy.





Top: TACF Workday Volunteers; Middle: A view of one of New London's restoration sites; Bottom: Old-growth American Chestnut tree in Southern Appalachians

Planting Seeds for Hope – Reintroducing the American Chestnut Tree

By Kristy Heath, ASLPT Development and Communications Coordinator and Bob Brown, Chair of the New London Conservation Commission

In the late 1890's, a disease from the Far East wiped out nearly 4 billion American Chestnut trees from Georgia to Maine within a 50-year timeframe. This species of Chestnut made up about 25% of all standing trees in the forest and was valued for its rot-resistant qualities. It was used in timber framing buildings, for telephone poles, and in furniture-making. The nutritious nuts were a favorite of wildlife, livestock, and humans alike.

In 1983, The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) began to reintroduce self-sustaining stands of blight-tolerant American Chestnut trees through scientific research and breeding. It is the hope that these blight tolerant transgenic trees will become readily available in the future, allowing for their crossing with wild Chestnut trees.

The New London Conservation Commission (NLCC) started its own American Chestnut restoration project about 10 years ago, under the guidance of TACF VT/NH. They currently have three test sites, all on conserved land, which are owned by the Town of New London and managed by the NLCC. Sites are located at Clark Lookout, opposite the Park 'n Ride on Route 103A, and two are situated within the Esther Currier Wildlife Management Area at Low Plain, one near the trailhead entrance and one off of Shaker Street on Route 11. About 120 seeds have been planted by the NLCC over the last decade, and some are more than eight feet tall.

On Saturday, September 14th, 2025, TACF VT/NH held its first ever joint Orchard Management Day with the NLCC. They planted an additional 22 seedlings at the site on Shaker Street and replaced the tree cages and mulch at both the Shaker Street and the Clark Lookout sites. 18 volunteers from the NLCC, TACF, Elkins Fish & Game Club, and Nature Groupie worked in groups to get the work done. TACF VT/NH provided all the metal posts, fencing, and plant matting, and the New London Department of Public Works provided the soil and bark mulch. Additional assistance came from Spring Ledge Farm, who started the seed nuts this year under ideal greenhouse conditions. The resulting stock was superior to that which would have come from a long-distance nursery. Many thanks go out to these groups and to those who have volunteered with this important project. Please stop by the sites if you have time! More information can be found at: www.nl-nhcc.com



Thank you for Special Donations

This list has been carefully assembled to recognize special gifts from July 1, 2025, to December 31, 2025. You will find our Membership, Annual Fund, Business Partners, and more Special Donation lists in the summer Chatter.

BEQUEST

Jane Gold

BYRON BARTON WOODS

Martha Gearhart & Michele Dominy

FOSTER FARM PROJECT, WARNER

Peter Canavan
Mary-Chris & David Duncan
Diane & Andy Frankenfield
John & Jane Walsh

IN HONOR OF

Jake Hollinger, from Carol Reeves
Cheryl & Jeffrey Powell, from Nancy Powell
John Jevne, from Lucretia Jevne
Winslow Green, from Constance Brown

IN KIND GIFTS

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Hans M. Carlson
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Geoff & Alix Klingenstein
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Carol Thrane & Robert Martin
Sheri & Gerry Weber



Thank You Land & Easement Donors

We sincerely thank those who share their passion for natural places by donating land and easements. As of the end of 2025, we now oversee 172 properties covering 14,335 acres!

Dorothy Adams^ & Edith Nordstrom^
Nola & Ken Aldrich
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Thank You 2025 Volunteers

Your time and commitment were crucial to our success over the past calendar year. Together, we accomplish so much. Our volunteers serve on committees, assist in the office, compile mailings, monitor properties, help with hikes and programs, and conduct team trail work. Please continue with us in 2026!

Robin Abendroth	Suzanne Chapin	Doug Hamilton	Jim Lyons	Dan Schneider
Robin Albing	Debbie Chrisman	Linda Hamlin	Scott MacLean	Kiki Schneider
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Betsy Cetron	Healy Hager	JoAnn Lyon	Pete Savickas	
Lyman Chapin	Elliott Hale	Betsy Lyons	Nick Scheu	



The Movement of Seeds Through Time

Article and sketch provided by Ann Eldridge

There's an oak tree positioned above the metal roof of our new shed. Acorns luge down the roof and land further from the parent tree than they would in free-fall. That is the intention of plants – departure of offspring. The thunderous metallic roll of these acorns is still a roll of the dice though. Will this acorn find an absent-minded rodent to store it in some far away acorn-lush location?

In the mid-1800s, Henry David Thoreau spent time and ink thinking and writing about the seeds he found within a stroll of his home in Concord, MA. He took measurements. He took notes and toyed with squirrels. He was of scientific lean before the word 'scientist' was in use. He wrote "...I have great faith in a seed. Convince me that you have a seed there, and I am prepared to expect wonders." He was living at a time when others believed that plants could rise up out of magical earth spontaneously where no seeds had fallen.

Thoreau catalogued catapulted seeds like witch hazel and touch-me-not; seeds windsurfed like milkweed and poplar; carried off into self-storage like acorns and beechnuts; fish-hooked into fur or feathers; or, like berries, eaten whole, picked up, and dropped off like Amazon Prime packages.

Evidence of glaciation was piling up with the pondering of ice-scoured mountain tops and rocks misplaced erratically. The notion of tectonics – of continents as thin bits of crust sliding about on the heated core of the earth – remained

unformed until the later 1900s despite the tempting puzzle piece possibilities of their shapes. Thoreau would gladly have added to his notes the mobility of plants on their moving continents and the range migration from cyclical climate shifts.

Recent experiments show that plants have agency and are far from passive. They make choices. Within that embryonic package equipped with rations that is a seed, a specific cluster of cells makes the most important calculation of its short life – whether it's time to commit and fiddle out a rootlet. A plant that survives severe drought may pass those survival skills to its seeds, not as a mutation of genes, but as an alteration of gene expression. They recognize their kin.

The oak family is a keystone that supports countless other plants, animals, and fungi. Oaks on this continent may be heading north and west with the altering climate as those acorns that serendipitously are moved in that direction are favored. Thoreau would have been unfavorably astonished at the degree to which the earth's crust is now encrusted with concrete, the asphalt of roofs, and the rugging of lawns.

We could leave seeds the space to get where they need to go in these rapidly changing times.

J. Ann Eldridge lives in Bradford, NH where she makes etchings and is a member of the conservation commission. She writes short essays on whatever she wants for the monthly Bradford Bridge.

Sowing Seeds of Connection

By Sarah Burtnick, Stewardship & Programs Coordinator

Connecting with the outdoors, creating community, and learning about the environment around us is an integral part of the work we do at Ausbon Sargent. The free programming we provide includes hikes and educational presentations, and we also offer occasional volunteer workdays with a goal to provide opportunities for all age ranges. At the beginning of every hike, we like to start with a land acknowledgement and information about the property, including how and why it was protected. Providing context to the land that we use to recreate can further one's appreciation not just for the work we do, but for the protection of the land, water, and ecosystems surrounding us. Educational programming allows people to learn something new about our local environment. Education and connection ensure that we can continue to protect the land that creates the rural character of our area.

Sarah started at Ausbon Sargent in June, 2025. She has been working on programming, coordinating our Volunteer Monitor program, and assisting our Stewardship Manager. Outside of work Sarah loves to hike, bake, and find any excuse to explore the outdoors. Sarah currently lives in Concord and has loved exploring all the activities it has to offer.

In August, in conjunction with Carrie Deegan from the Forest Society, a group explored wild mushrooms at the Cordingley Preserve, New London.



Stewardship Wishlist

To support Ausbon Sargent's stewardship of conservation easements and lands we own, we are looking for funding to purchase the following:

- » Battery Powered Drill
- » Blaze Orange Vests
- » Native Grass Seed for Bradford Bog Headwaters
- » Paint for Maintaining Boundaries
- » Trail Tools
- » Aluminum Nails

If you would like to help us with any items, please send along a note with your donation or give us a call to let us know your intent. Gift certificates in any denomination to Rocky's Ace Hardware or Belletetes are also helpful to purchase tools and materials.

Please contact our Stewardship Manager, Jamie Wilson (jamie@ausbonsargent.org) to get details on any of the above items, or other items we may need. **Thank you!**

Town Spotlight: The Town of Warner

Warner was first granted in 1735 as “Number One” and was called “New Amesbury.” Between 1749 and 1773, the town was regranted a few times, and during the French and Indian War was destroyed and abandoned. The town of “Warner” was incorporated in 1774 following previous names to include Jennesstown and Amesbury. It is believed that Warner’s namesake came from Jonathan Warner of Portsmouth who was a relative of Governor John Wentworth. Warner was one of the last towns established under English provincial rule prior to the Revolution.

Warner became a prosperous farming community and mill town, due to the power afforded by the Warner River and its tributaries. Between 1832 and 1885 industry grew to include 12 sawmills, six gristmills, a paper mill, two clothing factories, a bedstead factory, chain factory, woolen cloth factory, iron foundry, tannery, and a glove manufacturer.

Warner:

- Has a population of 2,937 (2020 census).
- Is 55.5 square miles in size, which includes .2 square miles of water.
- Has points of interest including Rollins State Park and Mt. Kearsarge State Forest, the Dalton and Waterloo covered bridges, the NH Telephone Museum, and the Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum.
- Boasts a high elevation atop Mt. Kearsarge, which is 2,937’ above sea level. Mt. Kearsarge is the highest point in Merrimack County and is the third tallest peak south of the White Mountains.
- Was home to many writers, poets, teachers, two Guggenheim Fellows, a radio producer at WNYC Studios, a Zoologist, Charles Alfred Pillsbury (18420-1901) co-founder of the Pillsbury Company, two governors of NH and one state senator for Massachusetts.

Protected Land in Warner:

- Eight properties in Warner are protected by Ausbon Sargent, comprising 1,204.05 acres (about 3.39% of the town). Background information on each of these properties can be found on our website under “Properties”:
 - » Aranosian – 42 acres
 - » Brown Family’s Frazier Brook Farm – 133.39 acres
 - » Brown/Roy – 83.30 acres
 - » Courser (four separate easements) – 773 acres
 - » Lennon – 26.46 acres
 - » Wayne and Trudy Beaver Saga Pond Forest – 146 acres
- Other lands in Warner are protected by state and municipal easements/agreements including the Chandler Reservation, the Warner Town Forest, The Harriman-Chandler State Forest, and the Mt. Kearsarge State Forest. Several other properties are protected privately.



In March of 1890, George Alfred Pillsbury offered to gift the erection of a free public library to the town of Warner under the condition that the town accepted the building and library and agreed to support it, forever. Completed in 1891, George gave a speech where he said “All the people of Warner, young and old, rich and poor alike, may realize therefrom all the benefits that a free public library can give.”

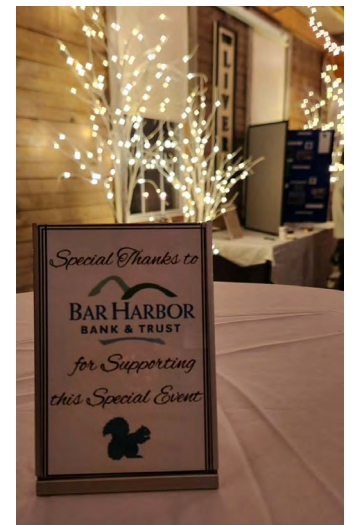


The Waterloo Covered Bridge crosses the Warner River and was originally constructed sometime around 1840. The bridge has been rebuilt over the years. Courtesy Ken Gallager



Annual Meeting 2025

On a perfect fall day in October, Ausbon Sargent held its 38th Annual Meeting. For the first time, the Town of Newbury hosted the meeting. Members, trustees, and staff met at the Town Office building to review the year, take a look ahead, and vote in new trustees and our slate of officers. Presentations were given by Hans Carlson (Executive Director), Andy Deegan (Land Protection Specialist), and Jamie Wilson (Stewardship Manager). Reports on the organization's financial health, and upcoming activities were shared. New members of the Board of Trustees include David Hollinger and Cathy Weber. Long-time member, past employee, and retiring Trustee, Laurie DiClerico (left) was recognized for her dedication to the Land Trust, and was presented with a gift to the Debbie Stanley Land Protection Fund, on behalf of the trustees. Social hour ensued upon completion of the meeting, giving those who attended a chance to catch up with old friends and meet new people. Special thanks to the Town of Newbury for allowing Ausbon Sargent to use their beautiful building for this meeting.



Holiday Party Update

The Livery was alive with Ausbon Sargent members who gathered for our annual Holiday Party Fundraiser. This event is a fun kickoff to the holiday season. The Board and Staff at Ausbon Sargent are thankful to those who joined the party this year – what a nice way to support the Land Trust, while also visiting with friends, new and old. Special thanks to Bar Harbor Bank and Trust for sponsoring this event. We are thankful for all our wonderful business members who share Ausbon Sargent's mission to protect the rural character of our region.

2025 Land Trust Alliance "Rally" – Cleveland, OH

By Sarah Burtnick, Stewardship and Programs Coordinator

At the beginning of September, I attended my first Land Trust Alliance Rally with my colleagues, Hans Carlson and Jen Deasy. Rally allows individuals in the land trust world to come together and share the work they have been doing. The sessions I attended opened my eyes to the array of work that is covered within land trusts. Some of the sessions I was part of covered topics like community and conservation land trust collaboration, GIS for land management, farming on easements, and stewardship conversations. While attending a stewardship roundtable I was able to meet people from Haiti to Alaska. It was interesting to learn how we all face similar stewardship tasks and challenges even with our varying landscapes, sizes, and goals for the land. Spending the weekend surrounded by people working on the same purpose showed me how much devotion there is in the field of conservation. I am thankful for the opportunity to have attended Rally and I look forward to attending again in the future.

Calendar of

UPCOMING EVENTS

We will be kicking off our bi-monthly guided hikes in February 2026. Visit our website under "Events" to find out the details of these hikes as details become solidified. Contact Sarah Burtnick at sarah@ausbonsargent.org for more information or to register for any of our free hikes or workshops.

Our stewardship team is always looking for volunteers to help steward our trails and properties. Check our events page for volunteer workdays and conservation easement monitor trainings.

February

*Guided snowshoe on the Blitzer 2 – Center Road and Battles Farm conservation easements in Bradford.
Tuesday, February 10th 11am-1pm.*

March

*Sap2Syrup – Guided snowshoe/walk near the Harding Hill Farm sugarhouse in Sunapee, and learn how maple syrup is made.
Date & Time TBD.*

May

Vernal Pool Walk

June

- Brook Trout Workshop
- Monitor Training: Tuesday, June 9th and Saturday, June 13th (attend only one)

July

Dragonfly walk

August

- Mushroom Foray
- Gaia Training for Volunteer Monitors

September

- Bird Migration Walk
- Gaia Training for Volunteer Monitors

October

Fall Foliage Walk

November

Geology Walk



Recurring Gift Giving Available Now!

Ausbon Sargent can now accept recurring gifts on our website. Members can choose to have automatic payments from a credit or debit card provided to Ausbon Sargent on a monthly or quarterly basis. Some members have expressed an interest in this option to allow for their donations to be spread throughout the year, which in some cases enables them to donate a little more than if they donated once a year. Ausbon Sargent is grateful for all membership gifts, and we hope that this new option provides some flexibility in giving to those who prefer to give in this way. Please visit our website and click on "Donate" and then "Membership" to see this new functionality.





When a Gardener and a Hiker Plant Roots and Elevate a Community

By Gerry Gold

In June 2001, having moved from Maryland's summer heat to a cottage on Lake Todd in Newbury, we decided that winter hiking and year-round tennis justified a permanent move to New Hampshire as a retirement refuge.

Jane, as a master gardener and I as a hiker, knew that forested and open landscapes are crucial to societal balance. Within a few months we were hiking, Jane was playing tennis at Mountainside, and we had joined ASLPT, the SRK Greenway and the Muster Field Farm Museum.

We decided to make the New London area our home territory. Finding somewhat flat land became Jane's priority. Interior space was more important than property size, but the landscape had to be garden friendly. Returning home to Lake Todd from tennis in late 2001, Jane took an unplanned turn onto Shaker Street and saw a "For Sale" sign on a house lot nobody seemed to want. Finding that empty house was an unexpected gift from Esther and Hal Currier, the pioneers of New London's land conservation thinking. They were the driving force behind the "Esther Currier Wildlife Area at the Low Plain" which was protected in collaboration with Ausbon Sargent, NH Fish and Game, and the Town of New London in 1994.

The house's bones were well built, but the cape cod cottage needed too many repairs for average buyers. The flat former dairy farmland, at 12-acres, had a pond and woods. Ausbon Sargent was already in the process of writing the conservation easement for the property (now called Currier/Gold), which was perfect for us and deterring purchase by developers. We would have committed to joining the Acorn Society in any case. Landing on such a special property just made that decision natural.

Jane and Gerry Gold became members of Ausbon Sargent in 2001 and joined the Acorn Society in 2011, signifying their inclusion of the Land Trust in their estate planning. Sadly, Jane passed away on May 26, 2025. Ausbon Sargent is grateful to Jane and Gerry who have not only been active members, volunteers, and model landowners of an easement property, but who have also chosen to provide a living legacy to the Land Trust so that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy the landscape of this region.



These Acorn Society members have notified us that they have provided for Ausbon Sargent in their estate plans.

Anonymous (23)	Janet Miller Haines
Rita & James Abbott^	Martha J. Harris
Rich & Heidi Anderson	Tom & Marilyn Hill
Sue Ellen Andrews	Alan Jones^
Theodore Bacon, Jr.^	Dr. Charles Kane^
Kathy & David Bashaw	David Karrick
David & Brenda Beardsley	Betsy Lee^
Ann Bemis^	Doug & Nancy Lyon^
Seth Benowitz	Andrew McDonald^
Marla Binzel	Genevieve Millar^
Peter Bloch & Kathy Lowe Bloch	Alan Peterson
Catherine Bogardus^	Rachel & Myron^ Rosenblum
Stephen & Sandra Bravo	Murray & Rachel Sargent^
David & Pamela Carle	John & Sage Scott
Roland Carreker^	Robert J. Silvia
Michael & Susan Chiarella	Nancy & John Solodar
Naia Conrad^	Virginia Anthony Soule^
Emma Crane	Deborah & Peter Stanley
Chris & Janice Cundey	Nathaniel Stevens
Rick Davies	Pat Thornton^
Ann & Marc Davis	John Tilson III
Anne Dewey^	Libby Trayner^
Laurie & Joe^ DiClerico	Eric Unger^
Neil Donnenfeld	Betsy Denny Warner
Barbara Faughnan	Mary-Seymour "Sissy"
John^ & Maggie Ford	Wastcoat^
Sylvia & John^ Garfield	Ruth White^
John Garvey &	
Cotton Cleveland	
Gerry & Jane^ Gold	
George Green^	

^denotes deceased



If the Land Trust is named in your estate plan or if you would like to discuss a possible bequest, please get in touch with us in the office at 603-526-6555.

Those who prefer to be anonymous may do so.



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Sue Andrews
(Staff Support)

Kristy Heath
(Development and
Communications
Coordinator)

Andy Deegan
(Land Protection Specialist)

Hans Carlson
(Executive Director)

Front Row L-R:

Jen Deasy
(Operations Manager)

Sarah Burtneck
(Stewardship and Programs
Coordinator)

Jamie Wilson
(Stewardship Manager)

Susie Moore
(Bookkeeper)



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Vice-Chair: **Debbie Lang**
Secretary: **Susan Ellison**
Treasurer: **Mike Quinn**

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Lisa Andrews
Aimee Ayers
Lexi Garcia
Neal Harris
David Hollinger
Jim Owers
Russell Moore
Diane Robbins
Steve Root
Cathy Weber

Thank you to our Sponsors

Ausbon Sargent is thankful for its generous business supporters who have made leadership gifts during the current fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Check out all of our business donors on our website and know that these businesses are helping protect the rural character of our region.

Benefactors (\$1,000+)



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Fundraiser:

