



Pawtuckaway River Reservation Grows

218 acres of critical wildlife habitat and nearly a mile of shoreline protected

This spring the Southeast Land Trust completed two purchases of land in Epping and Raymond, permanently conserving more than 218 acres of forestland, floodplain, and wetlands with more than 4,200 feet of shoreline on the Pawtuckaway River. The Land Trust acquired the fee ownership of a 62-acre parcel in Epping owned by the estate of Virginia Bell and a 158-acre parcel in Epping and Raymond owned by a regional developer.

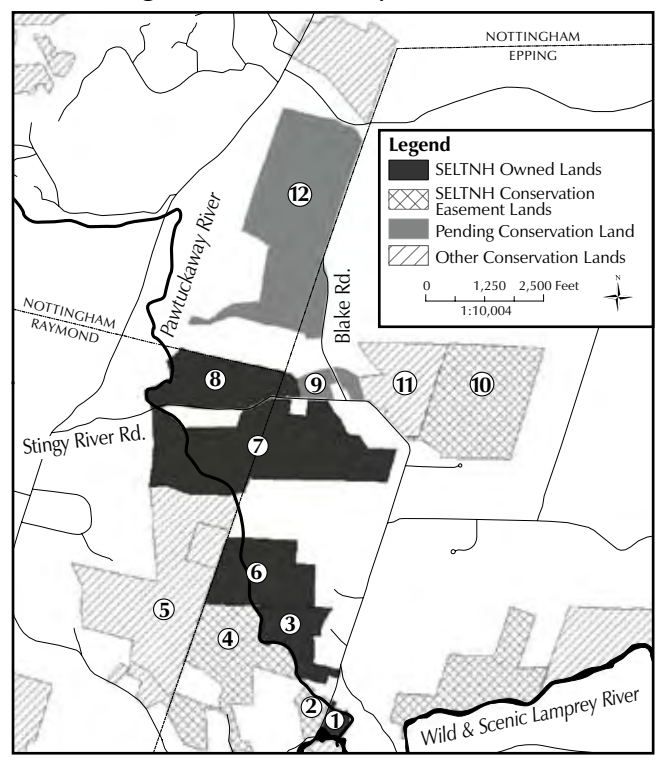
“These two projects represent our continued focus on conserving a large block of high quality wildlife habitat along the Pawtuckaway River,” explains Brian Hart, Executive Director. “These beautiful lands help sew together a patchwork quilt of public and private conservation lands that now total more than 500 acres along the Pawtuckaway River.”

These acquisitions add to the prior purchase of more than 100 acres and donated conservation easements of more than 250 acres. In fact, since 2007, eight properties along or near the Pawtuckaway River have been conserved through the work of the Southeast Land Trust and its partner organizations. Why is this area so significant?

The Pawtuckaway is one of the Lamprey River’s cleanest tributaries, beginning at Pawtuckaway Lake and connecting with the Lamprey in west Epping. The Pawtuckaway River is located within a core focus area of the *Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire’s Coastal Watershed*, a publicly-created blueprint that identifies large blocks of land throughout the region as top priorities for land conservation due to water quality, wildlife, and ecological benefits. These particular acquisitions conserved 110-acres of Hemlock-hardwood-pine matrix forest, large, diverse beaver flowages associated

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Conserving The Pawtuckaway River Corridor



Boundary and feature locations are approximate. Map prepared by Southeast Land Trust of NH, May, 2011

Progress on the Pawtuckaway

1. Hauser Tract	7 acres, acquired 2009
2. Brown Easement	11 acres, acquired 2009
3. Pernokas Tract	30 acres, acquired 2008
4. Primack Easement	91 acres, donated 1998
5. Cramer-Evans Easement	164 acres, donated 1999
6. Bell Tract	62 acres, acquired 2011
7. Harbor Street Tract	158 acres, acquired 2010
8. Bond Tract	60 acres, acquired 2008
9. Denoncour Easement	15 acres, pending 2011
10. Parke I Easement	109 acres, bargain sale 2007
11. Parke II Easement	60 acres, acquired 2010
12. Sullos Woodlands	175 acres, pending 2011



GET *Out & About*

Conservation Celebration and Cookout

**Saturday, June 4, 2011 - 10:15am-
3pm - Scamman Farm, Stratham**

Celebrate the more than 850 acres of open spaces conserved in 2010 at our Conservation Celebration and Cookout at the Scamman Farm in Stratham and enjoy a local food-focused cookout. More details on the back page and our website.

Second Annual Blueberry Day

Saturday, July 30 - 9am start - Epping

Land trust member and conservation easement donor Isobel Parke has graciously agreed to host a member-only blueberry picking day at her farm in west Epping! Participants will pick highbush blueberries and receive one pint for free. Each additional pint picked will be at market cost. You are welcome to bring a picnic and spend the day walking her woodland trails or nearby Land Trust properties. Space is limited so reserve your spot soon! (Participants must be current members of the Southeast Land Trust.)

What's So Great About a Shrub Thicket?

By Emma Carcagno & Malin Clyde, UNH Cooperative Extension

Impenetrable and dense, shrublands are often ignored and undervalued by people. But don't be fooled by appearances. For some species of wildlife, such as New England cottontail rabbits, American woodcock, and ruffed grouse, shrublands provide the best possible cover. The shrubs and young trees growing here also produce berries and fruit eaten by many different birds and mammals.

Shrubland habitats contain thickets of shrubs and young trees mixed with scattered grasses and wildflowers. Large shrublands – those greater than five acres – are relatively rare in New Hampshire. Typical plants include dogwood, alder, *Viburnum*, pin-cherry, and many other species.

Over the past one hundred years, there has been a dramatic decrease in the amount of shrubland in New Hampshire. Land-use change, human development, fewer large beaver impoundments, and fire suppression have led to a decline in many wildlife species that depend on shrublands. Twenty-two of our forty shrubland bird species show

population declines. Shrub-dependent New England cottontails occur in less than 25% of their historic range and are now listed as an endangered species in New Hampshire.

Most large shrublands in New Hampshire are found on old fields and pastures, power-line corridors, gravel pits, and in recent clearcuts. These shrublands exist as a result of human activities – through mowing, tree cutting, or abandonment of agricultural fields. Landowners and communities can maintain shrubland habitat with periodic cutting of small patches over time. Shrublands can be mowed every 3-5 years with smaller equipment such as a brush hog or brush saw, or every 5-10 years with larger equipment such as a “brontosaurus” mower (an excavator with a flailing head attachment that cuts and shreds the woody material). Financial and technical help is available to landowners interested in creating or maintaining this habitat. Contact your UNH Cooperative Extension county forester for more information about these programs (www.nhwoods.org). ■



Southeast Land Trust recently created approximately four acres of shrubland habitat on the Pernokas Tract of the Pawtuckaway River Reservation in Epping.



Using a brontosaurus, contractor John Brown & Sons mowed down the tall brush and small trees to re-establish the shrubby habitat.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELLEN SNYDER

Be not simply good – be good for something: *A remembrance of Gordon Young*

The following is a remembrance read by board member Robin Najar at the life celebration of Gordon Young, a past board member of the Seacoast Land Trust, who passed away on April 20, 2011.

Gordon had a real love for this little postage stamp of the world that we call home. He had true a sense of place that defined him. He believed that this community that we call home is filled with special places, values and memories should not be abandoned in the name of, so called, progress. That we should tread lightly on this world and leave it a splendid place... for his children, grandchildren... for all of us.

This commitment to the land made him a natural to be involved protecting open space in our community and gave me the opportunity to become aware of the many gifts he possessed as a man.

I first became aware of one of his many gifts at a lunch meeting at the old Metro Restaurant. I had known Gordon casually over the years through friends and cocktails parties. As we were beginning to get the Seacoast Land Trust up and running, I was asked to solicit Gordon for his financial help in sustaining the organization. Some folks may call this development work. I called it terror...

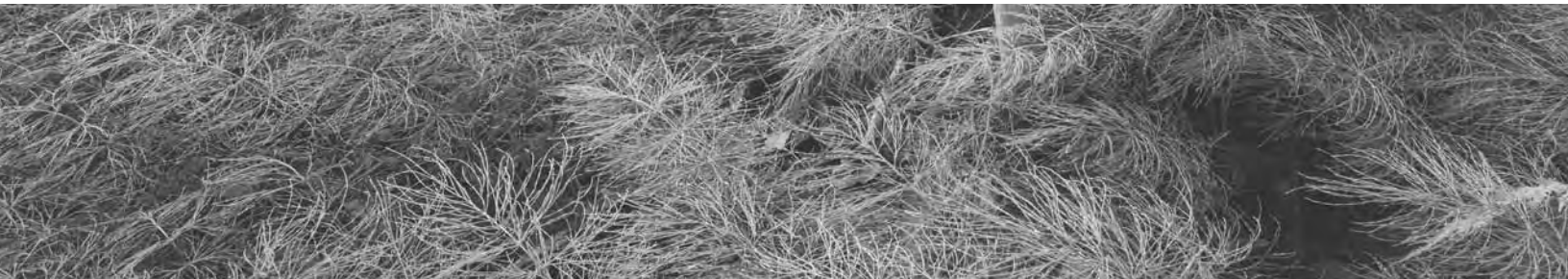
I met Gordon for a lovely lunch at the Metro and we proceeded to have an awkward conversation about the land trust, with me spouting off nearly every fact, figure and talking point about our burgeoning land trust. I was pulling out maps, brochures, and financial statements. He sat patiently and quietly back while I was nervously doing everything I could to avoid making what those in the business call... the ASK. And here is the gift that Gordon gave me that day... He quietly looked up after the waitress had delivered our chowder, in his patient, and kind way and said, "Was there something that you were meaning to ask me, because if you were... I would be happy to support the land trust. Now let's just eat lunch and relax."



COURTESY OF MARIANNE PERNOLD YOUNG

Gordon soon became a valuable board member and his gifts to the organization grew. He used his experience and talents in business to guide us in creating a mission and a vision of what we could accomplish. He was a quiet and steadying force and used his love for this community and its special places as his compass. He was more than just a board member who came to meetings and voted. He helped us find new office space and even helped paint the place, he'd pick up a hammer and nails and helped to build a much needed kiosk at the Seacoast Land Trust's very first protected piece of land, The Great Bog. He went on walks in the Great Bog, kayak trips on Sagamore Creek and Berry's Brook, served on both the land protection and finance committees. He did this all in his quiet, kind and gentle way...

I think Gordon lived his life, with the words of Henry David Thoreau in mind. "Be not simply good – be good for something." And good for something he was... By and through his gifts, his splendid legacy lives on in 8,000 acres that the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire has protected to date. The open fields, unfragmented forests, and even islands that he so loved are protected in perpetuity for generations of Seacoast residents to come. His lasting gift as a Partner in Conservation will ensure that we can continue the work that he so loved... the protection of Open Space in the community to which he belonged. His connection to Place. This PLACE we call home. So when you think about the natural places you love, the open fields, forests and islands that make our community so special... Think of Gordon. For that is his special gift to all of us. ■



The Southeast Land Trust is honored to be selected as a recipient of gifts in memory of Gordon Young. If you are interested in designating a gift in his or another loved one's memory, simply write "in memory of [name]" in your check's memo field and send to us at PO Box 675, Exeter, NH 03833.



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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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Pawtuckaway River Reservation Grows, continued from page 1

with the river, red maple floodplain forest, forested/scrub-shrub wetlands including an exemplary alder-dogwood-arrowwood alluvial thicket, vernal pools, and upland oak-beech-pine forests of mixed ages. These diverse habitats provide known and potential habitat for four state endangered species, one state threatened species, and four species of conservation concern, as well as two rare and endangered plant species. All of this adds up to a high priority for our conservation efforts!

The conservation of the Bell Tract was also long a goal of the owner Virginia Bell, who unfortunately passed away in October 2010 prior to the successful protection of her much-loved land. Ginia, as she was known, called her property Wintergreen Woods and even hand drew an accurate topographic map when she first bought the property in 1980, showing the wetlands, beaver flows, and trails. (To view her map, visit www.seltnh.org, and mouse over to *Protected Properties, Reservations, Pawtuckaway River – Bell Tract.*)

“Ginia loved the land,” explains her niece Beth Hostetter. “She knew every inch... each rock, tree, where and when the wintergreen came up, what route the wild turkeys would take, how many beavers there were. Ginia was excited to be part of the Southeast Land Trust and her family is proud to be a small part in honoring her wishes to protect her land.”

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The larger 158-acre parcel was purchased from a regional developer who acquired it as part of a larger assemblage from an out-of-state landowner. Once planned for up to 29 houses, the developer recognized the property’s conservation value and provided the Land Trust with the opportunity and time to conserve it.

Now, as part of the Land Trust’s larger Pawtuckaway River Reservation, both Ginia’s land and the almost-developed land will now be managed and stewarded for wildlife habitat, water quality, and public outdoor recreation. “One of our long-term goals is to establish a trail network linking public and private conservation lands, allowing the public to enjoy this beautiful, remote river corridor,” explains Hart.

To complete the purchases, the Land Trust secured a series of matching grants totaling more than \$1 million in federal, state, local, and private funds to conserve the properties. A key grant came from the highly competitive Saving New England Wildlife Fund managed by the Open Space Conservancy, Inc. The Open Space Conservancy, Inc. is an affiliate of the Open Space Institute, Inc. and is managing the Saving New England Wildlife Fund, a \$6 million fund established with a lead grant from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation in order to protect the wildlife habitat in northern New England.

An additional significant grant of nearly \$87,000 was provided by the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Other key funding was provided by the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC), U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service’s Wetlands Reserve Program, North America Wetlands Conservation Act, and private donors. ■

E-News is Waiting for You!

E-News is a simple, paper-free way to stay on top of our work, learn about special events, and get the inside scoop before anyone else! More than 200 people have signed up – have you? It’s easy – just visit our website and enter your e-mail address and name in the upper left corner!

Habitat Stewardship Series Brochures Available

Interested in learning more about different habitats and how to conserve important wildlife habitats found on your or your Town's land? UNH Cooperative Extension has created brochures about habitat types critical for wildlife species at risk in the state, including Shorelines, Headwater Streams, Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine Forests, Grasslands, Vernal Pools, Marsh & Shrub Wetlands, Floodplain Forests, Peatlands, Appalachian Oak-Pine Forests, and Shrublands. These colorful brochures include practical information for landowners. Pictures and text explain how to identify habitat types, describe the major threats to the health of those habitats, and offer information about wildlife species that depend on each habitat. The brochures also provide specific management recommendations for landowners interested in helping to conserve the wildlife that depend on each critical habitat type. Brochures can be downloaded for free at www.nhwoods.org or landowners may receive a single set free through the UNH Forestry Information Center (call 1.800.444.8978, e-mail forest.info@unh.edu). ■



Volunteer SHOUT OUT

Office Volunteers Needed!

Do you have a few spare hours to help around our office? We periodically need help with mailings, filing and other office projects, generally for 3-4 hours at a time. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen McCormack at info@seltnh.org or 778.6088.

Help Stop an Alien Invasion!

Enjoy being outdoors and seeing new conservation lands? Willing to work occasionally on pulling non-native, invasive plants? Then please consider joining the Volunteer Invasives Crew and help stop an alien invasion.

Alien invasive plants are non-native, exotic plants that typically crowd out native plants, negatively impacting plant communities and associated wildlife habitat. In our region, examples included Purple Loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and Russian olive.

The Southeast Land Trust's goal is to manage invasive species on our properties by reducing, and eliminating when possible, plant populations. Volunteers will help do this by spending a few hours cutting and pulling invasive plants throughout the year. To sign up, please e-mail info@seltnh.org and put "Invasive plant" in the subject line. We will contact you periodically about opportunities to help stop the alien invasion on our properties!

Film Festival a Wild Success!

Nearly 400 people attended the first Wild and Scenic Film Festival hosted by the Southeast Land Trust and The Music Hall. The festival included nine short films with the audience favorite being Meet Your Farmer, a Maine-made film about four farming families and their struggles to farm in the modern world. Thanks to our partner, The Music Hall, and our business sponsors Coastal Home, Green Rides USA, Northland Forest Products, Pax World Funds, Philbrick's Fresh Market, and Upton & Hatfield, LLP. Finally, we want to thank Veris Wealth Partners for their generous underwriting of our Klean Kanteen membership incentive! ■

Comings & Goings

Long-time Conservation Lands Stewardship Manager Karin Rubin has taken a break from conservation, leaving the Land Trust in mid-February. Karin was the second employee of the then Rockingham Land Trust, creating and instituting our easement stewardship and land management programs. Her dedication to excellence, hard work, and commitment to land conservation will be missed.

Arriving in the restructured position of Easement Stewardship Manager is Deborah Goad, who will be responsible for all facets of our easement monitoring program. For the past three years, Deborah worked as the Strafford County Extension Educator for Forest Resources, where she worked with landowners and communities on forest management, wildlife habitat management and conservation of their lands. Prior to coming to NH, she worked as a Watershed Forester and Forest Resource Specialist for the Kansas Forest Service. Deborah is a NH-licensed forester with a Masters degree in Forest Hydrology and sits on the Land Protection Committee of the Strafford Rivers Conservancy. ■

Conservation Celebration and Cookout

Saturday, June 4, 2011 - 10:15am-3pm - Scamman Farm, Stratham

Celebrate the more than 850 acres of open spaces conserved in 2010 at our Conservation Celebration and Cookout at the Scamman Farm in Stratham! Lorraine Stuart Merrill, Stratham farmer and current Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, will join us for the celebration and share her thoughts on the local food movement, land conservation, and how these two vibrant efforts are interrelated and interdependent. Following her talk, you will enjoy a local food-focused cookout, with hamburgers from Stuart Farm, sausages from New Roots Farm, and salad greens from Barker's Farm! After lunch, join landowner Doug Scamman for a walking tour of the 206-acre Scamman Farm, protected in early 2011. A big thank you to our generous sponsors: Gary Blake SAAB, Keystone Press, LLC, McFarland Ford, Barker's Farm, New Roots Farm, Stuart Farm, and Philbrick's Fresh Market. The cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children over six. Please register to ensure that we have enough delicious food! More details on the website! ■



Scamman Farm, Stratham

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Land Protection BY THE NUMBERS

As of May 1, 2011, the
Southeast Land Trust has
conserved 7,787 acres:

- 5,756 acres in conservation easements and executory interests
- 2,030 acres in fee ownership

*Join us for the Conservation Celebration and Cookout!
Saturday, June 4 - Scamman Farm, Stratham - Details on back page*

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

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