

THIS LAND

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Landowner to Gift Kimball Reserve *Scenic Land Offered as Community Resource*

Exeter resident Martha Pennell has made a remarkably generous offer to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire: she will donate her 13 acres of scenic land to the organization so long as we commit to keeping it forever undeveloped. Named in honor of Martha's aunt, Emma Kimball, the "Kimball Reserve" will be a community treasure, providing a place to enjoy nature and take a leisurely walk in the woods. To accept this gift, the Land Trust is seeking \$27,000 in donations by the end of the year.

Martha can trace her family lineage back to Reverend John Wheelwright, the founding father of Exeter, and her ancestral grandfather. The Kimball lands were originally some 200 acres on both sides of Pickpocket Road and included the historic landmark Gooch Corner. When her great-grandfather died in 1917 without a will, as is often

the case, a family dispute arose. The outcome was that instead of inheriting the entire 200 acres of land, Martha's grandfather only inherited the "Flagg Lot" and a woodlot in Brentwood. The remainder of the Kimball estate was passed on to other family members. The Flagg Lot was then inherited by Martha's aunt, Emma Kimball, who bequeathed it to Martha.

The proposed Kimball Reserve consists of 13 acres of woodlands on Pickpocket Road in Exeter. The woods include mature oak and hickory trees with stands of white pine and hemlock. The now wooded parcel once was used in part as a Victory Garden during the Second World War and before that, like much of New Hampshire, was pastureland. The Kimball Reserve's beauty is accentuated by Pennell Pond, a one-acre pond abutting Pickpocket Road that provides important wildlife habitat.

The property also includes a well-loved trail, Pennell Path, that connects with the Jolly Rand Trail, a 1.3 mile trail that stretches from Pickpocket Road to Brentwood Road, and to the trail system at Riverwoods, the popular retirement community in Exeter that abuts the property. Martha and her sister Betty Lewis both reside at Riverwoods. The Kimball Reserve, with its 700 feet of frontage along the Jolly Rand Trail, will be one of several conservation areas along the Jolly Rand Trail that users can explore. These attributes clearly demonstrate its



The Kimball Reserve's beauty is accentuated by Pennell Pond, a one-acre pond that provides important wildlife habitat. PHOTO CREDIT JOSH LENT.

continued on page 5



GET *Out & About*

Foliage Walk at Stonehouse Pond Conservation Area

**Saturday, October 18th - 9 am -
Barrington, NH**

A Fall favorite, the Stonehouse Pond foliage walk, lead by Strafford Rivers Conservancy Board member Kevin McEneaney 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 and wear good walking shoes to enjoy this unique gem. Please register by e-mailing register@seltnh.org.

Join us for our 12th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser!

**A Watershed Moment:
Celebrating the Merger of
the Southeast Land Trust with
Strafford Rivers Conservancy**

**Friday, October 24th - 6 pm -
Portsmouth Harbor Events -
100 Deer Street - Portsmouth, NH**

LEAD SPONSORS:



**Cambridge Trust Company
of New Hampshire**



See details on back page.

In Memory of Diane Forsyth

By Scott Marion, Board member

The Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire lost a gem. Diane Forsyth, long-time Board member, passed away in early August after a two-year battle with pancreatic cancer. Diane taught us all a lot through the years, but the spirit, tenacity, and grace with which she fought this disease left us all with one more powerful lesson. She will be missed tremendously by the Land Trust and many other communities.

Diane loved the land! Growing up on a North Carolina farm was a powerful influence on Diane's world view. This played out in her commitment to protecting natural and cultivated lands in our region of New Hampshire, but was also beautifully evident in Diane's amazing gardens at the home she shared with her husband, Mark, and their two (now grown) children, Emily and Wesley. Diane embodied the mission of the Land Trust, because while the land was vital, it was the interaction of the people with the land that truly brought things to life. Diane was the true vision keeper for the Land Trust.

On a more personal level, we loved Diane. This is true of the Board and Staff, but is also true of the much wider Rye and Portsmouth communities. Diane was the glue to her neighborhood in Rye. She knew what was going on with everyone because everyone knew she cared deeply about them. That doesn't mean she was soft on folks. She expected a lot from people, but no more than she expected from herself. She had no trouble asking people for money to support a particular project or pushing the Staff to complete an important task, because she knew it was the right thing to do. Yet she always did it with a smile on her face, a twinkle in her eye, and love in her heart.

A recent memory embodies Diane's spirit. This past winter, I was skiing with Diane (whose cancer had returned) and her family at Alta, Utah. We were starting to hike to Catherine's Bowl at 10,500' when, Wesley, like a good son, offered to carry Diane's skis. Diane simply responded, "I'll carry my own damn skis."

The Board, Staff, and larger Land Trust community extend our deepest sympathy to Diane's family and pledge to continue doing the work with the zest and love that would make Diane proud. We lost a great one and Diane will be deeply missed! ■



Diane Forsyth, long-time Board member.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK FORSYTH.

Calling All Members: Your Voice Counts

Special Membership Meeting to Confirm Merger with Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Based on the legal advice from our attorneys, the Southeast Land Trust is calling a special meeting of our members for the purpose of confirming the Board's approval of the merger with the Strafford Rivers Conservancy. This step is being taken out of an abundance of caution to ensure our compliance with New Hampshire state law.

The special membership meeting will be held on October 9th, 2014 at 7 pm at the Exeter Public Library. The meeting will consist of a brief presentation, discussion, and vote on the proposed merger. If you are unable to attend in person, and still would like your opinion known, please contact a member of the Board of Directors or Brian Hart, Executive Director, at 778.6088 or bhart@seltnh.org.

The requested vote of the members follows:

Shall the membership ratify and confirm the vote of the board of directors that Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire merge with Strafford Rivers Conservancy, with Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire as the surviving corporation, adopt the plan of merger approved by the Board of Directors, and authorize the President of the Corporation to review and sign all documents and do all things required to effect the purposes of this vote?

Yes No

The referenced plan of merger and additional details on the proposed merger is available for review at www.seltnh.org or you may request a paper copy by calling the office at 778.6088. ■



Approached by the Rochester Conservation Commission, the Land Trust began working on a creative project structure to help the Town and landowner conserve the Laverdiere Farm in Rochester. Stay tuned for more details! PHOTO BY DUANE HYDE.



Conservation Projects Update

Implementing the Merger – Laverdiere Farm

With the pending merger with the Strafford Rivers Conservancy, the Land Trust has already begun work in Strafford County. The 182 acre Laverdiere Farm (shown at bottom left) has long been a conservation priority for the City of Rochester due to the important scenic backdrop it provides to Ten Rod Road and the local food which the farm has historically produced. With a young farming couple wanting to acquire the farm and start a commercial agricultural operation, the Land Trust has worked with the City, the seller, and the buyer to find a creative solution that we hope will result in the permanent conservation of the farm. We couldn't have gotten this far without the Rochester City Council and Conservation Commission's strong support and willingness to think outside the box. Stay tuned as this late breaking project unfolds.

Hidden Gem Permanently Conserved

After overwhelming support from the voters at the 2014 Town Meeting, the Town of Plaistow and the Land Trust have closed on a conservation easement providing enduring protection to the 400 plus acre Plaistow Town Forest. As a community near the Massachusetts border, Plaistow has experienced its fair share of development but over the years, and most recently with the assistance of the Land Trust, the Town grew its Town

continued on page 4

Making Your Gift Go Further: An Evergreen Member Profile

evergreen
MEMBER PROGRAM

By Emma Carcagno, Board member

As a supporter of the Land Trust myself, I'm not often surprised by the reasons people give for supporting Southeast Land Trust – a love for the quality of life in southeastern New Hampshire, a deep connection with nature, a passion for outdoor recreation, the hope to keep local farms in our landscape, and the desire to protect our water, wildlife and forests – just to name a few. And Sherri Nixon, a long-time supporter and volunteer for Southeast Land Trust, certainly holds these passions and values dear to her as well. "I've lived here in Exeter for 13 years, and really appreciate the wonderful quality of life we have here in NH. I want to do whatever I can to help conserve that quality of life." But Sherri also has an appreciation for the true cost of day-to-day work at a small nonprofit. Her reasons for becoming an Evergreen Member, our new program that allows you to give automatic recurring monthly gifts, were ones I hadn't thought of.

"Everything costs money, and every dollar counts. This is undoubtedly one of the biggest challenges for any nonprofit," Sherri told me. The small things can add up to more than we might imagine – the staff time, paper, printing



Sherri NIXON COURTESY PHOTO

"By becoming an Evergreen Member, I know my money is going directly to the Land Trust to support the important work they do."

and postage spent preparing a new mailing to members – these are not the expenses we usually think of when deciding how to support our favorite nonprofits, but that doesn't make them any less important. "By becoming an Evergreen Member, I know my money is going directly to the Land Trust to support the important work they do." Sherri also lists her support of local foods and agriculture, love of walking on Southeast Land Trust lands, and appreciation for the cost of management and stewardship of conservation lands among her top reasons for supporting the Land Trust as an Evergreen Member.

Whatever your reasons are for becoming a new member or continuing your support, I hope you'll consider becoming an Evergreen Member to help your money go even further in support of the valuable work Southeast Land Trust does. And membership doesn't go without it's rewards! In addition to the benefits of helping to conserve land in your community for people and nature, Evergreen Members also receive a set of two stainless steel pint cups featuring the Southeast Land Trust logo!

To become an Evergreen Member, go to www.seltnh.org, click on the "Donate Now" button, or contact Isabel Aley at 603.778.6088 or info@seltnh.org. ■

Thank you to the more than 30 members who have signed on as inaugural Evergreen members!

Anonymous
Linda Ball
Emma Carcagno and Alan Tutein
Clifford & Heidi Chase
Doug & Linda Cowie
Jim DiCarlo
Robert Eckert & Karen Stapelfeldt
Joseph & Rebecca Anne Fetters
Davis Finch
Edward & Ruth Fowler

Darin & Lizzy Franceschini
Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi
Brian Hart & Sara Callaghan
Dan & Linda Jones
Kristin & Drew Kiefaber
Anne Lightbody
James & Judith Lindsey
Jessica Melgey
Jurgen Nebelung & Isabel Aley
Charles & Mabel Niebling

Sherri Nixon
Rebecca & Tim O'Brien
Ryan & Katylin O'Connor
Jane Porter
Anne Rankin & John Webber
Beverly Shadley & Carina Self
Ellen Snyder & Seshakrishnan Srinivasan
Rebecca Watts & Adrian Fieldhouse
Robert Wofchuck & Heather Gilbert

continued from page 3

Forest to over 400 acres. A showcase for excellent forest management and an amazing trail system that stretches for miles and is accessible from a convenient parking lot on Main Street, the Plaistow Town Forest is a hidden gem and well worth a visit.

Rand Memorial Forest Progressing

Nancy and Sandy Rand have committed to making a generous donation of nearly 100 acres of forest land located on North Road and South Road in Rye and North Hampton, but to complete this donation the Land Trust needs \$50,000 to pay for transaction related costs such as survey, title, and management endowment. To date we have raised approximately \$5,000 toward that goal and the end of year is quickly approaching. Your donation will help the Land Trust create the "Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest" which will feature a parking area, kiosk and trail system that can be enjoyed by all ages. Gifts can be made online or by using the enclosed envelope.

Contribute to the Rand Memorial Forest

To complete this donation the Land Trust needs to pay for transaction related costs. Your donation will help the Land Trust create the "Charles E. Rand Memorial Forest". Gifts can be made online or by using the enclosed envelope.

Landowner to Gift Kimball Reserve, continued

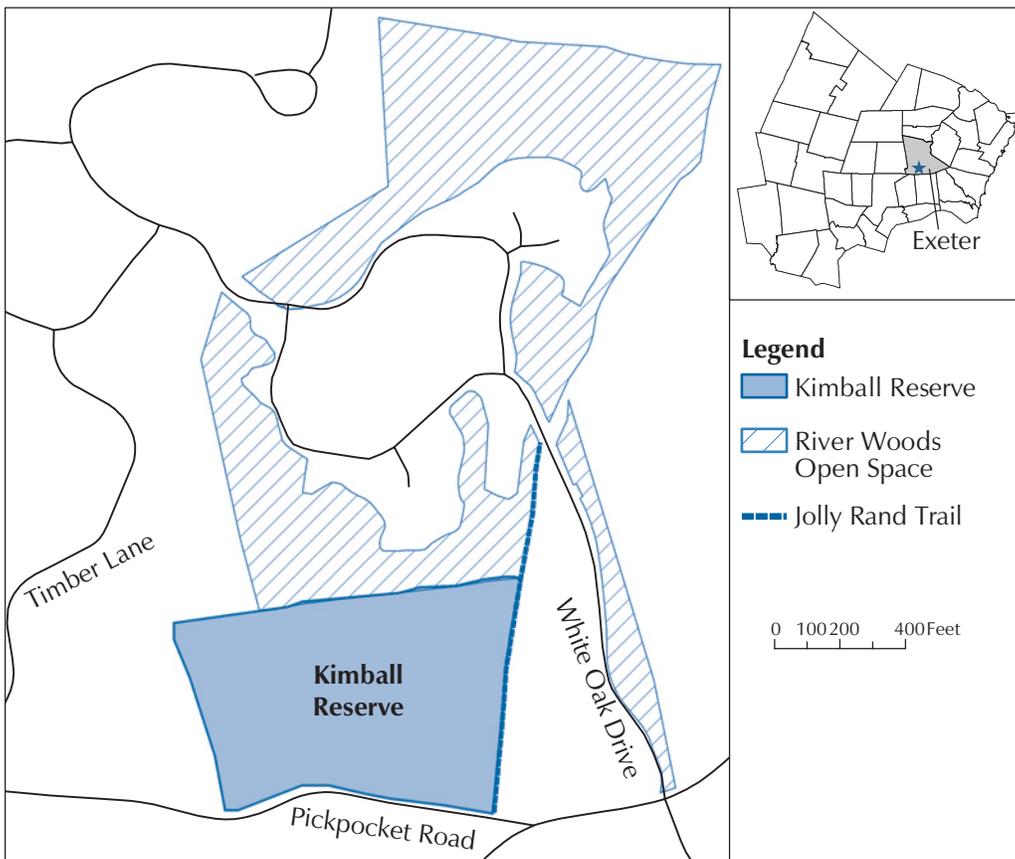
benefit to local residents as a close-to-home opportunity to enjoy the solace that only the quiet woods and reflecting waters can provide.

Over the past ten years, Martha considered many options for her land, having been approached by the Exeter Open Space Commission to conserve it and by builders to sell it for development. Ultimately though, she decided to donate the land to the Southeast Land Trust, recognizing that it was best used as a community recreational resource for Exeter and Riverwoods.

"I hope people will continue to enjoy the woods and the pond," Martha explains, "and walk with their dogs out there!" Martha's a dog lover and laments that there are so few places in Exeter to walk with dogs. While the Kimball Reserve won't become a dog park, it will be a place that families may enjoy the solace of the woods and if they choose, canine camaraderie. ■

Help Create the Kimball Reserve in Exeter!

Make a special gift to support the Land Trust's acceptance and stewardship of these 13 acres in Exeter. The Land Trust has agreed to accept this generous gift, subject to raising the necessary funds to cover the immediate transaction costs and our long-term obligations of owning this beautiful land. The total cost to accept this gift and steward the Kimball Reserve in perpetuity is approximately \$27,000. These costs include setting aside \$10,000 into the organization's Land Management Fund to support the annual costs of owning the land, managing its trails, and addressing inappropriate uses. Your gift will be used exclusively for the conservation and management of this land on Pickpocket Road. Gifts can be made using the enclosed envelope or online (look under the *Support Us* tab).



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Emma Carcagno Secretary, Newmarket
Don Briselden Exeter
Bill Campbell Exeter
Tom Chamberlin Exeter
Annie deCossy Rye
Bob Eaton Rye
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Robin Najjar Portsmouth
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Phil Auger Land Agent/Land Manager
Zoe Aldag Development Assistant
Deborah Goard Easement Stewardship Manager
Brian Hart Executive Director
Duane Hyde Land Protection Director
David Viale Land Protection & Stewardship Specialist

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

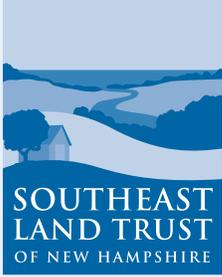
To contact the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, please call 603.778.6088 or e-mail info@seltnh.org.
 PO Box 675, Exeter, NH 03833
 Fax: 603.778.0007

Website: www.seltnh.org

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Kimball Reserve: An opportunity that can't be missed

See page 1

Celebrate at the Fall Foliage Fundraiser on October 24th!

See details below

Celebrate at our 12th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser!

A Watershed Moment: Celebrating the Merger of the Southeast Land Trust with Strafford Rivers Conservancy

Friday, October 24th ▪ 6 pm ▪ Portsmouth Harbor Events ▪ 100 Deer Street ▪ Portsmouth, NH

What's New This Year?

- **Electronic bidding:** our silent auction – featuring more than 100 items donated by local businesses – will be electronic and paperless this year, offering guests a more streamlined auction experience! Preview items in advance, set your maximum bid on your smartphone or with a bidding assistant, and spend more time with your friends – old and new.
- **New location:** Portsmouth Harbor Events & Conference Center offers expanded capacity, valet parking, and one floor access to all that this event offers – right in downtown Portsmouth.
- The event will feature **live music by Sea Smoke**, while delicious hors d'oeuvres, desserts, and complimentary beer & wine are served.
- Professional auctioneer Mark Fodero orchestrates our **Paddle Wave** for special gifts to the Land Trust and our **Live Auction**, which includes many exciting items – from vacations and sports packages to unique Seacoast offerings.

RSVP today! Purchase tickets and register for the auction at www.seltnh.org. Before October 17th: \$60 for members/ \$75 for non-members. All tickets \$75 after October 17th or at the door. ■

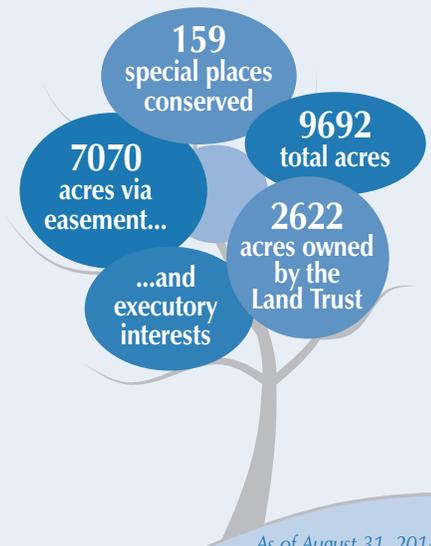


Cambridge Trust Company
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Land Protection

BY THE NUMBERS



As of August 31, 2014