



SELTeverlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

With 169 conservation easements (and likely a few more by the time you read this) our Easement Stewardship Department does not have much down time! While there is still the “fun part” of the job, walking around through the fields and forests of southeastern NH, the increase in protected lands also means an increase in requests and approvals, more questions from neighbors about what is happening on the conserved land next door, and more issues that need resolving such as third party violations. To help meet the growing work load we will again be hiring a full time seasonal employee this summer to help with regular visits to our conservation easements as well as to help us with the routine work to keep the Department running smoothly (who doesn't love a day or two of scanning and filing?). We hope you enjoy the remaining weeks of winter and we look forward to our continued partnership in the stewardship of your land in 2016!

Best wishes,

*Deborah Goard
Easement Stewardship Director*

Local Farms Extend the Growing Season with High Tunnels

In the SELT service area the growing season is about 135 days lasting from around Memorial Day through the end of September. However, as it has the last few years, we all know that with the possibility of snow lasting into April, cold temperatures lasting into May and snowstorms in October, even the planting and growing of crops that tolerate cool weather can be affected. One way that farmers in New Hampshire have been able to extend their growing season and provide a more predictable climate is through the use of high tunnels.

High tunnels, also called hoop houses, are structures made of metal pipes with a polyethylene cover used to extend the growing season by protecting crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall and cold. They differ from greenhouses in that

they are not usually heated and crops are grown directly in the soil rather than in pots. Aside from extending the growing season, high tunnels have many other benefits. They can increase soil and plant quality, decrease pesticide use, decrease foliar disease, reduce the farm's carbon footprint and increase local food availability. Whether you are a large or small farm, high tunnels are a cost-effective way to increase plant yields.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), through their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), offers assistance to qualified growers by guiding candidates through the application, planning and installation processes. They also offer financial assistance to help offset the cost of the high tunnel for the farmer.

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Update on Lands Conserved in 2015

In 2015 SELT closed on two new conservation easements. We also acquired six new reservations and added acreage to two reservations that we already owned. These properties are in Brentwood, Epping, Fremont, Newfields, Newmarket, South Hampton & Stratham.

Town of Stratham “Zarnowski” tract · Stratham

In December we protected 29 acres of land owned by the Town of Stratham with a conservation easement. The property has more than 600 feet along the tidal shorelines of the Squamscott River with a view of an osprey nesting platform and extensive saltmarsh habitat.

Located next to Scamman Farm, also conserved by SELT, the protection of the “Zarnowski” tract add more acreage to an extensive network of conserved private and public lands on both sides of the Squamscott River in Stratham and Exeter.



SELT’s Powwow River Woodland offers visitors access to the Powwow River via a short walk through the pines to a car top canoe launch.

Powwow River Woodland · South Hampton

In March, sisters Priscilla Coffin and Susan True gifted 7.3 acres in South Hampton to SELT in honor of their parents Jack and Priscilla Coffin. With 430 feet along a slow moving, meandering portion of the Powwow River, SELT created a car-top canoe and kayak access site that can be accessed by taking a short trail through the white pine forest from Jewell Street. Look for a grand opening in June!

Burley Farm · Epping

In November, SELT purchased the approximately 237-acre Burley Farm. This purchase was made possible by the generosity of the Burley Family who sold the land at a price significantly less than the appraised value. The land includes fields, wetlands, forestlands and beaver ponds. Along with the land, SELT also acquired the John Prescott Chase Farmhouse which dates back to circa 1790.



Recent work done at the Burley Farm, including removal of invasive plants, has opened up the view of the rolling fields from the John Prescott Chase Farmhouse.

List of Restricted Species for New Hampshire

We all know that New Hampshire has a list of invasive species but did you know there is also a list of restricted species for the state? Well, you do now! The NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food has a list of species that while not yet considered invasive, show characteristics or tendencies of an invasive plant. If you're thinking about planting any of these on your land SELT

urges you to seek an alternative species!

To find out more about invasive species in NH including FAQs and recommended alternative for invasive plants, visit the NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Foods website at <http://www.agriculture.nh.gov/divisions/plant-industry/invasive-plants.htm>

NH restricted species as of November 2015

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Goutweed
<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	European black alder
<i>Ampelopsis brevipedunculata</i>	Porcelain berry
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Wild chervil
<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrowleaf bittercress
<i>Carduus nutans</i>	Musk thistle
<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	Diffuse knapweed
<i>Centaurea solstitialis</i>	Yellow starthistle
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Canada thistle
<i>Coronilla varia</i>	Crown vetch
<i>Datura stramonium</i>	Jimson weed
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i>	Russian olive
<i>Euonymus fortunei</i>	Wintercreeper
<i>Euphorbia esula</i>	Leafy spurge
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Gill-over-the-ground
<i>Glyceria maxima</i>	Sweet reedgrass

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Humulus japonicus</i>	Japanese hops
<i>Lespedeza bicolor</i>	Bicolor lespedeza
<i>Lactuca muralis</i>	Wall lettuce
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Common privet
<i>Lonicera maackii</i>	Amur honeysuckle
<i>Lysimachia nummularia</i>	Moneywort
<i>Miscanthus sinensis</i>	Chinese silver grass
<i>Mycelis muralis</i>	Wall lettuce
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed canary grass
<i>Polygonum sachalinensis</i>	Giant knotweed
<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar
<i>Pueraria lobata</i>	Kudzu
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Black locust
<i>Rosa rugosa</i>	Rugosa rose
<i>Securiga varia</i>	Crown vetch
<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	Siberian elm

Update for Emerald Ash Borer and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

The emerald ash borer is now known to be in 13 different cities and towns in NH with the potential to spread to several dozen more in the next few years including towns in Rockingham and Strafford Counties.

Twenty more towns have been added this year to the list of where hemlock woolly adelgid has been found. It has now been found in all but four of the towns in SELT's service area.

For more information about these and other forest pests, including maps of where they are found and efforts being made to slow their impact of New Hampshire's trees, visit nhbugs.org.



Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

PHOTO CREDIT: CONNECTICUT AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, BUGWOOD.ORG



Emerald Ash Borer.

PHOTO BY DAVID CAPPAERT, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, BUGWOOD.ORG.

Local Farms Extend the Growing Season with High Tunnels, continued from page 1

In 2010 the USDA started a 3-year high tunnel pilot program to determine the effectiveness of high tunnels in conserving water, improving soil health, increasing plant yields and reducing excess pesticide transport. Results of the pilot program were positive and now the high tunnel system initiative is an integral conservation practice available through EQIP. To date, the local NRCS office in Epping has helped fund and install 47 seasonal high tunnels: 31 in Rockingham County and 16 in Strafford County!

A number of farms on which SELT holds conservation easements have taken advantage of the EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel program. Most recently, Kate and Jeff Donald of Stout Oak Farm in Brentwood went through the process of working with NRCS to install a 30-foot wide by 72-foot long high tunnel. Although it is not Stout Oak's first high tunnel, it was the first time Kate and Jeff used EQIP to help fund the structure. They found NRCS to be very helpful in walking them through the application process and choosing an appropriate location for the high tunnel. In September 2015 the high tunnel was installed with many helping hands and Stout Oak immediately put it to good use; transplanting lettuce, spinach and tatsoi into the high tunnel. This has allowed Stout Oak to participate in the winter farmers' markets and they have even been able to harvest greens all the way into January! Kate was also happy to report, "the crops grown in the hoop house are of a better quality because they are protected from foliar disease brought on by the rain."

Kate has learned a few important things from her experiences installing and maintaining their high tunnels. Her best advice to farmers installing one would be to locate it near a water source, make sure you have sturdy end walls with door latches that can withstand high winds and to be patient through the NRCS application process and installation—it may take longer than you expect. Kate confirmed it was worth the time and energy though: "I cannot imagine my farm without hoop houses! It is amazing what you can do in a space where you can control the climate factors!"

Because Stout Oak Farm has a conservation easement on the land, before the high tunnel was installed they reviewed the easement and SELT was notified of the plans for the high tunnel. Most agricultural conservation easements SELT holds allow for the installation of at least one high tunnel, but the language in each easement can differ. **If considering a high tunnel, make sure to read the conservation easement deed for your land carefully and look for details that may limit the construction of a high tunnel.** Limitations may include: the number

Right: The frame of the high tunnel has been built and is waiting for the polyethylene cover to be put on.

Below: Greens growing in the high tunnel at Stout Oak Farm. The high tunnels have given the farm the ability to grow greens into January and participate in the winter farmers' markets. PHOTO CREDITS: KATE DONALD, STOUT OAK FARM





allowed; location; maximum size; addition of high tunnels to your NRCS Conservation Plan; impervious surface limitations; and prior written notification or approval from SELT. Of course we'd encourage you to call us and inquire about your particular easement *before initiating work!*

When constructing a high tunnel a few other things should be kept in mind to remain in compliance with the terms of the conservation easement.

- Rocks, gravel, sand, and soil will inevitably be moved during the construction. In most cases, if moved, the materials need to be kept on the land subject to the conservation easement.
- The high tunnels should be located so they minimize the impact on the Purposes of the conservation easement such as important farmland soils or scenic views.
- Any necessary federal, state, local, or other governmental permits and approvals should be secured prior to the start of construction.

**"I cannot imagine my farm without hoop houses!
It is amazing what you can do in a space where
you can control the climate factors!"**

High tunnels have proven to provide many benefits to both large and small farms and with the help of NRCS can be of very little cost to the farmer. For more information about EQIP and the Seasonal High Tunnel Program visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nh/programs/financial/eqip/>. If you have any questions regarding the EQIP program in Strafford or Rockingham Counties contact Keri Neal, District Conservationist, at keri.neal@nh.esda.gov or 603.679.1587 x101. If you have any questions about high tunnels related to your conservation easement, please contact SELT Stewardship staff.

Free Technical Assistance Available – Young Forest Initiative

Young forest habitat comprised of seedling and sapling trees along with shrubs, grasses and wildflowers provides essential food and shelter for a wide range of wildlife species. Today, in the Northeast, this important habitat type is in decline as our forests continue to mature. The need for young forest habitat is critical in order to maintain the population levels of more abundant wildlife species such as ruffed grouse, wild turkey and black bears and to provide habitat for over 80 species of declining wildlife populations such as the American woodcock, whip-poor-will, and the New England cottontail.

To meet the conservation goals of State Wildlife Action Plans for the species that rely on young forest habitat, natural wildlife professionals and conservation organizations are working together to help create and manage young forest habitat on public and private lands.

In the northeast, and here in New Hampshire, The Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) is partnering with state wildlife agencies and conservation organizations to make available consulting wildlife biologists, who can assist landowners that are interested in creating and maintaining young forest habitat on their property. WMI is a private, non-profit, scientific and educational organization dedicated to the conservation, enhancement, and professional management of North America's wildlife and other natural resources. The wildlife biologists are consultants to The Wildlife Management Institute and are available to assist with the work at no cost to the landowner. They are available to meet with interested landowners and their foresters to evaluate property for potential young forest habitat management and provide any other technical assistance to help with the creation and management of young forest habitat.

Contact Information:

Julie and Edward Robinson, Certified Wildlife Biologists, Consultants to WMI
51 Lovejoy Road, Loudon, NH 03307
603.856.1602 (Edward), 603.856.1603 (Julie)
julesprobinson@comcast.net

How often do you walk your land?

We are fortunate in this area to have a significant amount of agricultural lands, fields and forest all around us, despite being in a part of the state that is rapidly growing in population. As landowners of conserved land you are even more fortunate to be able to walk out your back door and enjoy all that nature has to offer without having to drive anywhere. Of course, owning land comes with its responsibilities too: maintenance of farm and woods roads, encroachments by neighbors or dealing with the aftermath of a wind or ice storm.

While SELT has a responsibility to annually monitor all conservation easements we hold, we still rely on you, as owners, to let us know if there is a problem between our visits. And the best way to know what is going on with your land is to walk it as often as you can.

Of course we are all busy with other things that need to get done such as working on the farm or at the office, fixing the leaky sink, driving kids to their soccer games

or catching up on your favorite show on Netflix. It's easy to get lost in the daily routine and forget about the 30 acres out back. Despite all that we frantically try to get done throughout the year we challenge you (if you don't already) to put aside at least one day a month to take time to walk your own land and enjoy the fresh air, ripple of the river, chatter of wildlife and majesty of the pines that surround you.

Can't get out on the land yourself? Do your children or grandchildren live nearby and are they able to walk the land a few times a year? Is there a neighbor that would be willing to spend a few hours exploring your land or possibly someone who hunts regularly on the land that can report back to you if there's a problem? Whoever it is, we'd bet there is someone you know who would love to spend a few hours or even a few days a year exploring the farmland, fields and forests of south-east New Hampshire.

Moving?

Thinking of selling your property? More and more conserved land is selling – meaning there is a whole new generation of landowners who need to understand what a conservation easement is and what its privileges and responsibilities are. SELT can help make your sale smoother by working with your realtor to properly inform buyers about your conservation easement. Once you've

decided to sell and have selected a realtor, please have him or her call us. We will provide an electronic packet of information to incorporate in your disclosures and can answer questions from buyers. Once you've scheduled a closing, please remember to give us the required notification of transfer of title in accordance with the terms of the easement.

CONNECT WITH US!

- Sign up for our **free monthly e-news** on our website or by emailing info@seltnh.org
- Stop by the office at our **NEW** location at 6 Center Street, Exeter, NH, and say hi!



Find SELT on Facebook to stay in touch with us daily!

www.seltnh.org

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

To contact the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, please call **603.778.6088** or email info@seltnh.org.

PO Box 675, Exeter, NH 03833

Website: www.seltnh.org

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

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Upcoming Events

All field trips and presentations require pre-registration by calling 778.6088 or emailing register@seltnh.org. Suggested donation is \$5 per person/\$10 per family. Directions to field trips will be emailed to pre-registrants the day before the trip.

Climate Change Impacts on New Hampshire Fish and Wildlife

Wednesday, March 23 · 6–7:30pm ·
Dover Public Library

Join veteran wildlife biologist Eric Orff at the Dover Public Library as he looks at climate change impacts on our fish and wildlife. New Hampshire's fish and wildlife is already being impacted by our changing climate. From too many ticks on our moose to too-hot water for our trout up north and a warming sea shrinking our shrimp population down on the coast, a warming climate is already impacting our natural resources. We all have a part in turning down the heat on our fish and wildlife.

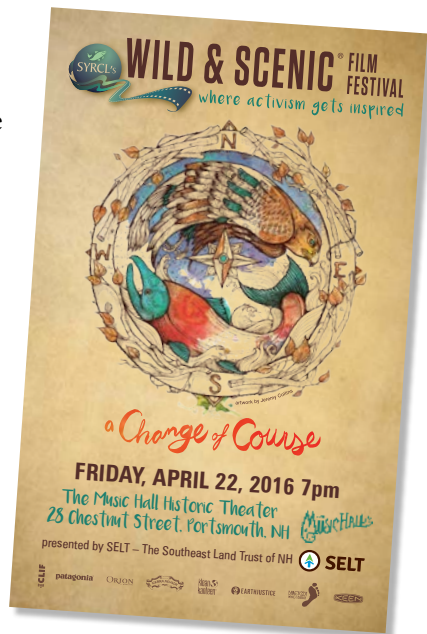
Eric Orff is a wildlife biologist with the National Wildlife Federation. He served 31 years with the NH Fish and Game Department until his retirement in 2007.

Wild & Scenic Film Festival Returns to Portsmouth

Friday, April 22 · 7pm

SELT is excited to host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival once again at The Music Hall in downtown Portsmouth on Friday, April 22, 2016 – Earth Day! Enjoy a dozen handpicked films, which explore and celebrate our shared natural world and tell amazing stories of the human-nature connection. This was a SOLD OUT show last year, so you'll want to grab your tickets early! Tickets can be bought at The Music Hall box office, online (additional service charge), or from SELT at our office.

Check www.seltnh.org for more event details and a link to get your tickets.



Vernal Pools Walk: Frogs, Salamanders and Shrimp – Oh My!

Saturday, April 23 · 10am–12pm · Epping

Kid friendly! Join UNH Cooperative Extension Field Specialist and vernal pool enthusiast, Emma Tutein on a walk at the Pawtuckaway River Reservation. We'll take a look at a handful of vernal pools located on the property in search of the fascinating critters that call these unique wetlands home. We won't be venturing far off trail, but please wear appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather. Registration closes on Friday, April 22 at Noon.

Birding at the Piscassic Greenway

Saturday, May 14 · 6–10am · Newfields

Join Roger Stephenson and Patience Chamberlin for SELT's annual spring birding trip. We'll meet promptly at 6 am at the Piscassic Greenways trail kiosk on Bald Hill Road in Newfields and explore six different habitats. Among the birds we'll see are Bobolink, Blue Jay, Brown-headed Cowbird, Black-capped Chickadee and Belted Kingfisher – and that's just the "B's"! Geared for the beginner and challenging for the intermediate as well – be sure to bring binoculars, water, snacks, and dress for the weather. Registration is limited to 20 spots. Registration closes on Friday, May 13th at Noon.

Download the Piscassic Greenway trail map here:
<http://tinyurl.com/SELTtrailmaps>

Check our website for up to date information about current events and new workshops.

SELT's field trips and presentations are generously underwritten by ReVision Energy.

Learn more about your options for solar at www.revisionenergy.com or call 603.679.1777.



Save the Date:

Join Us on Wednesday, June 1st for our Members' Evening & Conservation Celebration at Flag Hill Winery in Lee!

Wednesday June 1st, 2016 · 6–8:30pm
Flag Hill Winery, 297 North River Road, Lee, NH 03861

Come celebrate the more than 730 acres of living lands conserved by YOU in 2015. Join us at beautiful Flag Hill Winery, located on one of SELT's own conservation easements and enjoy appetizers and hors d'oeuvres while taking in the incredible view!

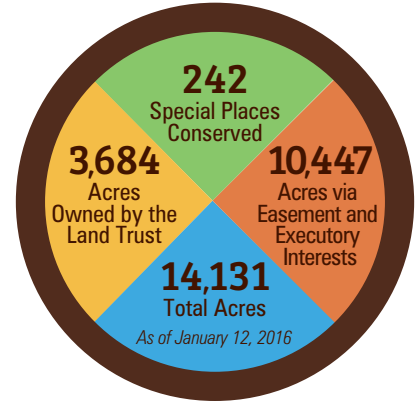
For more details or to register, visit www.seltnh.org.

National Trails Day

Saturday, June 4

On Saturday, June 4th, we will celebrate National Trails Day by offering a variety of field trips giving you the opportunity to visit and learn about some of our most exciting properties! Details posted soon at www.seltnh.org.

Land Conservation by the numbers



Thanks for doing your part to assure these lands are permanently protected!

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High Tunnels Extend Growing Season

see inside
NH Restricted Species & Walking Your Land



Formed through the merger of Strafford Rivers Conservancy
and Southeast Land Trust of NH
PO Box 675 Exeter, NH 03833
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

