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Big, Wild, and Rural: Harveys' Kennard Hill Forest

Tucked away in the northwest corner of Epping and southern Nottingham lies a landscape like few others in southeastern New Hampshire. When you are there, it feels big, wild, and rural, and rightly so.

Big – so big in fact that at 1,100 acres, it is a landscape large enough to get lost within, where trails and old roads disappear under feet of water, swallowed by the growing expanse of land claimed by the industrious efforts of a beaver.

Wild – a place where the tracks of wildlife like bobcat, bear, and moose, can be found, followed, and lost.

Rural – with dirt roads leading to it, and taking us back in time to the landscapes of our earliest settlers. In these woods, the stone walls meander, marking where once sheep pastures dominated the landscape, but now where gnarled oaks, pines, hickories and more grow, stretching to the sky.



Dan and Louise Harvey
PHOTOS BY JERRY MONKMAN

Double
your
donation with
the Harveys'
Forest matching
challenge
SEE PAGE 3

This place is Harveys' Kennard Hill Forest – a vast open space of more than 1,100 acres owned by the Harvey family, its custodians since 1755. Through Dan and Louise Harvey's stewardship, and that of their grown children, this land remains unspoiled and undeveloped. And now, with your generosity, it can be conserved forever, cared for in perpetuity as open space.

SELT began working with the Harvey family more than a decade ago, reaching agreement in December 2014 to conserve this portion of the family's lands through the sale of a conservation easement.

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PHOTO BY JERRY MONKMAN

Celebrating 20 Years of the Wild and Scenic Lamprey River!

Who would have thought that a proposed hydro-electric facility would have resulted in the engagement of four communities to save and celebrate a vibrant river, the passage of national legislation to formally recognize the river due to its beauty, history, and ecology, and the permanent protection of more than 3,500 acres of land? But that's exactly what resulted from the actions of citizens initiated 20 years ago along the Lamprey River.

In the early 1990s, a hydro-electric facility was proposed at Durham's Wiswall Dam on the Lamprey River, a mighty waterway which flows for almost 50 miles before reaching Great Bay. Strong public opposition to the proposed development fueled a bold attempt to use the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to prevent the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from granting the permit for construction. Hard work, good timing, and luck prevailed: on November 12, 1996, Congress agreed that eleven miles of the Lamprey River (in Lee, Durham, and Newmarket) had "outstandingly remarkable" ecology, history, and anadromous fisheries worthy of protection through designation as a National Wild and Scenic River. A few years later another 12 miles in Epping were added. To ensure proper stewardship of these special places, the National Park Service



provided expertise and funding to a local advisory group – and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) was born!

LRAC's responsibilities are wide-ranging but all focus on protecting this amazing river and increasing public understanding and enjoyment of it. Through its review of proposed developments within the ¼ mile designated river corridor, LRAC has provided invaluable local knowledge to reduce impacts to the river and its special places. LRAC has advanced scientific understanding of the river with 23 years of continuous water quality monitoring by dedicated volunteers and support of wildlife research (including turtle studies by renowned turtle expert David Carroll). LRAC wants the river to be celebrated and enjoyed – so they have sought to increase public access with the completion of the regional *Explore the Lamprey* map & guide as well as boat launches and kiosks funded by LRAC. And recently, LRAC has proposed a Lamprey River Trail to link the river to its communities! The organization also supports youth and adult education through its expansive website www.lampreyriver.org and an elementary school curriculum. Finally, LRAC has been instrumental in conserving critical lands along the Lamprey River – many

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“Big, Wild, and Rural: Harveys’ Kennard Hill Forest” *continued from page 1*

SELT has raised 85% of the necessary funds. And now, with just a few months remaining until our contractual deadline of December 31, we must raise the final funding to conserve this landscape (see below for more details!).

Why is this landscape so significant, and so important, to warrant such an investment by SELT and you?

Let’s imagine viewing the Harveys’ Forest as a red tailed hawk, a bobcat, a raindrop, and lastly, a human.

As a red tailed hawk, circling high in the sky, your keen eyes would see what regional conservation plans long identified: the Harveys’ Forest lies embedded within an unfragmented landscape of 4,757 acres of open spaces.

And during this flight, you would come to understand that the Harveys’ Forest is a keystone property in a broader vision of linking Pawtuckaway State Park with the more than 5,000 conserved acres around Great Bay. Within this region, you would see, as SELT does, how to link 10 strategically important landscapes through a network of conserved lands and public trail corridors.

If you were a bobcat searching for your next meal, you would have surely roamed the nearly 1,000 acres of wetlands, farm fields, and shoreline already protected by SELT that abut the Harveys’ Forest. Your eyes would have seen what studies by wildlife biologists and botanist told us – these lands harbor critical habitat

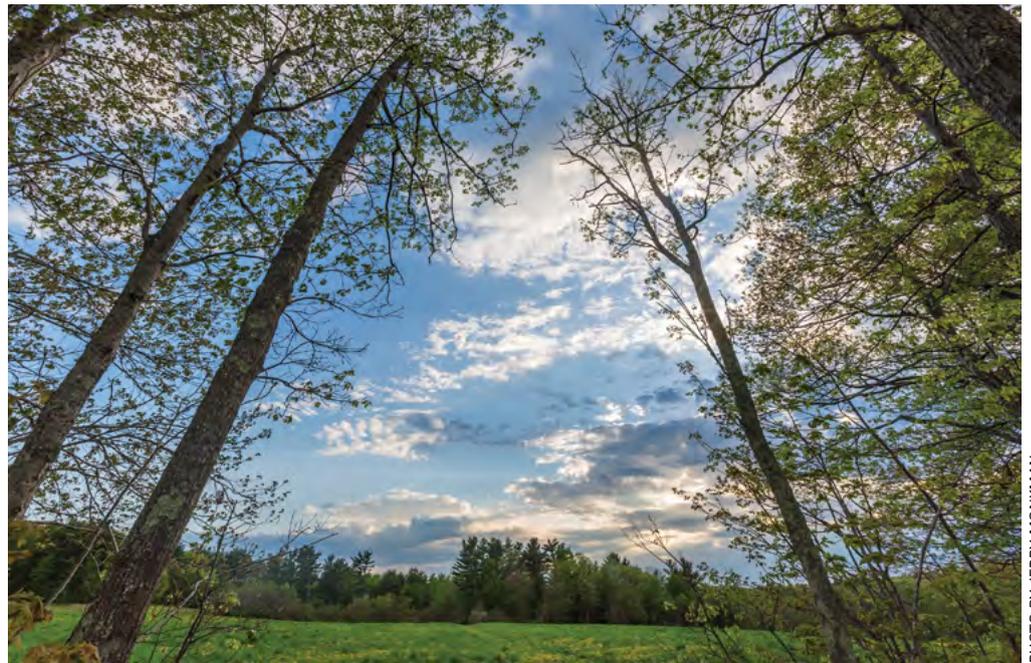


PHOTO BY JERRY MONKMAN

for the rarest and most beautiful of wild neighbors. Species endangered by human activities – like the small whorled pogonia – and those neotropical visitors from afar, like the scarlet tanager or black throated green warbler.

As a drop of water, rained down on the forest canopy by a summer thunderstorm, you may land in some of the 137 acres of diverse wetlands. Or maybe you’d trickle into some of the two miles of pristine streams that flow to the North and Pawtuckaway rivers, eventually draining to the Wild and Scenic Lamprey River and all the way to Great Bay. You would know that clean, safe drinking water starts

in remote places like the Harveys’ Forest.

When you – a human – and your family are there, feet on the ground, surrounded by the swaying woods, cool breezes signaling the arrival of autumn, your senses aware of all of nature’s majesty, you feel how special it is. Once conserved, the Harveys’ Forest will be open for you and your family to enjoy a hike on the public trails created by SELT, inviting you to find your own connection to this special place.

And with your gift today, this landscape and all of its values for people and nature, can be permanently conserved.

Help Conserve the Harveys’ Kennard Hill Forest!

Your gift will be matched by a generous Epping family!



SELT has secured 85% of the total \$3.1 million necessary to conserve and steward the conservation easement on the Harveys’ Kennard Hill Forest. Our public partners have stepped up with substantial commitments (see list). Now private contributions from SELTies, area residents, and private foundations are needed to conserve the Harveys’ Kennard Hill

Forest. SELT has submitted grants to many foundations and knows from our past experience that gifts of all sizes from individuals will be needed to close the gap. **Your gift will be matched dollar for dollar!** An anonymous Epping family has generously agreed to match up to **\$25,000 in gifts for the Harveys’ Kennard Hill Forest!** Give today online (click on Support Us tab at www.seltnh.org) or use the enclosed envelope, writing “Harveys’ Forest” in the memo line).

Partners to Date:

Town of Epping
Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership
Town of Nottingham
NH Fish & Game Department
NH LCHIP
Open Space Institute
Resilient Landscapes Initiative
Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership
State Conservation Committee –
Moose Plate Grant
US Fish and Wildlife Service



Limperis Farm and Woodlands Conserved

This past August SELT completed another LRAC (Lamprey River Advisory Committee) partnership project by conserving the 261-acre Limperis Farm in Epping. This rich land features productive agricultural soils, diverse wildlife habitat, and water resources for local communities.

“The Limperis property has been a top priority for LRAC for some years because of its river frontage,” explains Joe Foley, chair of the Lamprey River Wild & Scenic Subcommittee. “Its conservation is an outstanding achievement and we thank the Limperis family and SELT for making it happen.”

The Limperis family retained ownership of 82 acres of the farm that stretches along rural Jacobs Well Road. This is the most publicly recognizable portion of the farm, with its farm stand offering fresh corn, tomatoes, and other veggies. The remaining 179 acres of forest and wetland was conveyed to SELT and will be managed for wildlife habitat, sustainable forestry, and passive public recreation.

As part of SELT’s vision for a Pawtuckaway to Great Bay Greenway, the Limperis Farm is a key link in connecting more than 1,000 acres of conservation land stretching from Route 125

to the Lamprey River, and another block over 1,000 acres in size that includes SELT’s Piscassic Greenway property in Newfields.

Grant funding for the Limperis Farm was awarded from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Land Easement program, NH Land & Community Heritage

“Its conservation is an outstanding achievement and we thank the Limperis family and SELT for making it happen.”

—Joe Foley, chair of the
Lamprey River Wild & Scenic Subcommittee

Investment Program, Lamprey River Wild and Scenic Subcommittee, NH State Conservation Committee Moose Plate Program, Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, and the Samuel P. Hunt Foundation.

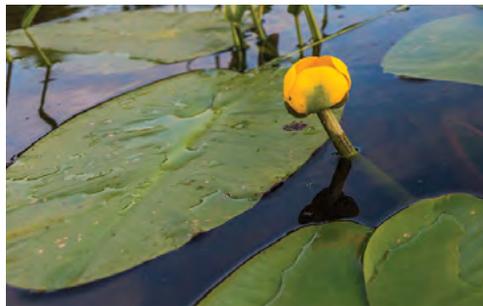
Above: Carolyn Limperis with a customer on her farm in Epping.
PHOTO BY JERRY MONKMAN

SELT Secures \$1.6 million from USDA to Protect Wetlands and Critical Habitat

SELT's strategic land conservation vision got a big boost this summer with a U.S. Department of Agriculture award of \$1.6 million to protect important wetland systems and critical habitat in southeastern New Hampshire. With a secured funding source, SELT can proactively work with owners of priority lands, instead of having to raise money and target one project at a time. SELT will manage these funds to protect habitat for the state-endangered Blanding's turtle and the New England cottontail as well as critical wetland systems in the Salmon Falls and Merrimack watersheds.

"This funding will help us protect two of the most threatened watersheds in the country according to a recent report by the U.S. Forest Service," said Duane Hyde SELT's Land Conservation Director.

With the grant, SELT aims to protect approximately 500 acres of wetlands, floodplains, riparian areas and forests, through the purchase of wetlands conservation easements by the end of 2018. SELT has through 2020 to complete habitat and wetlands restoration activities with funds outside of the \$1.6 million award.



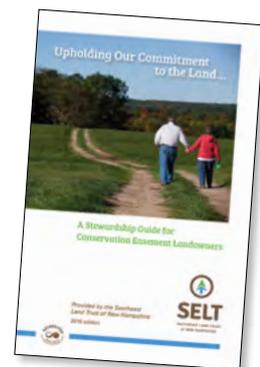
"This funding will help us protect two of the most threatened watersheds in the country according to a recent report by the U.S. Forest Service."

—Duane Hyde
SELT's Land Conservation Director

SELT's project was one of ten projects selected across the United States by the USDA which awarded \$49 million to improve critical wetlands in 12 states. The grants come from the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, which is part of the federal Farm Bill. As part of the USDA funding, SELT has committed to raising matching funds totaling \$400,000.

Stewardship Guide Now Available

Upholding Our Commitment to the Land, A Stewardship Guide for Conservation Easement Landowners is a new publication created for the owners of land on which SELT holds conservation easements. This guide is intended to provide landowners with an overview of SELT's stewardship program such as baseline documentation, monitoring visits, and resolution of violations. It also addresses subjects that landowners often wonder about, such as when to notify SELT about upcoming plans or changes to the land, what information SELT can provide to potential new owners when they sell their property, and what additional resources are available for help with managing their land for forestry and agriculture. This guide is just one more tool SELT has developed to help ensure the success of our Easement Stewardship program. Download the guide at seltnh.org or request a copy by calling us at 778.6088.



Correcting the Record to Recognize All Donors

After publication of SELT's 2015 Annual Report, we determined that the following in-kind donors were inadvertently omitted. These donors generously donated their time, talents, and resources to make our 2015 Fall Fundraiser Live Auction a great success. We are deeply grateful for these gifts and sincerely apologize for the omission.

- Barbara Adams
- David & Nancy Borden
- Cambridge Trust Company of New Hampshire
- The Fifth Flavor
- Jeremy Lougee
- Kevin McEaney
- Linda McGivern & Ben Thayer
- Mittersill Alpine Resort
- Lisa & Thomas Sherman
- Ann & Stephen Smith
- Windsor Mountain Family Camp

Stay Toasty in SELT Hats

These new SELT beanies will keep you warm as you show your SELTie spirit! Available in SELT Brown or Bright Hunter Orange, these hats are a fashionable and functional way to show your support. Also a great holiday gift for the outdoor enthusiasts in your life! 100% Acrylic, \$12 each. To order visit www.seltnh.org and choose "Buy SELT hats" in the drop-down menu under the Connect with Us tab. Or give us a call at 778.6088 if you'd like to stop in the office to purchase them.



Dani and Andrew from the Easement Stewardship Department model the new SELT beanies

PHOTO CREDIT: ISABEL ALEY

Upcoming Events

For a complete calendar of events, please visit www.seltnh.org

We request registration for all events so please let us know you're coming by emailing register@seltnh.org. Registration closes at noon on the day prior to the event, except where noted. Suggested donation to attend SELT's outreach events is \$5 per person and \$10 per family. We hope you'll join us!

Ferment Your Veggies Fermentation Workshop

Sunday October 16th · 12–2pm ·
Eastman's Corner in Kensington ·
Limited 15 people, \$30 per person

Join avid fermenter, experienced teacher, and talented potter, Shana Brautigam for a two hour workshop on vegetable fermentation at the Farm at Eastman's Corner in Kensington! During this workshop we will learn how to safely ferment a variety of vegetables to enjoy year round. Learn more about Shana at www.rootedinclay.com. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED:** Please register by Thursday October 13th at noon so that we can be sure to have enough supplies for everyone.

Grand Opening and Tour of the Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest

Saturday October 22 · 9–10:30am ·
North Hampton & Rye

Join members of the Rand family and SELTies as we celebrate the grand opening of this land gifted to SELT in 2014. After a brief ceremony recognizing the Rands at the trail kiosk, forester Charles Moreno will lead a guided tour along the new trails.



Fall Foliage Tour of Stonehouse Pond

Saturday October 22 · 11am–1pm ·
Barrington

The Stonehouse Pond foliage walk is a Fall favorite lead by former SELT board member Kevin McEneaney. He will take you along the wooded trails of this

spectacular 240-acre conservation area and to the top of the cliffs overlooking the 15-acre pond. Take your binoculars, wear sturdy shoes, bring some water, and be prepared to enjoy this unique gem in full color!

HAPPY TRAILS! Fall Foliage Fundraiser

Friday November 11 · 6–9:30pm ·
Portsmouth Harbor Events ·
100 Deer Street in Portsmouth

Our beloved annual fundraiser is 14 years strong! In honor of Veterans Day, we are offering free admission to all Veterans.

Preview auction items and buy tickets at www.501auctions.com/SELTfff2016

Tour the Stonehouse Forest Saturday December 3 · 9–11am · Barrington

Come explore an exciting 1,500-acre project by attending a hike of the Stonehouse Forest property with Land Conservation Director, Duane Hyde. We'll get some great views of several natural ponds, large glacial boulders, streams, and if we are lucky maybe a peek at some of the local wildlife that call this spot home. Registration is capped at 25.



**NOW SEEKING PLEDGES FOR SELT'S
STAFF POLAR BEAR PLUNGE** on Nov. 29 in
honor of #GivingTuesday and to benefit SELT's critical
land conservation, stewardship, and outreach programs.
Donate at www.gofundme.com/SELTpolarplunge

#GivingTuesday Staff Polar Plunge to benefit SELT

Tuesday November 29 · exact time and location TBD
(check seltnh.org and our Facebook page for updates)

The SELT Staff is excited to plunge into the icy Atlantic waters on Giving Tuesday to raise funds for SELT's land conservation, stewardship, and outreach programs. Make your pledge today at www.gofundme.com/SELTpolarplunge

The Many Moths of Burley Farm

By Emma Tutein, Board Member

Flame-shouldered dart, painted lichen, hooded owlet, sharp-angled carpet, forage looper, white speck – no, these aren't paint colors, they're moths! This summer SELT co-hosted a Moth Exploration event with UNH Cooperative Extension and 4-H at our Burley Farm property in Epping. We met on a Friday evening to build 2 moth traps, which we set out overnight. The next morning we met back at Burley Farm to check the traps and see what we had caught. We were pleasantly surprised to find that we had trapped at least 30 different species of moths (including those listed above), along with several beetles, caddisflies, and other insects.

While generally less colorful than their butterfly cousins, it was fascinating to see the variation in color, pattern and size in the moths we caught. Moths are masters of camouflage; just think how rarely you spot a moth during the day. There were mottled grays and browns perfectly matched to tree bark, and dramatic black and white striped wings that revealed bright orange-red beneath. Others had flecks of pink and green, zig-zaggy stripes, or yellow hues. Though 30 species felt like a lot to find in just one night in one location, there are likely over 2,000 different species of moths in New Hampshire alone (and over 12,000 in North America). After close inspections and identifying as many moths as we could, they were all released.

Seeing so many moths up close felt like a peek into a secret world. Moths are flying around all night, pollinating plants, breeding, laying eggs, getting eaten by bats and birds. They play an important part in the ecosystem, largely without notice (by humans at least). You too can get a closer look at some local moths. Because they are attracted to lights, simply leaving your porch light on overnight once in a while might draw a few to your door for you to inspect in the morning. Or, join us next year as we're sure to repeat this fun event!



A collection of moths trapped and released at the Moth Exploration workshop.



Two young workshop attendees peer into the moth trap. PHOTOS BY EMMA TUTEIN

Lamprey River *continued from page 2*

through a formal partnership with SELT.

SELT's partnership with LRAC formally began in 2007. At the time, SELT sought to increase its capacity and LRAC wanted help in conserving riverfront parcels. This partnership – subsequently renewed each year – has made tremendous strides in protecting priority lands in the watershed. These include the SELT-owned Lamprey River Wildlife Preserve, Two Rivers Wildlife Preserve, and Mast Road Natural Area, and conservation easements on the Clarke Farm and Flag Hill Winery. All told, LRAC's conservation efforts have resulted in the protection of more than 3,500 acres and 16 miles of river frontage from Durham to Epping.

Indeed, 20 years later, the impact of LRAC underscores the truth of Margaret Mead's famous quote: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Celebrate the Lamprey and these fellow citizens who cared enough to save this river!

A special thanks to Suzanne Petersen, Outreach Specialist of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, for contributing to this article.

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Questions, Comments, Concerns?

To contact SELT, please call **603.778.6088** or email info@seltnh.org.

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SELT is proud to be accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. This accreditation seal recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. To learn more visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org.



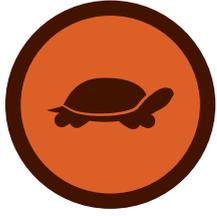


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VIEW IT. SAVE IT.

Big, Wild, and Rural: Harveys' Kennard Hill Forest Help conserve this unique landscape!

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The Many Moths of Burley Farm

see page 7



Fall Fundraiser on November 11th

Friday, November 11th · 6–9:30pm
Portsmouth Harbor Events
100 Deer Street in Portsmouth

Put on your hiking boots (or party clothes) and join us for the 2016 Fall Foliage Fundraiser to benefit SELT. This year we celebrate the new trails, maps, and kiosks created over the past year – making the outdoors more accessible to all.

- Back by popular demand, **PAPER BIDDING** returns to the silent auction! Compete with your friends and bid on close to 100 special items.
- Enjoy live music played by the **CHRIS KLAXTON TRIO**, while delicious food & drinks are served.
- **PROFESSIONAL AUCTIONEER** Justin Conway joins us again to orchestrate our Paddle Wave for special gifts to SELT and our Live Auction (see sneak preview of items!)

PURCHASE TICKETS and register for the auction at:
www.501auctions.com/SELTfff2016.
Before November 4th: \$60 for members/\$75 for non-members.
After November 4th or at the door: All tickets \$75.

In honor of Veterans Day, all Veterans are offered complimentary admission to this event.

Sneak Peek at a few special auction items!

- Guided Charter Fishing Boat Trip on Piscataqua River
- Tickets to Patriots vs. Ravens at Gillette Stadium on Dec 12th at 8:30pm
- Private Guided Tour and Picnic at Powwow River Woodlands in South Hampton
- Weekend Stay at slope-side Sugarloaf, Maine Condo
- Boston Harbor Cruise
- Tour and Tasting at Flag Hill Winery in Lee

