

Giving from the Heart The Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest

It was 1947. World War II had just ended. Veterans were returning home, communities like Rye were returning to normal, and Charles Rand, an unmarried man with deep roots in this classic coastal community probably didn't even realize that in four short years, he'd be married. Charles came from a family that had understood the importance of forests to not only nature, but the economic value they provided to families and communities.

Now, nearly 70 years later, this love of family, land, and community will be furthered by a mother's decision to honor her son and her husband through the gift of 100 acres to the Southeast Land Trust and the establishment of the Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest.

A Deep Connection to Land

Charles' father, Edgar Rand, started the Rand Lumber Company in 1905 with the first mill running off of steam power. Charles and his brother, Wilford, followed their father into the family business, with Charles' wife Nancy joining them in the front office. But separate from the family business, Charles always dreamed of having his very own personal woodlot, so when the opportunity arose in 1947 to do just that, he jumped at the chance. The then owner of what is now the Independence Farm in Rye approached Charles about selling their approximately 100 acres of back forest land in North Hampton and Rye (see map); his wife Nancy recalls Charles telling her he paid approximately \$3,000 for the property. He now owned his own piece of land to achieve his personal goals.

Charles' deep connection to land and this particular property was evident from day one. He spent a lot of time stewarding this land he loved as it kept him connected to the land after leaving the family lumber

business. Even the woodland creatures seemed to understand that Charles had a special connection to this place. Nancy recalls for several years that a wild partridge (also known as a ruffed grouse) was so enamored with Charles that each time he walked the land, it would find him and walk right along with him through the woods.



The public will enjoy easy hikes along the wooded trails of the soon-to-be Rand Memorial Forest.

PHOTO: DUANE HYDE

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GET Out & About

Please register for any of our events by e-mailing info@seltnh.org or calling 603.778.6088.

Conservation Cookout & National Trails Day

Saturday, June 7th - 10:30 am-1 pm - Optional field trips from 1-3 pm - 24 Main Street, Kingston

\$10 per person, lunch included
RSVP online at www.seltnh.org or call 778.6088. See page 8 for details.

Back Channel Islands Paddle

Saturday, July 12th - 9 am-Noon - Portsmouth Kayak Adventures, 187 Wentworth Road, Portsmouth

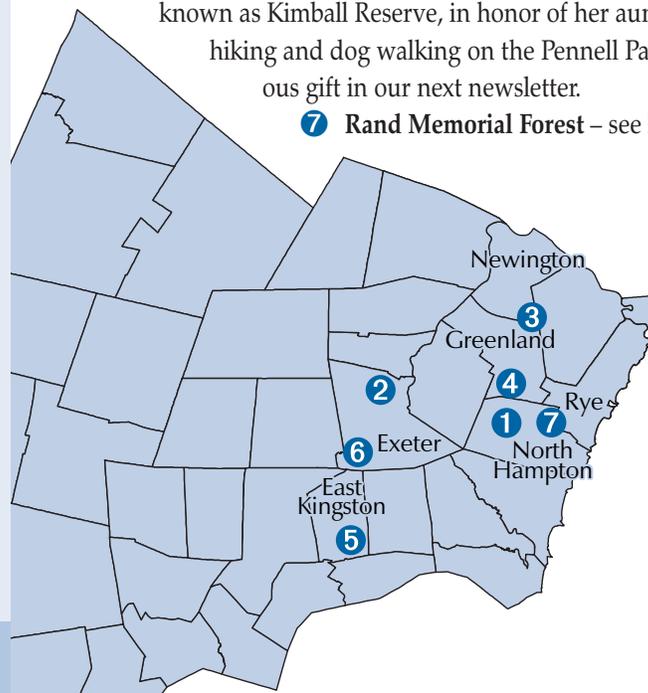
The Land Trust and Portsmouth Kayak Adventures are teaming up to offer you a fun and informative kayak trip through New Castle's beautiful and unspoiled Back Channel Islands. Enjoy a fun outing on the water and make new friends! This is a great opportunity to learn from local experts about coastal ecology and the history of the islands. Bring your own kayak or contact PKA ahead of time at 559.1000 to arrange for a rental (discounted rental fees are \$35 per single-person kayak or \$49 for a tandem). There is a \$5 put-in fee for all boats. Meet at Portsmouth Kayak Adventures, 187 Wentworth Road in Portsmouth at 9 am. Please RSVP to info@seltnh.org.

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2014 Shaping Up to be a Busy Year!

- 1 After timely bi-partisan help from U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Kelly Ayotte, this May the Land Trust and **Town of North Hampton** completed the two year effort to conserve the Governor Dale Farm. The historic, scenic landscape of open fields on Post Road was slated for a 50-lot subdivision before Town residents sought its permanent protection in partnership with the Land Trust.
- 2 The Growing Oaklands project continues to make significant progress toward an expected closing date in late June thanks to **Exeter** residents making a resounding vote in favor of providing \$26,490 in funding toward the project. With the boundary survey completed we learned that not only is the Oaklands Town Forest growing, but the property grew and is 5.5 acres bigger than we thought! Check out our website for a soon to be announced celebration!
- 3 The Land Trust is working in partnership with the **Town of Newington** Conservation Commission to acquire a conservation easement on 34 acres located on Newington Road. The agreement will help protect the water quality of a stream that flows directly into Great Bay and provide a quiet pedestrian recreational opportunity for people to enjoy.
- 4 Robert Parker's family has a history of deep respect for the land and his father and mother had the foresight and vision to conserve more than 150 acres of the family farm in **Greenland** over 30 years ago. A 13-acre apple orchard that abuts the conserved land on Post Road was not part of the original conservation project, but now Mr. Parker wants to finish what his father and mother started and protect the bulk of the orchard through the donation of a conservation easement. The easement will ensure that the property continues as important wildlife habitat and provides an opportunity for local agriculture production.
- 5 This year Davis Finch and Jean Topping are graciously donating a conservation easement on 35 acres in **East Kingston**. The land will expand a 138-acre conservation easement donated by the siblings in 2004. The property is part of Hog Hill Swamp – the largest wetland system in East Kingston and a tributary to the Powwow River. The deed to the property charmingly describes it as "...lying on the southerly side of the highway leading from the old Nathaniel Tappan place to Tricking Falls..." The donation will also conserve a site they have known and loved since childhood.
- 6 **Exeter** resident Martha Pennell has generously offered to donate her 13 acres of woodland on Pickpocket Road and the Jolly Rand Trail to the Southeast Land Trust. The land will be known as Kimball Reserve, in honor of her aunt, and will be open to the public for hiking and dog walking on the Pennell Path! We will share more on this generous gift in our next newsletter.

7 **Rand Memorial Forest** – see lead article on page 1. ■



- 1 Governor Dale Farm
- 2 Growing Oaklands
- 3 Baird Easement
- 4 Parker Easement
- 5 Finch & Topping Easement
- 6 Kimball Reserve
- 7 Rand Memorial Forest (see lead article)

Together, We Can Do More

This past year, member Jane Nelson called the Southeast Land Trust to share her generous decision: she had named the organization as a beneficiary of her estate upon her passing. By doing so, Jane joined our Conservation Legacy Society.

The Conservation Legacy Society recognizes those who have informed the Land Trust of their decision to remember the organization through a bequest or other planned gift, and in doing so, providing a continuing stream of support for our mission. Such gifts – small and large – are integral to the long-term capacity of the organization to achieve and sustain our vision of conserving land in every community, sustaining people and nature.

Jane's initial decision developed from life experiences – like seeing a farm in Massachusetts she once lived on become chopped up into house lots – and from a broader realization that by joining with others, her goals could be better achieved. "My most important reason for making a bequest to the Southeast Land Trust is simple: by joining with others I will help slow or prevent further degrading of the local environment," explained Jane. "Those lands protected by the Trust are crucial to maintaining many of the now fragile relationships between the human and the natural worlds – relationships too often seen as binary oppositions."

After some discussions on the phone about her personal goals for her gift, Executive Director Brian Hart sent her a detailed letter explaining her options. Jane then privately discussed it with her attorney, and after a further conversation with Brian, made her decision. Her gift would be added to the organization's Sweet Land Protection Fund, a dedicated fund to acquire and conserve open space in our region.

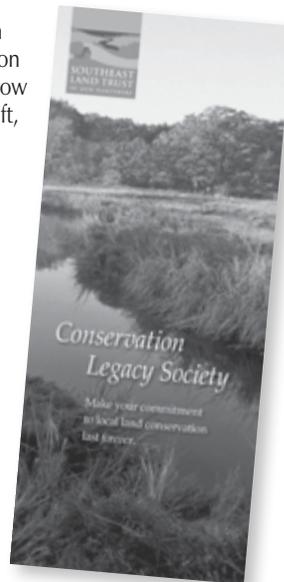
This decision was consistent with Jane's belief that "We also have obligations to preserve, in my view, as much as possible the habitats of other species. These have been steadily diminished or destroyed by unwise and careless development." The

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commitment and passion of several personal friends also motivated her to name the Land Trust as a beneficiary. "I have for some time observed their contributions of time, energy and imagination to the Trust and to what it is attempting to accomplish," she noted, "and this has moved me to join them."

The Southeast Land Trust is grateful to Jane and the more than a dozen others who have informed us of their decision to advance our work through their will or planned gift. Are you also interested in joining with us to make a lasting impact, beyond what you could do individually? Or have you already named the Southeast Land Trust in your will? Please let us know by calling Brian Hart, Executive Director, at 603.778.6088 or e-mailing bhart@seltnh.org. Your inquiry will be kept confidential. ■

For more information about the Conservation Legacy Society and how to make a planned gift, contact us to receive our brochure.



Wildlife Seminar: New Hampshire Turtles with Chris Bogard

Thursday, August 7th - 7 pm - Rye
Public Library, 581 Washington
Road, Rye

Learn about the turtle species of New Hampshire – their natural history, survival rates, habitat and more. Chris will also present some of her own research and bring turtles for us to meet!



Turtle specialist Chris Bogard has held positions at the Center for Wildlife in Cape Neddick, Maine and The Turtle Hospital of New England in Massachusetts. She is a volunteer land steward for the Land Trust and a Speaking for Wildlife volunteer for the UNH Cooperative Extension. Chris is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, and specializes in turtles. She has been rehabilitating native, wild turtles for 13 years.

Please RSVP to info@seltnh.org. ■

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Caught on Camera: Connecting Nature and People

By Emma Carcagno, Board Member, and UNH Cooperative Extension Field Specialist, Land & Water Conservation

I sat at my desk, eyes glued to my computer screen, flipping slowly through photos. I'm giddy with excitement, enjoying the scenes unfolding, snapshot by snapshot, in front of me. A beaver makes its way out of the pond and passes next to the camera, then in the next shot, I see it is pulling a shockingly large log behind it. I've seen the evidence of beaver's work so many times, it barely catches my attention anymore, but there is something magical about seeing pictures of the animal at work. I love seeing how it maneuvers with such a large branch, observing what time of day or night they are active, how many times they make the trip back and forth. I continue flipping, photo after photo. Then suddenly, something unexpected pops into the photo. I let out an audible squeal. A bobcat!

I was fortunate enough to receive a trail camera for my birthday a few months ago. Since then, I've been placing it in various locations on Southeast Land Trust properties (Mast Road Natural Area and the Kelliher Memorial Forest) for anywhere from 1-4 weeks at a time. The photos and videos I've captured have been amazing, but honestly they've only been half the fun.

In the same location where I caught photos of beaver and bobcat, I also caught one of a woman with her two dogs crossing the beaver dam. I came to learn that this woman was a neighbor of the Kelliher property, who had two trail cameras of her own placed at a beaver dam upstream. After an introduction by Phil Auger, Southeast Land Trust's Land Manager, I met with her and we poured over her trail camera photos and videos for well over an hour. She showed me footage of deer, river otters, muskrats, beavers, wood ducks, great blue herons, a hawk, coyotes, raccoons, and more bobcats. She definitely has her camera on a wildlife super highway. Through her footage, I learned that there are at least three individual bobcats on the property, which is a higher number than I would have expected. I also learned that despite many, many failed attempts at finding their tracks this past winter, there are river otters using the beaver ponds there too. But mostly, I learned that Land Trust is lucky to have a neighbor who has formed a deep connection with one of our properties. She regularly walks our land and has become passionate about her trail cameras and documenting wildlife there. The information she has collected will help inform our management decisions on the property, and also gives us a story to tell that will hopefully connect more people to our land.

I'm surprised that my trail camera has provided not only a connection to wildlife, but also connections to people. Since I've started using the camera, I've brought friends out with me to place the camera so they could share in my excitement at the resulting photos, and I've struck up some great conversations with folks in the woods about the trail camera and what I've been seeing. I even attended

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Beaver with log. March 19, 2014, 4:47.



Beaver with log. March 19, 2014, 5:04.



Bobcat! March 19, 2014, 5:53.

Giving from the Heart *The Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest, continued*

A Family Bonds Together

As the years passed, the Rands had a son Chuck, who, like the partridge, followed his father on his woodland walks. The towering stands of white pine intermixed with red maple wetlands became Chuck's outdoor classroom, located a short ways from his Wallis Road boyhood home. Chuck learned from his dad about wildlife, the species of trees in the forest, and the best places to pick berries. As father and son grew older, their bond together and with the land only grew stronger. Later in life Charles brought on board local forester, Charlie Moreno, to assist in the careful management of the woodlot. The two worked closely together to ensure that the timber management was done with the long-term goals of wildlife habitat and high quality forest resources in mind, rather than short-term monetary returns.

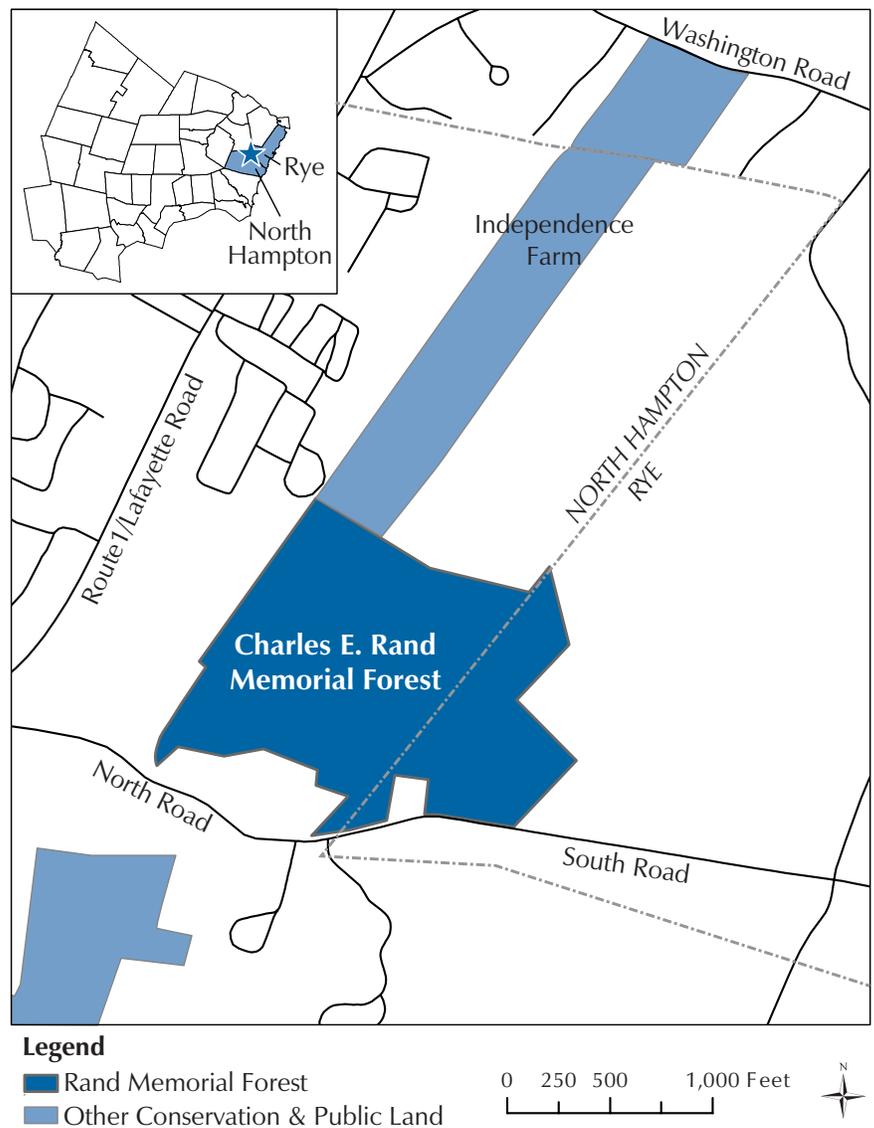
In 1997, Charles passed away, leaving the 100 acre forest to his wife Nancy. Nancy continued her husband's legacy of working with forester Charlie Moreno and son Chuck on the stewardship of the property. Her vision for the property remained constant; Chuck would inherit the property to continue his father's legacy. Although Chuck became a successful businessman with John Hancock Investments, he never lost touch with the land and he and his wife Sandy built their home on a small portion of the property surrounded by the place that held so many childhood memories.

This love and connection to the land handed down from generation to generation has been the heart and blood of family farm and forest ownership for centuries in New Hampshire. The Rand's story took a tragic turn when in 2013 son Chuck predeceased his mother after succumbing to cancer at the young age of 51.

To Honor and Remember

Nancy wanted to keep her son and husband's memory alive through the forest that they both loved so much. With a goal of keeping a 100 acre forest bisected by two towns managed as a single tract of land and seeking to continue the family's good stewardship of the woods, Nancy, along with her daughter-in-law Sandy, made an enormously generous pledge: they would gift this wonderful property to the Southeast Land Trust and entrust its long term stewardship.

The Board of the Southeast Land Trust has agreed to accept this generous offer and honor the family's goals. To do so, we need to raise the necessary \$50,000 to cover the project's transaction and long-term stewardship costs. These funds will pay for work such as a boundary survey, update of the forest management plan, a kiosk and trails for public use, and dedicated funds to ensure that the Land Trust has the long-term capacity to manage the property with the care and attention the Rand family has done for the last 67 years. Your private donations will help permanently conserve the forest so that you can enjoy this special place and future mothers and fathers will have a place where their kids can connect with nature. To make your special gift for the establishment of this new reservation, please use the enclosed envelope (and write "Rand Memorial Forest" on the memo field) or give securely online at www.seltnh.org. ■





It's Membership Renewal Time!

Beginning this year, all memberships will be due by July 1 and will be good through the following June 30th. This change to a fixed annual membership cycle (July 1 to June 30) will save postage and printing costs, reduce the need for multiple mailings, and allow us to better forecast contributions for the year.

Previously, memberships began the date your gift was received. For instance, a member renewing on August 15 would be in good standing through August 15 of the following year. This "rolling" membership cycle resulted in the Land Trust having to send multiple renewal mailings per year to the donors whose membership was expiring. As you can imagine, this rolling process consumes significant staff time and limited dollars – resources that we (and we suspect you) – would prefer we spend on our core mission of conserving land for people and nature.

You can renew your membership easily and securely through our improved portal at www.seltnh.org or by returning the enclosed remittance envelope. Thank you!

We understand and respect that some supporters have strong preferences as to what time of year they make charitable contributions. Should you have such preferences or any questions or concerns, please contact us at 778.6088 or info@seltnh.org and we will do our best to accommodate them. ■

Caught on Camera: Connecting Nature and People, continued

a nearby presentation about trail cameras where I met some fellow enthusiasts and learned some great tips.

I don't know why this lesson surprises me every time, as it's something I know in my core and regularly share with others as part of my job: **it's all about people**. Conserving land, managing forests, supporting local agriculture, protecting water quality, enhancing wildlife habitat, protecting rare wildlife – none of it is possible without connecting with people and providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.

Next time you cross paths with someone on a walk at the Piscassic Greenway, strike up a conversation. You might learn something new! Bring along a friend on your next adventure to the Tucker-French Forest. They

might notice something new, and you may be introducing them to a place they've never been. Take some pictures on your next stroll through the Pawtuckaway River Reservation.

*...it's something I know in my core...
it's all about people...none of it is possible without connecting with people and providing opportunities for people to connect with nature.*

We'll share them on our Facebook page or in our newsletter. Get out and connect with nature AND with people. And whatever you do, be sure to smile at the trail camera. ■

Film Festival a Wild Success

Thank You to Sponsors, Donors and Attendees of our 4th Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival!



We greeted **over 500 guests** on April 25th and welcomed more than 20 new members that evening, making this year's film festival the most successful one yet. Thank you to all who supported this wonderful, inspiring evening!

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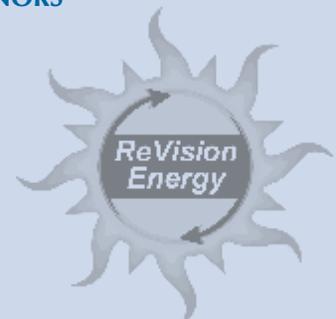
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Sustain Your Support as an Evergreen Member

We are proud to announce our new Evergreen Member Program, which we offer to make your membership giving easier and greener! You now have the opportunity to make automatic recurring monthly membership gifts. This easy, secure donation program will allow you to provide ongoing support for our mission of sustaining people and nature through local land conservation and stewardship.



Benefits of becoming an Evergreen Member:

- **Flexible program:** Choose any amount you are comfortable with, and change or stop your donations at any time.
- **Your membership never lapses:** By enrolling in this program, your membership is always current.
- **Secure giving:** Your donation and payment information is stored securely in our data-encrypted system.
- **Your donations go further:** More of your dollars will go to work for our mission because you'll be saving trees, time and money.
- **Thank-you gift:** You will receive a set of two stainless steel pint cups featuring our beautiful color logo!



Sign up online at www.seltnh.org! If you have any questions about this program, please call Isabel at 603.778.6088 or e-mail info@seltnh.org. *Thank you!* ■

Introducing Our Newest Staff

This spring the Southeast Land Trust welcomed **Kam Damtoft** of Durham as our new **Development Assistant**. This part-time position is integral to our expanded outreach and communication efforts and will assist in our field trips and events like the Fall Fundraiser and Conservation Cookout. Kam also works part time for two other nonprofits and loves the Land Trust's office dogs.

This summer **Andrew Wilkens** will join us as our **Conservation Easement Stewardship Intern**. Andrew comes to us from Connecticut and is a 2014 graduate of UMass/Amherst with a BS in Environmental Design, concentrating in Landscape Studies, and a minor in Natural Resource Conservation. Over the summer his main focus will be assisting with ground monitoring visits to land on which we hold conservation restrictions. In addition to performing monitoring visits he will help with other tasks such as maintaining our stewardship database and documenting existing ground conditions of land in the process of being conserved. We are all excited for Andrew to be a part of our commitment to the long term stewardship of the conservation agreements we hold. ■



Kam Damtoft, Development Assistant
COURTESY OF PERNOLDPHOTO.COM

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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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Website: www.seltnh.org

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Join Us on June 7th for Our Annual Conservation Cookout & National Trails Day!



Saturday, June 7, 2014 ▪ Annual Meeting
and Cookout Lunch 10:30 am–1 pm ▪ Optional Field Trips 1–3 pm ▪
Kingston Community Recreation Building at 24 Main Street, Kingston NH

This day is our opportunity to celebrate the more than 420 acres of farms and forests, wetlands and habitat conserved in 2013, outline our plans for the future, and recognize landowners and communities with whom we have partnered. It is also National Trails Day, a celebration of the nation's trails that encourage people enjoy nature every day! After a short meeting and a very special announcement, enjoy a delicious cookout lunch with friends! Then explore the area on one of three field trips – to beautiful conservation lands in Brentwood, Plaistow, or Kingston.

Attendance at the Conservation Cookout is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child age 7 and over (children under 6 are free). Please reserve your spot by Wednesday, June 4th on our website at www.seltnh.org, or by calling 778.6088. Please specify which field trip you will attend and whether you would like local beef or a veggie burger. ■



Sponsored by Friends of Kingston Open Space



Land Protection

BY THE NUMBERS



as of May 15, 2014

See details on back page
Cookout & National Trails Day!
 Join Us for Our Annual Conservation
 See page 1
Memorial Forest a Reality
 Help us Make The Charles E. Rand



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