



IN THIS ISSUE

- 1** "Go Outside!"
- 2** SELT Conserving Trails for Public Access in Stratham
- 3** Shared Values Inform Life and Legacy
Volunteers Sought for New Land Steward Program
- 4** Sisters Donate Land on Powwow River to Honor Parents
More trails, kiosks and public access
- 5** Upcoming Events
- 6** Film Festival a Wild Success!
SELT is part of the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign
- 7** Stewardship Staff Grows
- 8** A New Look for SELT
Save the date! First ever SELT TrailFEST on August 29

"Go Outside!"

By Brian Hart, Executive Director

As a kid living in suburban Philadelphia, I have distinct memories of my mother saying "Go Outside!" Usually it would start as a request, and end as a demand, with more and more emphasis on the act of getting out of the house.

The park down (and across – gasp!) the busy street was an introduction to nature and the outdoors for me and dozens of my playmates during the idle days of summer. Hopping on our Raleigh dirt bikes, we'd pedal down the sidewalks and streets to the park, past the tennis and basketball courts, the playground, and the ball fields, to the forested edge. Here, two creeks mysteriously flowed underground – to where we never learned.

Hours were spent exploring the creeks, without adult interaction or oversight. My neighborhood pal (and still lifelong friend) and I would explore the creek, looking for crayfish (and rarely finding them). We built dams to block the water, stacking sod, sticks, and rocks in an effort to be beavers. Inevitably our work would collapse, a heavy burst of water flooding downstream. Often we then raced sticks, like Pooh and his pals, chasing

them downstream and freeing them from eddies. Always we arrived home with muddy shoes, grass stains on our shorts, and dirty hands.

I know my roots for my work with SELT are deep, deep into this childhood and these wanderings. And now, as a father of two young children, I want to make sure they have similar experiences in the outdoors. Maybe they will be in a park, or our backyard, or one of SELT's properties. No matter where, I hope they explore, engage, and love the outdoors, so they become the stewards of the great places you and I have conserved.

This inaugural issue of *SELT VIEWS* focuses on our work to open SELT lands for you, your family, and your friends to enjoy and love. Whether it is kayaking at our newest reservation in South Hampton, exploring the soon-to-be-protected trails near Stratham Hill Park, volunteering as a new Land Steward, or running in the first ever SELT TrailFEST in Kingston, I hope you and your family get outside and enjoy our outdoors.

SELT Conserving Trails for Public Access in Stratham

Stratham Hill Park has long been welcoming visitors from Stratham and beyond. With its ball fields, picnic pavilions and tremendous views from the fire tower atop Stratham Hill, it is an idyllic place to spend a summer day with family and friends or to enjoy on snowshoes and x-country skis in the winter.

The Park has a long-established trail network, used by hikers, dog walkers, and mountain bikers. Over the past few years the trail system has grown to well over 9 miles by expanding to the adjoining Gordon Barker Town Forest and private lands. A mile of those trails is on private land owned by David and Jeanne Short. David is one of the volunteers who has put in countless hours building and maintaining trails in and around the Park and Town Forest – and many more hours enjoying them as an avid mountain biker.

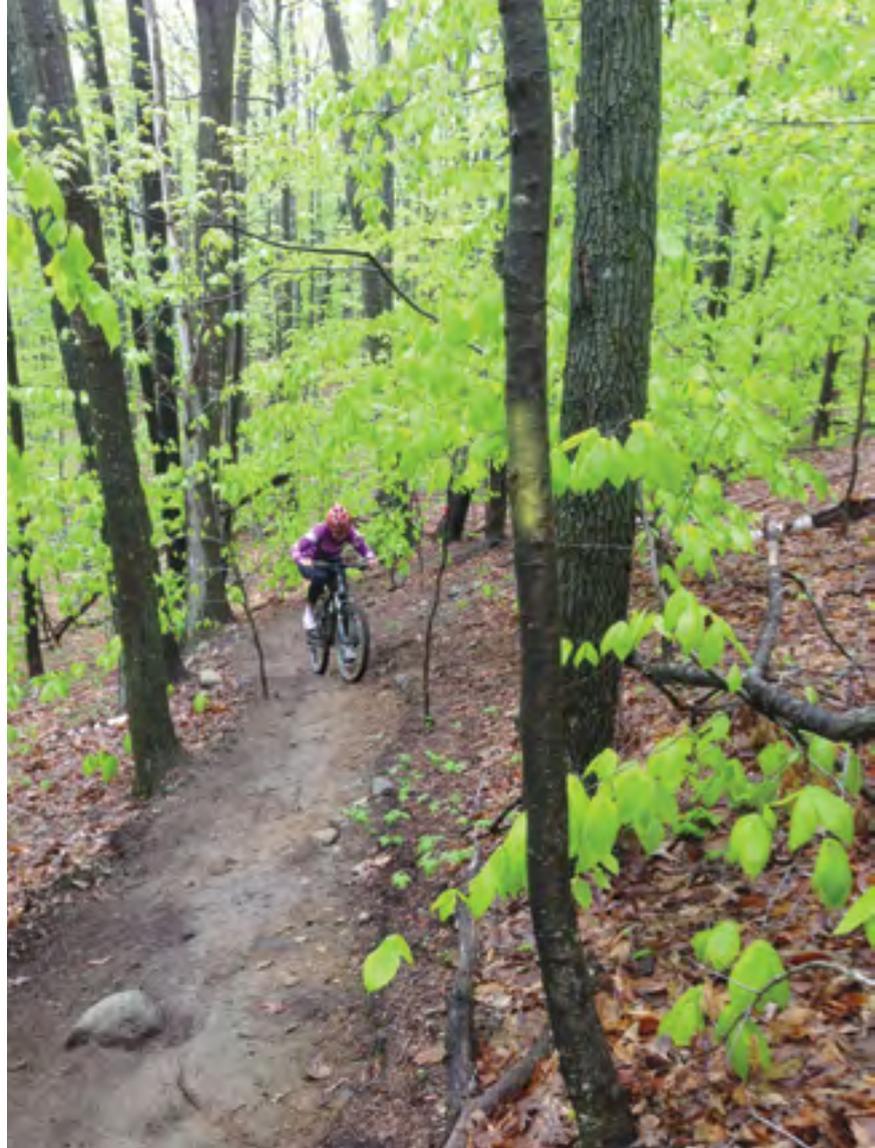
When the Shorts started thinking about the future of their land, they decided they wanted to keep the land open and undeveloped. The Shorts approached the Stratham Conservation Commission and SELT about placing a conservation easement on their property, agreeing to sell the easement for \$600,000, far less than the fair market value of this very developable property. The Conservation Commission saw the community benefits of conserving the recreational and natural resource values of the Short property and committed \$449,000 to the project. Confident that townspeople too wanted this land conserved, Stratham placed a warrant article in the March 2015 Town Meeting, asking voters to raise the necessary remaining funds.

“This place is so essential for both old & young...a connection to nature & quite simply ‘a breath of fresh air’ in the constant motion of today’s frantic pace! PLEASE... preserve & cherish this space.”

To help spread the word, SELT shared the proposed project on our Facebook page and encouraged Stratham residents to attend Town Meeting. The post generated more than 200 “likes” and 20 supporting comments from residents throughout the Seacoast. One commenter exclaimed that Stratham Hill Park is “My dog’s favorite park in the seacoast, lots of time spent on the trails that cross onto this property!” Another noted “This place is so essential for both old & young...a connection to nature & quite simply ‘a breath of fresh air’ in the constant motion of today’s frantic pace! PLEASE...preserve & cherish this space.”

Fortunately Stratham voters felt as enthusiastic as our Facebook fans did. At Town Meeting, voters unanimously passed the necessary remaining \$175,000 needed for the project!

By early summer, the Short property will be permanently conserved and the extensive trail system within the Stratham Hill Park, Gordon Barker Town Forest, and adjoining lands will remain available for the public.



Mountain biking is one activity enjoyed on the trails through the Short property and Stratham Hill Park. PHOTO CREDIT: RON ELLIS



Shared Values Inform Life and Legacy

By Becca Hedlund

SELT members Alison and Chris Pyott make deliberate choices to live according to their values of sustainability and caring for the environment. It's an ethos that has long informed their lives – and now their legacy as well. By becoming members of SELT's Conservation Legacy Society and naming the Land Trust as a beneficiary of their will, the Pyotts ensure their values carry forward beyond their lifetimes.

"We were doing our estate plans several years ago," said Alison, "and we asked ourselves: how much is enough for family? The rest we earmarked for philanthropy."

"Environmental issues, land conservation, open space for hiking, walking, and biking trails – those are our strongest shared values and our highest priorities philanthropically," she added. "Locally, that's the Southeast Land Trust, as we live here on the Seacoast and in New Hampshire."

The Portsmouth couple share a passion for exploring natural beauty both close to home and abroad, enjoying outdoor recreation and supporting conservation. At home they strive to reduce their carbon footprint, completed a green renovation of their modestly sized house, and love to be outside and enjoy the outdoors.

They also live their values at work. Chris is an environmental scientist for the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and is currently working on a project to restore the Neponset River for passive recreation. Alison is a wealth manager and financial planner at Veris Wealth Partners in Portsmouth, a consulting firm that specializes in sustainable investing. "At Veris, we encourage our clients to put their estate plans in order. As part of this conversation we talk about what is enough for family, and then introduce the idea of impact through legacy gifts to a nonprofit or an issue that matters to the client. When you consider the size of an estate, legacy gifts can be quite significant and eclipse annual giving – creating a larger impact for an organization or issue. When you make the decision, it feels great to know how you can make a commitment and a difference."

Chris and Alison both enjoy their commitment to the annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival's film-selection committee. "What we love about the film festival is the power stories have to inspire people around environmental conservation and getting out to enjoy the outdoors." The same could be said of their own life story: "Doing things that inspire others is a big part of what we're passionate about."

Feeling inspired? If you wish to consider naming SELT in your will, you may request a brochure on the Conservation Legacy Society by emailing info@seltnh.org or you may discuss your interest with Executive Director Brian Hart by calling him at 778.6088. All inquiries are confidential.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRIS AND ALISON PYOTT



Volunteers helped build bog bridges at the Piscassic Greenway in Newfields and Newmarket. PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN HART

Volunteers Sought for New Land Steward Program

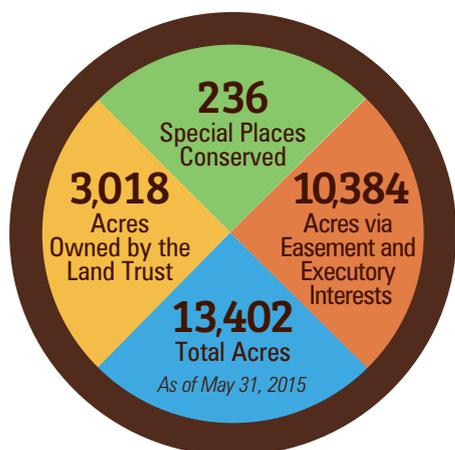
With 26 reservations totaling over 3,000 acres (and growing!) we need your help stewarding the special places owned and managed by SELT. Our new Volunteer Land Steward Program engages volunteers in basic land management and stewardship practices. If you'd be interested in getting out on some of our properties, adopting a reservation near you, or hearing about trail building, tree planting, and invasive plant workdays then please give us a call or send us an email. For 2015 we need ten volunteers to help steward ten reservations. Hands on training will be provided. Looking at 2016 and beyond we'll be organizing workday events where you can get outside, learn about land management, make new friends and have some fun in the sun. If interested please contact David Viale, Conservation Project Manager at 603.658.9719 or dviale@seltnh.org.

More trails, kiosks and public access

We will be busy this summer improving and building trails, installing kiosks, and creating parking areas near trailheads at several of our properties. In Kingston, we will build three kiosks at the Tucker and French Family Forest making navigation easier for visitors. In Rye and North Hampton, we will be building trails at the Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest and creating parking areas to make this property more accessible to the public. In Exeter, we will connect the Jolly Rand Trail to a small trail system on the Kimball Reserve. We will also be creating user-friendly trail maps for these properties. Visit our website and Facebook page for updates!



Land Conservation by the numbers



Sisters Donate Land on Powwow River to Honor Parents

Land to be named "Powwow River Woodland"

By Phil Auger, Land Manager

This spring sisters Priscilla Coffin and Susan True made a generous gift to SELT: 7.3 acres of woodlands on the Powwow River in South Hampton. The sisters inherited this family land from their mother (also Priscilla). Years ago, the elder Priscilla had attended a conservation options workshop, where SELT's Phil Auger was one of the speakers. After finding her mother's paperwork from that workshop, Priscilla met with Phil and considered a number of conservation options, before deciding to gift the land to SELT.

The Powwow River Woodland is a lovely white pine forest with an old pathway that connects to abutting, conserved land once owned by Al Capp and his wife, Catherine Halberstadt. The woodlands are located within a relatively large, unfragmented block of land in South Hampton which includes Cowdin State Forest, the 35-acre Halberstadt conservation easement and land owned by the Howfirma Trust, the largest land-owners in South Hampton. To the south in Amesbury are extensive conserved lands that include the Woodsom Farms, the Capp/Halberstadt Greenbelt, and public water supply properties.

SELT's newest reservation includes more than 430 feet of frontage on the Powwow River just above the bridge in the Jewell Town District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was named after Thomas Jewell who established the first mill at this location in 1687. Eighteenth century industries here included sawmills, a gristmill, a fulling mill (a step in the cloth making process) and bog iron works.

Here the Powwow is a slow moving, meandering flowage that just 1/3 of a mile downriver becomes Lake Gardner, a popular kayaking and swimming destination for Amesbury residents. Upstream the river crosses Jewell Street and turns south into Massachusetts where it flows through the 370-acre Woodsom Farm in Amesbury. Here the river passes through extensive agricultural lands and dense hardwood thickets that can be traversed during high water by canoe or kayak for several miles. Further upstream lies Tuxbury Pond. Tuxbury Pond feeds the Powwow River – from which the Town of Amesbury draws its drinking water.

To facilitate this generous gift, the Town of South Hampton provided funding from the Conservation Fund to pay for transaction costs and the long-term management of this land. The Town holds a deed restriction on the land, ensuring it will remain undeveloped and available for public enjoyment in perpetuity.

This summer SELT will establish car-top canoe and kayak access on the site, allowing the public to enjoy the Powwow River. Watch for details as we progress on this exciting new property!



Beyond its natural resource and historic value, the Powwow River Woodland holds fond memories for the family. Pictured above are Jack and Priscilla Coffin on the day their daughter Priscilla was married on the property in August 1970.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRISCILLA COFFIN AND SUSAN TRUE



Upcoming Events

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

PHOTO CREDIT: PETE INGRAHAM

Back Channel Islands Paddle Saturday, June 27 · 9:30am–Noon

SELT and Portsmouth Kayak Adventures are teaming up to offer you a fun and informative kayak trip through New Castle’s beautiful and unspoiled Back Channel Islands. Bring your own kayak or contact Portsmouth Kayak Adventures ahead of time at 603.559.1000 to arrange for a discounted rental. There is a \$5 put-in fee for all boats. Meet at Portsmouth Kayak Adventures, 185 Wentworth Road in Portsmouth at 9:30am. Please sign up by emailing register@seltnh.org.

Benefit Night for SELT at Flatbread Co.

Tuesday, July 7 · 5–9pm

Love pizza? Come out for an evening of great food and support our conservation work with your Flatbread order (take out orders count, too!). On Tuesday, July 7, from 5–9pm, Flatbread Co. in Portsmouth will donate \$3.50 of each large flatbread and \$1.75 of each small flatbread to SELT. We hope to see you there!

Trail Grand Opening at Tucker & French Family Forest, Kingston Saturday, July 25 · 9–11am

Join SELT for the grand opening of the Trails at the Tucker and French Family Forest. Over the past year SELT staff and volunteers have improved more than five miles of trails, constructed eight bridges and uncovered historic mill sites and foundations. There will be a short presentation at 9am with refreshments followed by guided walks on the trails. Please sign up by emailing register@seltnh.org.

Save the date for the first SELT TrailFEST!

Saturday, August 29

(see more details on page 8)



PHOTO CREDIT: FLATBREAD

Late Summer Mushroom Foraging with Jeremy

Date and location to be determined

Take a walk in the woods with Jeremy Lougee, Conservation Project Manager with SELT and avid mushroom forager.



PHOTO CREDIT: JEREMY LOUGEE

You’ll learn to identify some of the more common edible varieties, their medicinal uses, and typical habitats. Late summer can be a great season for black trumpets, chanterelles, chicken-of-the-woods, lion’s mane and many more, so bring a small collecting knife and bag, or basket if you have one. Date and location will be based on mushroom season – please check our website for up-to-date event info! Please sign up by emailing register@seltnh.org.



Film Festival a Wild Success!

We are ecstatic that our 5th annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival sold out (800 seats!) on April 24th at The Music Hall Historic Theater. Our guests enjoyed 13 handpicked short films exploring the relationships between people and nature all over the world. We are grateful to our sponsors, guests and volunteers for helping to bring this wonderful event to life!

MANY THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS FILM FESTIVAL SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT POSSIBLE!

LEAD LOCAL SPONSOR		SUPPORT LEVEL	
			
			
MEDIA SPONSOR		ADVOCATE LEVEL	
			
			

FRIEND

- Be Good Branding
- Cornerstone Tree Care
- Conservation Law Foundation
- The Provident Bank
- Stephenson Strategic Communications
- Ultra Geothermal, Inc.

RAFFLE DONORS

- Grand Prize:** Stand Up Paddle Board from Portsmouth Kayak Adventures
- Chemistry Hair Studio
 - China Yan
 - The Chop Shop
 - The Gundalow Company
 - Harvey's Bakery & Coffee Shop
 - Namaste NH Beach Yoga
 - Sad Lumberjack Longboards
 - Travel & Nature



VIP RECEPTION FOOD DONORS

- Beach Pea Baking Company
- Flatbread Company
- Loco Coco's Tacos
- Philbrick's Fresh Market
- Portsmouth Book and Bar
- The Portsmouth Brewery

PHOTO CREDIT: WSFF

SELT is part of the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign

The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is the official workplace giving campaign of the federal government. The CFC allows federal employees to support approved nonprofit organizations like SELT through an efficient donation program. Employees can make their selections starting in September through the end of the year. If you or someone who know is a federal employee, please consider and encourage designating SELT through the 2015 Combined Federal Campaign. Our CFC code is 69128. Thank you!



Stewardship Staff Grows

This April Dani Christopher joined SELT as our Conservation Easement Steward, helping to steward the additional 60+ conservation easements gained through the merger with The Strafford Rivers Conservancy. She graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst with a BS in Plant and Soil Science. Since graduation, Dani has held many interesting seasonal jobs and internships across the country in places such as Sequoia National Park in California, El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico, and Durham, North Carolina. Dani also spent two years as a MassLIFT-AmeriCorps member serving as Land Stewardship Coordinator with Essex County Greenbelt Association and The Town of Ipswich Open Space Program in Massachusetts. In her spare time Dani likes to hike, go to the beach, and go out for live music. Welcome Dani!



PHOTO COURTESY OF DANI CHRISTOPHER

Board Members

Roger Stephenson President, Stratham
Terry Coyle Vice President, Portsmouth
Ann Smith Treasurer, Kensington
Sam Reid Secretary, Dover
Don Briselden Exeter
Bill Campbell Exeter
Emma Carcagno Newmarket
Tom Chamberlin Exeter
Annie deCossy Portsmouth
Bob Eaton Rye
David Kirkpatrick Portsmouth
Scott Marion Rye
Kevin McEaney Dover
Linda McGivern Rollinsford
Robin Najjar Portsmouth
Joan Pratt Exeter
Rick Russman Kingston
Laurie Smith Dover
Ann Welsh Durham

Staff

Zoe Aldag Development and Operations Specialist
Isabel Aley Development and Communications Manager
Phil Auger Land Manager
Dani Christopher Conservation Easement Steward
Deborah Goard Easement Stewardship Director
Brian Hart Executive Director
Duane Hyde Land Conservation Director
Jeremy Lougee Conservation Project Manager
David Viale Conservation Project Manager

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.

SELT VIEWS is published quarterly and is the newsletter of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. Edited by Brian Hart and Isabel Aley.

Printed on recycled paper.

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.



Socially and Environmentally Responsible Investment Strategies Since 1987

Proud sponsor of the Southeast Land Trust of NH!

Align your money with your values!

Hunter D. Brownlie
 Registered Principal
hbrownlie@fwg.com

Michael S. Smith
 Financial Advisor
msmith@fwg.com

55 Main St, Suite 415 Newmarket, NH 03857 603-659-7626

Representative of and securities offered through Financial West Group, Member FINRA/SIPC.



A New Look for SELT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of *SELT VIEWS*, the refreshed newsletter of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire!

Whether you see a tree, an arrow, a compass, or a kiosk – or something else – we hope you enjoy our new logo! The logo is designed to differentiate our organization from other environmental groups and be easily used in electronic formats and social media. We are confident that it will help introduce a broader audience to SELT’s work of saving the outdoors for all to experience.

You will see that *SELT VIEWS* is a color newsletter, allowing us to share the full beauty of the lands we conserve and the people who enjoy them. These changes will improve our ability to tell the story of your land trust – and to engage more people in our critical work. Keep an eye out for our new look on our website, e-news and other materials!

Save the date! First ever SELT TrailFEST on August 29

SELT announces our first ever Trail Festival on Saturday, August 29, 2015, at the Tucker & French Family Forest in Kingston. Trail runners can choose to participate in a 10 mile or 4 mile trail race, or a Kids’ Fun Run. The festival will feature live music, food, prizes, and games. Save the date – and be sure to check our website for registration details!



see page 2
SELT Conserving Trails for Public Access in Stratham

see page 3
Volunteers Sought for New Land Steward Program



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #182
MANCHESTER, NH



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

