

North Hampton Rallies to Save Governor Dale Farm \$43,000 remains to be raised

In the summer of 2012, the Governor Dale Farm was slated for a 50-lot subdivision, raising significant concerns by abutters, residents, and Town officials. Would this beautiful piece of North Hampton's history be carved up into a checkerboard of ½ acre lots?

In the early fall of that year, in hopes of saving this treasured landscape, Town officials quietly contacted the Southeast Land Trust and asked: could we begin negotiations in an attempt to preserve the farm? The Town had twice before attempted to conserve this land, but those efforts failed to produce a conservation outcome, and after being sold to a regional developer, the property was now before the planning board for a subdivision that was on the fast track to completion.

With more than 4,200 feet of frontage on Post Road, the Governor Dale Farm is a scenic landscape offering travelers beautiful views of its historic barn and 24 acres of surrounding fields. Two-thirds of the farm is productive soil, identified for its ability to grow crops now and in the future.

The property is also historically significant, as it was built by Governor Charles Dale, who served as governor from 1945 to 1949. Further, the house was designed by architect Royal Barry Wills, a master of the Cape Cod style house, particularly its 1930s-1950s Colonial Revival incarnation. The Farm's significance was formally recognized in early 2013 when the property was listed on the NH Register of Historic Places.

"These attributes and the Town's demonstrated interest in seeing the land conserved made the Governor Dale Farm a priority for the Land Trust," notes Brian Hart, Executive Director. By late fall, the Land Trust secured an option agreement to acquire a conservation easement on the

Farm, providing for the chance to protect it from further development or subdivision.

"The Governor Dale Farm is among the small number of highly visible properties in North Hampton that define the rural character so prized by our residents," explains Jim Maggiore, chairman of the North Hampton Board of Selectmen. "Preserving it from development ensures that North Hampton will continue to be visibly the town it has been for many generations."

At the start, the landowner generously agreed to sell the conservation restrictions at 75% of the appraised fair market value, essentially donating \$580,500 to the effort. Leading the way, the Town of North Hampton Conservation Commission granted \$350,000 from its Conservation Fund. In March, the citizens of North Hampton voted to contribute an additional \$150,000, with more than 80% voting in support of the warrant article.



A bird's eye view of the Governor Dale Farm.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH FALZONE

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GET Out & About

Unless otherwise noted, all field trips are free and open to the public. Pre-registration is required. To sign up, please e-mail info@seltnh.org or call Isabel at 603.778.6088. Directions and additional details will be sent to registrants.

Tucker & French Family Forest Tour

Saturday, October 5 - 8:30-11am
- Kingston

Join members of the Rockingham County Woodlot Owner's Association for a tour of the Land Trust's Tucker & French Family Forest! This land is one of the Southeast Land Trust's gems. The property is an interesting mix of young forests and numerous wetlands. We'll see lots of new management work including patch cuttings for wildlife and extensive woods road work. Bring your binoculars and be prepared for a moderately strenuous walk on open trails and some uneven terrain. Refreshments will be served and there is no charge for admission.

The 11th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser

Saturday, November 2 - 6pm - Discover Portsmouth Center, Portsmouth

Tickets \$50 before October 18th; \$60 after/at the door

This event is the go-to conservation celebration on the Seacoast! Chances are it will sell out this year, so get your tickets early by calling 603.778.6088 or buying on-line at www.seltnh.org. (see page 8 for more details).

Check out the website for additional events!

Conservation Projects Update

Hampton Falls & Kensington

1 We're happy to report that the first half of 2013 was busy with projects. In Hampton Falls, 82.8% of voters authorized the donation of a conservation easement on the former Niebling property on Nason Road, gifted to the Town by Richard Niebling, one of the early members of the Southeast Land Trust! The conservation easement was formally granted by the Town in early May, permanently preserving this land, long a desire of the Niebling family.

2 In another strong showing of voter support for conservation, 70.2% of Kensington voters also approved the donation of a conservation easement on the former Sargent parcel, which abuts the already conserved and Town-owned Meetinghouse Hill property. Congratulations and thank you to both Hampton Falls and Kensington!

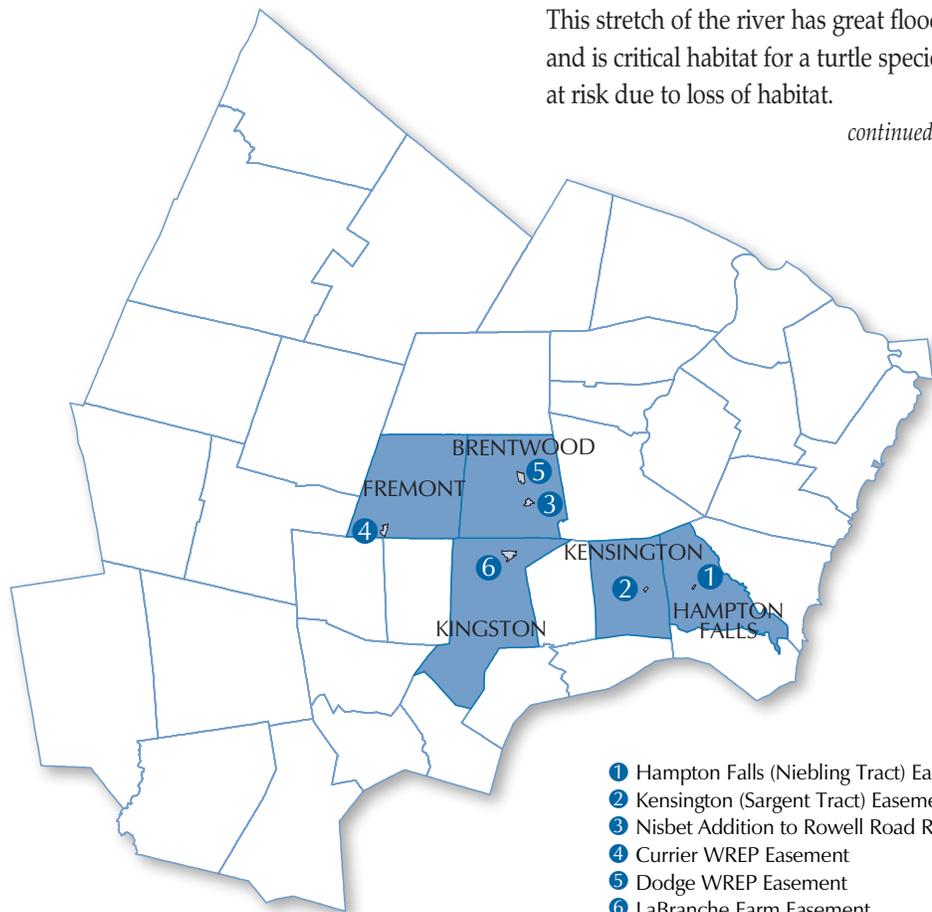
Brentwood, Fremont & Kingston

This spring saw the completion of three of the five projects funded by the \$1.2 million Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program (WREP) grant secured by the Land Trust in 2012.

3 After selling a conservation easement to WREP, the owner then donated the restricted land to the Land Trust as an addition to our Rowell Road Reservation in Brentwood. The Reservation was first created in 2001 to prevent the development of a connecting road to this scenic and rural portion of Rowell Road. The Nisbet Tract adds 42 acres on the opposite side of the road, protects over 1,500 feet of shoreline on a critical stretch of the river, and lies within a protected corridor of land totaling more than 800 acres!

4 In Fremont, the Land Trust assisted Joanne and Bill Currier as they worked with WREP to protect their 43 acres along the Exeter River. This stretch of the river has great floodplains and is critical habitat for a turtle species that is at risk due to loss of habitat.

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- 1** Hampton Falls (Niebling Tract) Easement
- 2** Kensington (Sargent Tract) Easement
- 3** Nisbet Addition to Rowell Road Reservation
- 4** Currier WREP Easement
- 5** Dodge WREP Easement
- 6** LaBranche Farm Easement

Breaking News!

Potential to Conserve 7,200 acres

A rare opportunity arose this summer to permanently conserve approximately 7,200 acres of nearly contiguous land in Rockingham and Merrimack County. Who owns that much land in our populous region of the state? The City of Manchester's Water Works, that's who. Centered around the popular recreational destination of Lake Massabessic and located in the towns of Auburn, Candia, Chester, and Hooksett, the Water Works' land provides the drinking water and natural buffer to protect the drinking water for over 160,000 residents, nearly 12% of New Hampshire's population! The City has initiated the process of selling this land to ensure its permanent conservation and its plans at this time are to hold a conservation easement on the property. The Southeast Land Trust is one of four entities that submitted a proposal to acquire the property and over the remainder of this year the City will go



Battery Point on Lake Massabessic, Auburn
PHOTO BY THE LAND TRUST

through the process of selecting an entity to work with. Its sheer size, the incredible natural resource values of this property, and the importance to people for both drinking water and recreation makes this a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Stay tuned through Facebook, our E-news, and the newsletter for more information as this exciting potential project unfolds. ■

Conservation Projects Update, continued

5 The water quality and wildlife habitat along Dudley Brook in Brentwood got a boost, too, with the protection of 71 acres of land owned by the Dodge family. With the help of the Land Trust, the Dodges sold an easement to WREP. By the end of 2013, pending projects by two abutting landowners will expand further on this effort.

6 In July, as part of our continuing commitment to conserving land for local farming, the Land Trust and Town of Kingston acquired a conservation easement on the 93-acre LaBranche Farm off of Little River Road. These beautiful fields were once the home of a sulky training and racing track, but for the past twenty or so years have been used for the raising of beef cattle. The farm shares nearly 3,400 feet of shoreline on the Little River, has almost 2,000 feet of frontage on Little River Road, and abuts a small parcel

of Town-owned conservation land. Funding for the project was provided by the Town of Kingston Land Conservation Capital Reserve Fund and the U.S. Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Now that the land is conserved, the owners intend to sell the farm, knowing that it will be conserved and remain part of the local farm economy.

Finally, we're thrilled to report that the New Hampshire legislature fully funded the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). With an anticipated \$4 million available in each of the next two years, the Land Trust is already planning for the first grant round this September. LCHIP has provided critical funds to complete recent projects, including Amber Acres Farm, Batchelder Farm and the Pawtuckaway River Reservation. ■

Wish LIST

Cleaning out your attic or office?
Retiring from your business?
Remodeling your living room? Maybe you have some items you no longer need, but are still usable, and could help the Land Trust. We're looking for donated, good condition items to use in our Exeter office.

- (2) Fireproof filing cabinets (two to four drawer, vertical preferred)
- 4x6 area rug

Pick up of items can be arranged. To donate an item or arrange a pick-up, please contact Isabel Aley at 603.778.6088 or info@seltnh.org.

Thank you!

CALL FOR Volunteers!

The annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser is our major fundraising event of the year – and it is made possible in large part due to our committed volunteers. We are seeking volunteers during the day and evening of Saturday, November 2nd. Some of the jobs available include event set-up, coat check, serving hors d'oeuvres, bid sheet collection and filing, and clean-up. As a token of our appreciation, volunteers will receive 50% discounted tickets to the event! Please contact Isabel Aley at info@seltnh.org or 603.778.6088 if you are interested in volunteering. Thank you!



Like Us on Facebook

Great Bog Used for Wildlife Research

One of the main purposes for many conservation easements is to permanently conserve wildlife habitat, helping to ensure there are corridors that will remain forever available to all kinds of critters. Many other easements include use of the land for education as well and we are happy to share with you an example of how these two purposes can be successfully combined. The Land Trust holds restrictions on nearly 200 acres of Great Bog owned by the City of Portsmouth. Currently, there is ongoing research being led by Matt Tarr with UNH Cooperative Extension to study the reproductive success of the common yellowthroat and we are excited that one of the study sites is on this easement! Read on to learn more about what Matt and his group are doing and learning.

Current Research: Is songbird reproduction affected by a reduction in caterpillars caused by exotic shrubs?

by Matt Tarr with UNH Cooperative Extension

Recent research from the University of New Hampshire and the University of Delaware has confirmed that non-native “exotic” shrubs such as glossy buckthorn and autumn olive support far fewer caterpillars than native shrubs – this is because caterpillars here in the states have not evolved with these exotic plants and are therefore unable to tolerate the chemicals they produce to discourage herbivory. As a result, shrubland habitats such as old-fields and powerline rights-of-way (ROW) that are dominated by exotic shrubs contain a lower abundance and diversity of caterpillars than those same habitats dominated by native shrubs such as dogwoods, alders, and willows. This is concerning because shrubland songbirds rely on caterpillars as the primary food they feed to their young during the breeding season; thus, the reduction of a critical food could be contributing to the population declines these birds are already experiencing due to habitat loss. An ongoing research project being conducted by UNH Cooperative Extension Wildlife Specialist Matt Tarr, in cooperation with the NH Fish and Game Department, Public Service of New Hampshire, and the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee is attempting to quantify how this reduction caterpillars caused by exotic shrubs actually affects the reproductive success of shrubland songbirds.

Between April and August 2013, Matt and a crew of ten UNH undergraduate researchers will study the reproductive success

of a shrubland songbird – the common yellowthroat – on five powerline ROW in southeastern NH. Each ROW is dominated by different proportions of native and exotic shrubs. Matt and his team will capture and put colored leg bands on every common yellowthroat at each study site and follow marked birds with binoculars and a GPS unit to map the breeding territory of each male-female pair. Every two weeks throughout



A common yellowthroat has been banded as part of the on-going research for which the Great Bog conservation easement is one of the study sites.

PHOTO BY MATT TARR, UNH COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

the season, Matt and his team will measure the amount of caterpillars on each species of shrub at each ROW and compare that to the species composition of shrubs measured within each mapped bird territory to estimate the amount of caterpillars available to each pair of birds based on the proportion of native vs. exotic shrubs in their territory. This estimate of caterpillars will be compared to measured growth rates of nestling yellowthroats in each territory and to the total number of young that each pair of birds produces during the breeding season. The results of this research will help the conservation community understand how exotic plants function as habitat for songbirds and aid habitat managers in deciding when and where to spend limited resources on exotic plant control. ■

For more information and to follow this project, including daily photos and updates from the field, “Like” the project’s Facebook page: www.facebook.com/UNHSongbirdsandInvasives.

North Hampton Rallies to Save Governor Dale Farm, continued

In July, the Land Trust secured a \$1.161 million grant from the U.S. Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. To complete the project, the Land Trust committed to raising \$150,000 in private gifts. Fortunately, an anonymous donor offered a \$25,000 challenge grant to encourage private gifts for the Farm's protection, which was matched in full by early donors.

Thanks to the combined efforts of North Hampton officials,

residents, and the Land Trust, the region now has a final chance to save this historic farm. The Land Trust must raise the final \$43,000 to protect the Governor Dale Farm. If we are successful, a conservation easement will be acquired and held by the Land Trust and the Town, forever protecting these scenic views, productive lands, and rural character. To contribute or learn more, visit www.seltnh.org or make a gift using the enclosed remittance envelope.

A caretaker's memories of the Governor Dale Farm

Kendall Chevalier, a lifetime resident of North Hampton, was the caretaker of the Governor Dale Farm for more than a quarter century. In early July, he had the opportunity to reacquaint himself with the Farm, his first visit since 1986. He later sat down with Chris Ganotis, chairman of the North Hampton Conservation Commission, to answer some questions and share his reaction to his visit. What follows is an excerpt of that interview (visit www.seltnh.org for the complete interview as well as a March 1955 article from *NH Profiles magazine*, describing a tour of the Governor Dale Farm house).

"I'm very elated and gratified for keeping it the way it was. The farm will stay the same long after we're gone."

When did you start working on the farm and how long did you work there?

I started in 1949 at age 13 in the summers and after school. After graduating, I left but returned in 1955 when I was asked by the Governor to help out milking the cattle. After my marriage in 1956, my wife and I lived in the caretaker house, which still stands today, at the entrance to the farm off Post Road. The Governor told me, "Keep milking until I tell you to stop". That was from 1956 through 1963. Then I returned to the farm in 1965, then part-time until 1983.

What was your role and what were your responsibilities?

I was a jack-of-all-trades. I was responsible for mowing the hay fields, caring for the lawns and gardens around the estate, growing vegetables, milking cattle, feeding and raising chickens, plowing snow and, at times, was the personal chauffeur. I also did maintenance projects in the house.... We grew veggies and timothy and alfalfa hay, and sold them to local farmers.

What tasks did you like most and least?

I really enjoyed the farm work.... It was a paradise to me there

and was my second home. It was a beautiful place to work and I had independence to get the job done. I loved that place. I sometimes didn't like all the long hours and hard work and the constant repair of the equipment. I rarely got time off. I had the responsibility to keep two tractors going, plus the balers and the Governor's 1945, six-wheeled Dodge army truck that was the farm's utility and snow plowing vehicle. I also had to hire and manage the part-time help.

What was your relationship like with the Governor and his wife?

I took care of the Governor when he got sick. I helped him out in both the farm and the household maintenance. The Governor was always very busy, but to relax, he would like to follow me around the farm in his Cadillac convertible and watch me cut and bale hay in the field. He was a task-master and I was always busy milking cows day and night and tending to the farm. But, in all, I got along very well with him and his wife.

What did you find most different and the same when you visited the farm [this past July]?

Well, some of the flowering trees were removed and moved. The peach trees lining the driveway are gone. The corral behind the barn is gone. The archway around the front entrance was taken out.... I hung Christmas lights on it every year. (Editor's Note: The old archway is still in the barn and was kept intact by the owner). The old hangar was dismantled and sold to Hampton Airfield and a new building is now on the slab. The two garages from the house were moved down by the new building.

What are your thoughts about making the farm a conservation property?

I'm very elated and gratified for keeping it the way it was. The farm will stay the same long after we're gone. There were three generations of the Dale family living at the farm and it will now be preserved forever. ■



Hellos and Goodbyes!

In nature, spring is a time of immense change, and this year it was no less for the Land Trust. After working as our Office Manager and Membership Coordinator for more than five years, Karen McCormack left in mid-March to seek new challenges and opportunities. Her mark on the Land Trust's success is best seen through the Fall Foliage Fundraiser – an event that under her guidance grew to be the most important aspect of our annual fundraising program. In appreciation of her work, the Board of the Land Trust presented Karen with a photo of the Back Channel Islands (protected by the Land Trust!) in her hometown of New Castle. Thank you Karen and best wishes for your new endeavors!

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- Dick Wollmar** North Hampton

Staff

- Isabel Aley** Office Manager & Outreach Coordinator
- Phil Auger** Land Agent/Land Manager
- Deborah Goard** Easement Stewardship Manager
- Brian Hart** Executive Director
- Duane Hyde** Land Protection Director
- David Viale** Land Protection & Stewardship Specialist

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

To contact the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, please call 603.778.6088 or e-mail info@seltnh.org.
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The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

This Land is published quarterly and is the newsletter of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. Edited by Brian Hart. Printed on recycled paper.

Photo credits: Cover 1 to r: Brian Hart; Jerry Monkman, Ecophotography.com; Brian Hart; Peter Vandermark
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Duane Hyde, Land Protection Director (COURTESY PHOTO)

In April, Duane Hyde joined the team in a new position as our Land Protection Director. Duane comes to the Land Trust after working for nearly 13 years for the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy where he most recently served as the Chapter's Director of Conservation Programs. Duane has worked on a myriad of conservation projects in his time with the Conservancy, completing over 100 projects that conserved more than 50,000 acres of land. Duane served as the lead acquisition agent and grants administrator on behalf of the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, which has conserved nearly 6,000 acres of land surrounding Great Bay and its tidal tributaries. He is excited to be working with the staff and Board for the Land Trust, which he worked with on many projects during his time with the Partnership. "I always respected the amount and quality of conservation work that the Southeast Land Trust is able to accomplish, and its willingness and ability to partner with towns and other organizations to get this work done," said Duane. "I love the landscape of this part of the state where there is so much diversity with the mixing of southern and northern plant and animal communities embedded in an agricultural landscape, and I look forward to working with the Land Trust to conserve these resources that make our part of the state so special," he continued. Duane lives in Durham with his wife, two school age daughters and aging black Labrador retriever.

This June, the Land Trust welcomed Isabel Aley as our new Office Manager and Outreach Coordinator. Born and raised in Midcoast Maine, Isabel has always held a deep appreciation for the natural beauty of New England. She graduated from Bates College, where she majored in English and Environmental Studies. Prior to joining the Land Trust, Isabel worked for an urban land trust and a sustainable living resource guide in Maine. Some of Isabel's hobbies include yoga, running, cooking, and exploring the great outdoors with her husband and two dogs. When you call the office, please say hi to Isabel and welcome her to New Hampshire!

Finally, in July, Land Protection Specialist David Viale returned from his seven month leave. Since November, David and his wife lived in Vietnam, where she was employed by an international non-governmental organization, and David explored the city of Hanoi and the culture of Vietnam. Welcome back David! ■

In April, Duane Hyde joined the team in a new position as our Land Protection Director. Duane comes to the Land Trust after working for nearly 13 years for the New Hampshire Chapter of The Nature Conservancy where he most recently served as the Chapter's Director of Conservation Programs. Duane has worked on a myriad of conservation projects in his time with the Conservancy, complet-



Isabel Aley, Office Manager & Outreach Coordinator (COURTESY PHOTO)

Another Piece of the Pawtuckaway Puzzle

Often land conservation is like a jigsaw puzzle. You start with one piece and slowly build off of that, adding piece by piece until you create a meaningful block with features you can recognize. In the case of land conservation, those features are habitats and natural systems that can continue to provide functions and values to the species that depend on them.

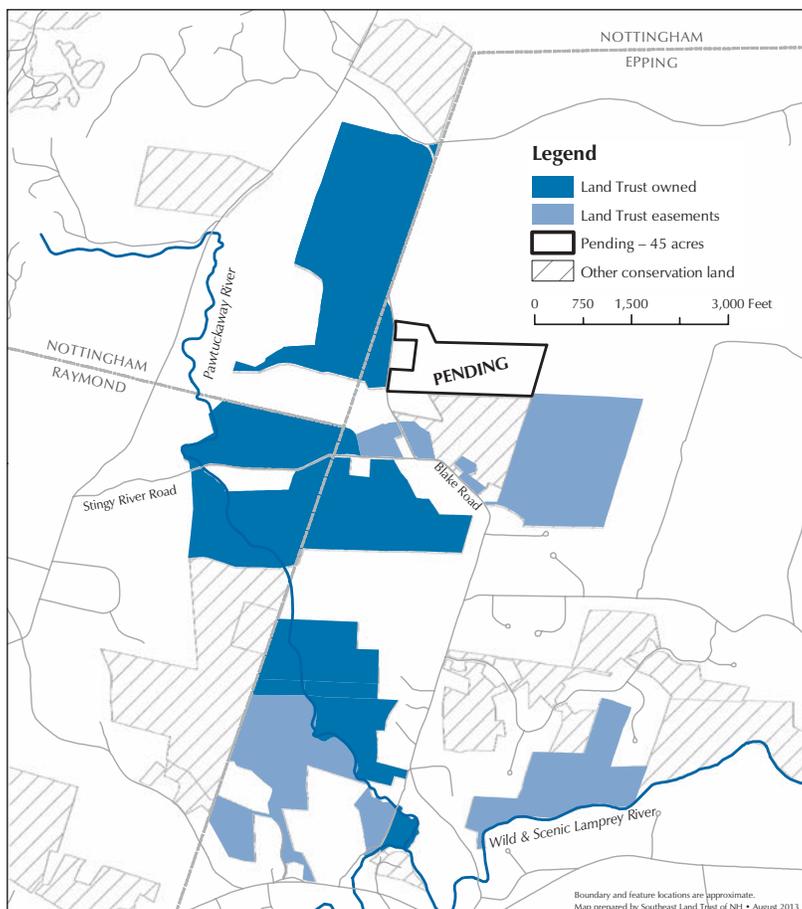
The Land Trust has been assembling such a jigsaw puzzle for several years now along the Pawtuckaway River corridor, a major tributary to the Lamprey River, in Epping, Raymond and Nottingham. And our success shows on the map, where you can now see a relatively contiguous 1,000 acre block of conserved land, of which 775 acres was protected through the efforts of the Land Trust and its partners. The Pawtuckaway River Corridor includes habitat identified by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as "Highest Ranking Habitat in the State" and documented habitat for rare turtle species, bird species of conservation concern such as the chestnut sided warbler and wood thrush, and other more common species such as bear, deer, and turkey.

But our work is not done in this Focus Area. Earlier this summer we learned about a property going on the market for \$350,000 that we had previously attempted to conserve. With it being listed on the open market, we had to move quickly to

develop a conservation and acquisition plan before a developer acquired the land. The 50-acre property not only includes natural resource values common to the Pawtuckaway River corridor, like 2,275 feet of stream frontage and over 12 acres of high quality associated wetlands, but it also includes a house and barn. The seller would not sell just the land – we had to buy the house and barn. The Land Trust is not in the business of owning buildings, so we had to think creatively about how to conserve the bulk of this property, fund the project, and not end up owning a house for an extended period of time.

To make it happen, the Land Trust first had to commit to acquiring the whole property by mid-October. Then, the Land Trust negotiated with a conservation minded neighbor who had previously conserved their property and was willing to acquire the bulk of this land with the intention of later donating a conservation easement on it to the Land Trust. Finally, with the Land Trust's permission, the existing landowner continued to market the house and barn with just five acres, getting it under contract with a third party... All of this by the end of October this year!

Our ability to manage the financial risk associated with such projects is only possible due to the existence of our Sweet Land Protection Fund, named in honor of conservation leaders Barbara and Cyrus Sweet. The Sweet Fund is an internal revolving fund whose purpose is to provide quick access to financial capital for the Land Trust to purchase land or conservation easements, enter into option agreements, and to cover other costs associated with land conservation projects. It is intended to serve as a 'strike fund' to allow the Land Trust to act on emerging conservation opportunities that require an immediate or short-term response. The Fund is replenished through the specific fundraising for each project that utilizes it, and to date has helped the Land Trust conserve farmland in Durham, marshland in Rye, and like this project, land along the Pawtuckaway River Corridor. While we have now successfully raised the funds for this project, including receipt of a \$5,000 grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership, your additional gift to the Sweet Land Protection Fund can help us grow the fund and prepare for the next opportunity. Please use the enclosed envelope (designating your gift for the Sweet Fund) or give on line at www.seltnh.org. Thank you! ■



Please consider making an extra gift to the Sweet Land Protection Fund and strengthen our ability to respond to emerging opportunities!

Save the Date: Eat, Play, Give: The 11th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser

For the past ten years, residents of the greater Seacoast area have joined together for an evening of fun and fundraising to support the conservation of our region's beautiful open lands. Our theme this year of "Eat, Play, Give" reflects the festive aspect of the night but also the spirit of our work. We conserve land to support our communities and nature – for fresh food, clean water, or nearby places to hike – and what better way to enable our success than by enjoying a night out with friends and giving to the Land Trust! Attendees will enjoy the historic setting of the Discover Portsmouth Center in beautiful downtown Portsmouth. Throughout the evening, guests will be invited to bid on more than 100 silent and live auction items donated by local businesses. We will have great live music with the band Sea Smoke, delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts, as well as complimentary beer and wine. Save November 2nd and join us to help celebrate conserved land in every community – for people and nature! Look for your invitation in September! ■

Join us!

Saturday, November 2, 2013 ■ 6pm
Discover Portsmouth Center
Portsmouth, NH



Land Protection BY THE NUMBERS

As of August 30, 2013, the
Southeast Land Trust has
conserved 154 special places
totaling 8,999 acres:

- 6,353 acres via conservation easements and executory interests
- 2,646 acres owned by the Land Trust

See details on page 1
North Hampton Rallies to Save Governor Dale Farm

See details on the back page
The 11th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser
Save the Date: Join us for Eat, Play, Give:



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