



THIS LAND

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

\$99,000 Needed to Conserve Batchelder Farm in Hampton

For generations, Hampton residents and visitors have enjoyed the scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, and agricultural value of the Batchelder Farm on Exeter Road. Through a partnership effort of the Town of Hampton and Southeast Land Trust, the permanent protection of these sweeping scenic views is nearly complete. However, to succeed, an additional \$99,000 must be raised to acquire, conserve, and steward these 120-acres of open spaces.

“Batchelder Farm is a distinctive property in Hampton and the region, worthy of permanent protection due to its plentiful natural, cultural and historic values,” explains David Viale, Land Protection Specialist for the Land Trust and the lead staff person on the project. “The farm includes rich agricultural soils, beautiful open fields, and important wildlife habitat.”

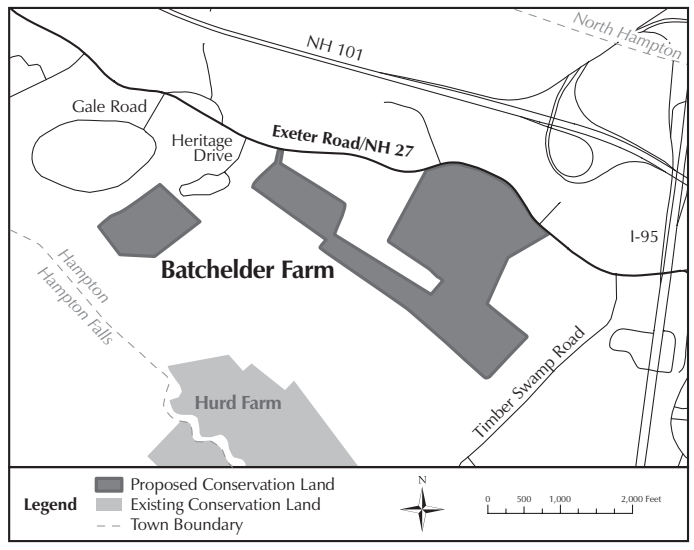
The Batchelder Farm is owned by members of the Batchelder family, descendants of Rev. Stephen Bachiler, who founded the town of Hampton in 1638-9. The farm has

been and remains a noteworthy part of Hampton history.

“The Batchelder Farm is one of the most unique properties in Hampton and has been a top priority of the Conservation Commission for years,” explains Jay Diener, Chairman of the Hampton Conservation Commission and member of the Committee to Conserve Batchelder Farm. “When you look at the historic significance of the property, in addition to its value for local agriculture, as wildlife habitat and for watershed protection, this is a very special part of Hampton that is important to preserve.”

As one of the largest undeveloped parcels remaining in Hampton, the farm includes approximately 88 acres of prime, statewide, and locally important agricultural soils, including 45 acres of open hay fields. The prime agricultural soils represent some of the state’s most productive soils and are important for providing a local food supply. The open fields on the property are currently farmed by the Hurd Family, whose farm was also protected in 2005.

continued on back page



The Southeast Land Trust and Town of Hampton are partnering to conserve the scenic, productive lands of the historic Batchelder Farm, pictured above. PHOTO COURTESY OF PETE INGRAHAM.



GET *Out & About*

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 Karen at 603.778.6088.

Directions and additional details will be sent to registrants.

Sledding at Scamman Farm, Stratham

**Saturday, January 21, 2012 •
9 am to 12 noon**

Bring your kids and grandkids and your sleds, toboggans, or inner tubes for a morning of exhilarating fun at the Scamman Farm! The best sledding hills are not visible from Route 108 – so come and be surprised. In between runs, enjoy hot cocoa and a campfire to keep you warm and refreshed. Pre-registration is required.

Mid-Winter Snowshoe at Mast Road Natural Area

**Saturday, February 4, 2012 •
9 am to 12 noon**

Join us for a fun snowshoe/winter walk to explore the now protected 531-acre Mast Road Natural Area. Recently acquired by the Southeast Land Trust, this wonderful property boasts over a mile of shoreline on the *Wild & Scenic* Lamprey River, exemplary wildlife habitats, and a black gum tree that could be the largest in the state! The tour leaders will be wildlife biologist Ellen Snyder of Ibis Wildlife Consulting and staff member David Viale. While trekking to view the candidate champion tree the

continued on next page

Linda's Ah-Ha Moment: *Why One Member Joined the Conservation Legacy Society*

Two years ago while attending the Southeast Land Trust's annual cookout, member Linda Ball had an "ah-ha" moment.

"I remember thinking, 'Wow, with just a little bit of money, I could help the Land Trust do its conservation work from now on,'" explains Linda. The Land Trust had just introduced the idea of the Conservation Legacy Society and had finished summarizing the organization's obligations to conserve, monitor, and defend its conservation easements – a perpetual responsibility.

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 its mission.

Linda notes that she had first heard about a bequest to support a charity from a friend who had made one to a national organization, adding, "I wanted to do something local and thought about it for a while." Her consideration of making a bequest came at the time for her and her husband to update their wills, so it was a convenient time to make the decision. Even if a will was just completed, adding a bequest is generally a simple addition.

As a now retired teacher, Linda explains: "I don't have a lot of money, but making a gift through the Conservation Legacy Society seemed like something so encouraging, so uplifting, knowing that I would be helping keep things going for later."

She has supported the Land Trust with gifts of about \$100 a year. Through her will, her estate will make a one time gift of \$5,000 to the organization's Endowed Annual Fund. The Endowed Annual Fund provides yearly support for the Land Trust's core mission of conservation and stewardship. Based on a distribution rate of 4%, Linda's bequest of \$5,000 gift should generate enough returns to provide about \$200 a year and guard against inflation. In essence, her bequest continues her current level of support in perpetuity.

What also motivated Linda was appreciation for the Land Trust's work for her community. In 2009, the Land Trust helped the Town acquire three scenic islands in the Piscataqua River. "When New Castle was considering the purchase the Back Channel Islands, the expertise and leadership that the Land Trust provided to us was immeasurable," explains Linda. "I wanted to be able to make that level of help possible for other land preservation efforts that may come along. It was really an expression of gratitude for what the Land Trust did for us in New Castle."

"It felt so good when I finally went and did it – it was not just an idea, but it was a reality!" exclaims Linda.

Have you named the Southeast Land Trust in your will or are you interested in learning more about gift planning? 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. ■

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

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 I to r: Brian Hart; Jerry Monkman, Ecophotography.com; Brian Hart; Peter Vandermark Page 2: Jerry Monkman, Ecophotography.com Page 3: Brian Hart; Page 4: Eva Powers

Pennsylvania Couple Donates 27 acres to Land Trust

This October the Southeast Land Trust received a generous gift from L. Paul and Elaine Sinotte of Pennsylvania. The Sinottes donated 27 acres of land off of Towle Road on the border of Kingston and Danville.

"When we learned about the conservation efforts of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, we believed it would be a good fit for our hopes to preserve open space in the area," explained Paul. "We hope that our donation will allow others the opportunity to enjoy the land."



Paul and Elaine Sinotte, pictured here with Executive Director Brian Hart, visited the office in October to complete the donation of their 27 acres in Kingston and Danville.

Portions of the property had been in the Sinotte family since 1925. Paul inherited the land from his mother and purchased adjacent lots over time – one from Public Service of New Hampshire and another from the Town of Kingston – that were primarily used for pure enjoyment. And while they live far away, Paul explained that: "we continually vacationed at the beaches in New Hampshire. While in the area we always enjoyed trips to the family's land. Growing up, my kids liked taking walks in the woods and we even went for a visit to the property after a major

snow storm (which they still talk about)." Historically, a cousin of Paul's mother had a cabin on the property and sold peat moss that he collected from its extensive wetlands.

What made peat moss harvesting possible also sparked the interest of the Land Trust in conserving the land. To better understand the ecological value of the property's wetlands, the Land Trust hired Dan Sperduto of Sperduto Ecological Services, LLC, to conduct a field evaluation. The quality of the property's extensive *sweet pepperbush wooded fen* was significant enough in Sperduto's eyes to recommend it to the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau as an exemplary natural community. Exemplary natural communities represent the best or only remaining examples in the state. (For more information on natural communities and systems, look for an upcoming presentation by Sperduto in March – more details on our website!) The wetlands, along with early successional habitat under PSNH transmission lines, and the dense forest along Towle Road create a moderate diversity of wildlife habitat.

Long-term, the Land Trust hopes to preserve connected wetlands systems and uplands on abutting lands in this vulnerable area near Route 111. Management activities have yet to be determined, but likely will be limited due to the extensive wetlands.

In making their gift of the land, Paul and Elaine also made a generous donation to support the Land Trust's long-term management and ownership costs. These funds will be used to cover future costs – such as payments in lieu of property taxes, a forest management plan, signs, and gates on the property. Thank you Paul and Elaine for partnering with the Southeast Land Trust to protect your family land! ■



Tussock sedge (*Carex stricta*) is one of the wetlands plants found on the Sinotte land, shown here in its classic tussock form; the second form is a colonial, laterally-spreading habit that lacks dense clusters.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DAN SPERDUTO.



GET Out & About

group will look for signs of wildlife and learn about the management goals for the property.

Snowshoe to Dead Pond at Pawtuckaway State Park, Deerfield

February 11, 2012 • 8 am to 11 am

This morning snowshoe will introduce you to one of the Southeast Land Trust's newest properties, the Howard Swain Memorial Forest. This 90-acre tract lies in Deerfield and Nottingham and directly abuts Pawtuckaway State Park. Our snowshoe will take us to Dead Pond and Rocky Ridge, the lip of an ancient volcano. Despite its ominous name, Dead Pond is one of the most ecologically diverse wetlands in Pawtuckaway State Park. Depending on snow conditions, participants may be able to reach the summit of Rocky Ridge. This will be a moderately strenuous snowshoe with some rugged terrain and boulders.

Board Members

Tom Chamberlin, President, Exeter
Hunter Brownlie, Vice President, Newmarket
Elisabeth Sanders, Treasurer, Danville
Bob Eaton, Secretary, Rye

Phil Auger, Brentwood
Don Briselden, Exeter
Emma Carcagno, Newmarket
Terry Coyle, Rye
Annie deCossy, Rye
Diane Forsyth, Rye
David Kirkpatrick, Portsmouth
Robin Najar, Portsmouth
Joan Pratt, Exeter
Rick Russman, Kingston
Ann Smith, Kensington
Roger Stephenson, Stratham
Chad Vanderbeck, Hampton
Dick Wollmar, North Hampton



*An Open Letter:
Thoughts on Our Mission in Today's Economy.*

December 1, 2011

Dear Member:

2011 has been a fantastic year for our shared efforts to conserve the most significant lands and natural resources in our region: we have protected more than 1,100 acres this year alone, representing 12% of the acreage protected by our organization. Wow!

I frequently use the term *special places* to describe the lands we've saved. Special places are the lands that feed your body, nourish your spirit, tell you when you've arrived home to the landscape we call New Hampshire.

I believe the work of the Southeast Land Trust remains critical, even during this prolonged economic disarray, when the catalog of needs feels deeper and broader than before. With all of the challenges facing us – political inertia, economic stagnation, and global tensions – what can be more important to our communities than saying we believe in the future?

For me, land conservation is a purely hopeful act – one that says this land, these resources, are worth saving, conserving, preserving, for the future.

This thought is now more poignant than ever before. This past January, my wife Sara, and I welcomed our firstborn, Kian Leopold. To us, the future means something different now. Each day we have a living reminder of tomorrow, one that we hold in our arms and that relies on us for all his needs.

Sara and I both work in the field of land conservation and chose the name Leopold in honor of Aldo Leopold, considered by many to be the father of the modern land trust movement. His best known work is *A Sand County Almanac*, published posthumously in 1949. In this seminal book, Leopold wrote: "We abuse land because we see it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect." Another quote worth repeating reads: "There are two things that interest me: the relation of people to each other and the relation of people to the land."

These lines written more than 60 years ago succinctly summarize land conservation and the work of the Southeast Land Trust. Through conservation easements and their restrictions, we reestablish the expectations for land ownership – to be sustainable, to consider more than just human needs, to see the land more than just as a collection of resources, but as a vibrant, living system. And through our work, we are resetting the relationship of people to land, creating a new land ethic that embraces open spaces as critical to our community and our future.

continued on back

Our stewardship of each easement and management of the land we own is truly as important as protecting new lands – as these steps sustain the evolution of our collective land ethic, of our community’s relationship to land.

Our work in 2012 – made possible with your continued support – will continue its four-pronged approach to conservation: 1) saving special places; 2) monitoring and enforcing each easement; 3) managing our lands for wildlife, recreation, water quality, and forestry; and 4) engaging the public in our mission. Our **land conservation program** will pursue new opportunities to save shoreline, farmland, and wildlife habitat, all while working to buffer and expand our existing blocks of protected lands. Our **easement stewardship** program – through volunteers and staff – will ensure the permanence of our past conservation work, through direct outreach to landowners, site visits and aerial monitoring. Our **land management** efforts will correct past abuses on the land while improving the public’s access to our protected lands and balancing human needs with the needs of nature. All of these efforts are united through **public engagement** – getting people out to the land through field trips, educating them through events like the Wild and Scenic Film Festival, and securing their support for our mission.

As you consider your end-of-the-year charitable giving, I ask you to consider an additional gift to the 2011 Annual Fund of the Southeast Land Trust. Think of it as an investment in the future, a sign of hope, a thank you to Aldo Leopold. You can use the enclosed envelope or give securely on-line at www.seltnh.org (click on Support Us). Large and small gifts from individuals represent more than 60% of our annual operating costs – so every gift helps!

With appreciation of your support,



Brian Hart
Executive Director

P.S. Interested in learning more about Aldo Leopold? This spring look for a showing of the film *Green Fire*, a documentary on his life and the land ethic!

Batchelder Farm, continued from page 1

In addition to being a significant resource to Hampton, the Batchelder property is a regional priority. The farm has been identified by the *Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds* and the *New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan* as being important for maintaining clean water, productive forests, important wildlife habitats, and recreational opportunities.

If the necessary funding is raised, the Land Trust and Town will acquire conservation easements to prohibit development while allowing sustainable forestry, farming and continued public access for passive recreation such as hiking, hunting, and snowshoeing. As with all easements, the landowners will continue to own the land and to pay property taxes. The conservation restrictions, held by the Southeast Land Trust, are permanent and will remain in place even if the land is sold or transferred.

Over the past year, the community effort to protect this landscape has been strong with nearly 90% of the funding already secured. The Town of Hampton voters overwhelmingly passed a \$250,000 appropriation in March, adding to the \$107,500 contributed from the Hampton Conservation Fund. The partnership secured funding of \$407,500 from the US Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program and \$30,000 from the Moose Plate Grant Program. The partners are working to raise the remaining \$99,000 by the end of 2011 through private gifts and grants.

Members may make a tax-deductible contribution to protect the Batchelder Farm by using the enclosed envelope or donating through a secure webpage www.ConserveBatchelderFarm.org. ■



Land Protection

BY THE NUMBERS

As of December 1, 2011, the Southeast Land Trust has conserved 137 special places totaling 8,104 acres:

- 5,772 acres via conservation easements and executory interests
- 2,332 acres owned by the Land Trust

Help Conserve the Batchelder Farm in Hampton!
Details on page 1

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*Formed by the merger of the
Rockingham Land Trust and Seacoast Land Trust*

PO Box 675
Exeter, New Hampshire 03833



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