

THIS LAND

NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE SOUTHEAST LAND TRUST OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Two Families Conserve 550+ Acres of Forestland

This August the Tucker and French families completed the conservation of their land totaling 563 acres of forestland and wetlands in Kingston, Danville, and Brentwood. These lands, conveyed to the Southeast Land Trust subject to conservation easements held by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, create the Land Trust's largest ownership and represent the culmination of three years of work.

Both the Tucker Family Forest and French Family Forest fall within a conservation focus area within Kingston and Danville identified in 2005 by the Southeast Land Trust as a top priority for our work (*see map on page 5*). The properties represent the highest co-occurrence of natural

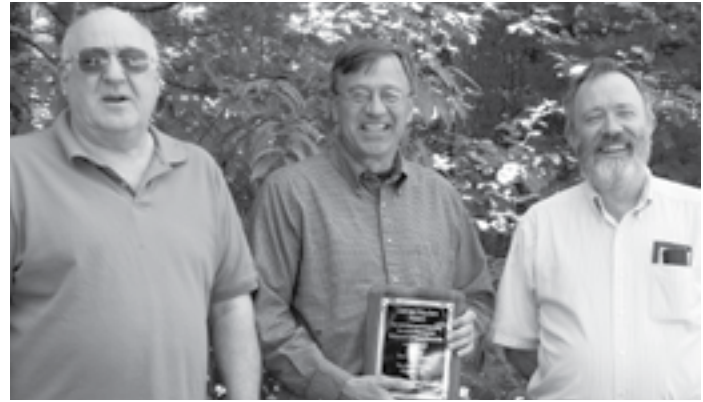
"The protection of these lands will ensure that this large block of open space remains undeveloped and available for the public's benefit and enjoyment," notes Brian Hart, Executive Director of the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire. "Because of the landowners' patience, we were able to come to agreement on an approach that achieves their goals, and those of the Town and the Land Trust."

In 2007, brothers Bill, John, and George Tucker first approached the Land Trust to discuss the conservation of land they inherited upon the passing of their parents, Moses and Ellen. Located off Tucker Road and North Road in Kingston, the 193 acres were acquired by their parents over the course of decades. John described the forest as "my father's playground," where Moses conducted periodic timber harvests – of course with his children's help. The Tucker Forest includes extensive frontage on the Class VI portion of Tucker Road and a large beaver-influenced wetlands complex that provides habitat for a diversity of waterfowl and several turtle species that are in decline.

The second property acquired consists of seven parcels of land owned by Meadowsend Timberlands Limited Partnership, a forest products business owned by the French family. The Frenches have a long commitment to land conservation, with family members serving on the boards of various conservation organizations including the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests and the national Land Trust Alliance. This land, to be called the French Family Forest, totals 370 acres, with the majority of the land adjacent to and near the Tucker Family Forest.

"Our family has a great interest in preserving the remaining rural qualities of Rockingham County, having owned property here since 1928," explained Steve French, managing partner of Meadowsend Timberlands. "Because Kingston has been the home of our lumber business since

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The Tucker brothers Bill, George, and John (l to r), along with the French Family were honored by the Rockingham Planning Commission with the James Hayden Environmental Award for their decision to permanently conserve their family land with the Southeast Land Trust.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELE PECKHAM.

resource values within the area, with significant wetland resources, including more than 170 acres of diverse wetlands that include streams, 20+ vernal pools, emergent marsh, scrub-shrub, and forested wetlands and frontage on the Little River. In addition, the acquisitions will ensure continued public access for outdoor recreation, including hiking, skiing, fishing, and hunting.



GET *Out & About*

Our field trips are free unless otherwise noted, and open to the public.

Registration is required.

Please call 603.778.6088 or e-mail kmccormack@seltnh.org. Directions will be provided to registrants.

Back Channel Islands Autumn Paddle

**Saturday, September 25, 2010 •
10a.m.–1p.m. • Portsmouth**

The Southeast Land Trust and Portsmouth Kayak Adventures are teaming up to offer you an enjoyable and informative kayak trip through New Castle’s beautiful Back Channel. Enjoy a fun family outing, make new friends, and enjoy the crisp autumn weather. While no one can predict wildlife sightings or New Hampshire weather, we may see fox, great blue herons, deer, common eiders, bald eagles, and gorgeous fall foliage. This is a great opportunity to learn from local experts about coastal ecology and the history of New Castle’s Back Channel Islands. Bring your own kayak or contact Portsmouth Kayak Adventures to arrange for a rental. Be sure to mention the Southeast Land Trust for a discount. Portsmouth Kayak Adventures is located at 185 Wentworth Road in Portsmouth and can be reached at 603.559.1000 or info@portsmouthkayak.com.

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Now and Forever: Introducing the Conservation Legacy Society

In each of the past two years, the Southeast Land Trust has received a generous surprise – a very substantial bequest (a gift made through a will), from a member of the organization. The first bequest was from Wilbur Hennings, a resident of Riverwoods, who was introduced to the Land Trust through former board member Forest Griffin. The second gift was from a long-time donor who wished to remain anonymous. Both cared deeply enough about the farms, forests, water, and wildlife of southeastern New Hampshire to make one final gift, a bequest to the Southeast Land Trust.

While the Hennings’ bequest was unrestricted, the Board of Directors decided to divide the proceeds between the organization’s endowment at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Sweet Land Protection Fund, an internal revolving loan fund used to acquire priority lands when time is short. “This wonderful, generous bequest has made a lasting impact on our organization, helping us ensure a strong future by growing our endowment and by increasing the available funds to conserve priority lands,” explained Tom Chamberlin, President of the Land Trust.

The Conservation Legacy Society is the Land Trust’s way of celebrating and recognizing donors like Wilbur Hennings who have made a commitment to our mission of protecting lands through a bequest or similar planned gift. Membership in the Conservation Legacy Society is automatically granted to those supporters who have advised us of their decision to remember the Land Trust through a planned gift.

Recently long-time member Isobel Parke explained her reasons for choosing the Land Trust as a beneficiary of her will. “First, I think the slogan ‘think globally but act locally’ makes sense. Or to put it another way, you can’t save the whole world but you can do something for your own community. Second, I believe that being local means that the Board and members of the Land Trust have greater investment as stewards of the land and more immediate contact with local communities in discussing how its use can enrich the neighborhood.”



Isobel Parke. PHOTO BY AND COURTESY OF PAULA SINGER.

“...I think the slogan ‘think globally but act locally’ makes sense. Or to put it another way, you can’t save the whole world but you can do something for your own community...”

Whatever your reason for supporting the Land Trust, your gift will be used in accordance with your wishes – such as protecting new lands or monitoring our current easements.

Sometimes supporters can make a donation through a bequest that is far larger than what they can afford during their lifetime. We encourage you to consider making a bequest to the Endowed Annual Fund equal to 20 times your annual support. The principal of your gift would be preserved – much like the land we have protected together – with the land trust receiving

the annual interest earned. Assuming a 5% yield on that principal, a \$2,000 bequest would provide the land trust with \$100 annually – forever!

Would you like to learn more? Or have you already made the decision to name the Land Trust in your will? You may request our printed brochure on the Conservation Legacy Society by e-mail info@seltnh.org or you may discuss your interest by calling Brian Hart, Executive Director, at 778.6088. All inquiries remain confidential. ■

30 Years: Celebrating our Past and Planning Our Future

This article is a revised version of Brian Hart's comments shared at the 2010 Annual Meeting. The comments sparked a lively discussion among those present. You are invited to share your thoughts directly with the Land Trust by e-mailing Brian at bhart@seltnh.org or by calling 778.6088.

In 1980, a small band of Exeter citizens formed the Rockingham Land Trust, focused on protecting open spaces in the face of tremendous development in the Exeter region. Eighteen years later, Portsmouth residents founded the Seacoast Land Trust to conserve the fragile resources of seacoast New Hampshire. And in 2006, these two organizations merged and formed the Southeast Land Trust. It's amazing that in the past 30 years, these grassroots efforts resulted in the permanent protection of more than 6,000 acres of land through greater Rockingham County.

As we have grown and matured, our efforts have become more focused and more strategic to ensure the most important lands and natural and community resources are protected. We've become more aggressive and more risk tolerant in pursuing important properties and creating the opportunity to see those critical lands conserved. We formed strategic partnerships with communities and like-organizations, such as the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, to advance our common goals.

A few years ago the Board of Directors adopted several focus areas, guiding the staff's work in reaching out to landowners. 2009 saw and 2010 will see continuing progress in two of those areas, the Pawtuckaway to Great Bay and the Sandown-Danville-Kingston Corridor (see article on page 1). In the Pawtuckaway area, we will have completed ten projects along or near the river since 2007! And in the latter, three years of work culminated in the acquisition and ownership of 563 acres – all in the core area of that region.

As we celebrate this year and the past 30 years, I'd ask you to reflect on the

challenges we are facing as we look to the future:

- Development pressures have subsided for now, but the long-term prognosis is for continued residential development in our suburban and rural areas, especially once I-93 is widened. The time to act is now.
- Water quality in Great Bay is getting worse and worse due to higher nitrogen levels from non-point source pollution, a direct result of more lawns and pavement within our watershed.
- Public funding on all levels is probably going to be reduced in the future. Municipal funding in Rockingham County may have peaked in 2003-4, as millions were approved for open space bonds. But has the bond bubble now popped? State funding through LCHIP is constantly at risk, raided once again this year to fill the annual budget gap. By all accounts, federal funding will have to drop to face mounting deficits.
- Easement donations have dropped due to higher property values and the influx of available bond funds from towns.

It's easy to get overwhelmed by these challenges but I'd like to remind you that no one would have predicted that at the beginning of the new millennium towns like Stratham, Newfields, and Exeter would have passed millions in bonds for open space protection. We can't know for certain what the future holds, but we can make informed projections and plan as wisely as possible.

I'd like to share an exercise with you that the Board of the Land Trust has begun as part of our collective thinking about what we should be focused on today, given these challenges, our goals, and our pattern of success.

The year is 2035: Rockingham County has a population of more than 400,000 people and is built out, with no more significant open space available for development or conservation. The Southeast Land Trust has continued to protect

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GET Out & About

Volunteer Work Days

Volunteer to Help Stop the Alien Invasion! See article on page 4 for details on these volunteer opportunities.

Two Rivers Wildlife Preserve

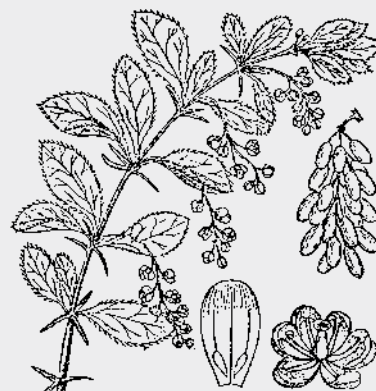
Saturday, September 11 ▪

8:30a.m.–12:30p.m. ▪ Epping

Cole Farm

Saturday, October 2 ▪

9–12p.m. ▪ Newfields



European barberry (*Berberis vulgaris* L.), also referred to as common barberry is a prohibited invasive species in New Hampshire.

COURTESY OF USDA-NRCS PLANTS DATABASE / BRITTON, N.L., AND A. BROWN. 1913. AN ILLUSTRATED FLORA OF THE NORTHERN UNITED STATES, CANADA AND THE BRITISH POSSESSIONS. VOL. 2: 127.

Fall Foliage Fundraiser

Saturday, November 6, 2010 ▪

6–10:30p.m. ▪

Discovery Center, Portsmouth

The 8th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser – the Land Trust's most important fundraising event – will be at a new venue, the Discover Portsmouth Center! As always there will be live music, delicious cuisine, and beer and wine. See article on page 6 for more information.



Exeter's Travel & Nature Celebrates with Land Trust

In recognition of Travel & Nature's 20th anniversary, business owners Rob and Sue Garneau wanted to do more than just celebrate with a party and cake – they wanted to make a difference in their community. This spring they decided to celebrate and share in their business's success by contributing twenty percent of a week's sales to the Southeast Land Trust.

Travel & Nature is a locally-owned and operated adventure outfitter which focuses on people with a passion for travel and love for the outdoors, so "supporting the Southeast Land Trust was an easy decision. Helping a local organization protect our special places is one way to give back to the community that has helped our business thrive," explained Garneau. In early May, Garneau presented the land trust with a check for \$410.00.

Thank you Travel & Nature!

Stop the Alien Invasion!

Don't look to the skies, but rather the ground, and help the Southeast Land Trust stop an alien invasion of plants on two reservations owned by the Land Trust!

Two Rivers Wildlife Preserve, Epping

On **Saturday, September 11th from 8:30a.m.–12:30p.m.** we will hand pull or dig small seedlings of invasive plants including glossy buckthorn, bush honeysuckle, and autumn olive at the **Two Rivers Wildlife Preserve in Epping**. This 72-acre reservation lies at the confluence of the North River with the Lamprey River, off Dimond Hill Road in northeast Epping. The invasive plants grow in a reclaimed gravel pit and around a constructed wildlife pond. Wildlife abounds on this property and we will be sure to take time to take in any sightings. If you like to weed your garden, you will love pulling out invasive plants, knowing that the remaining native flowers and shrubs will provide better habitat for wildlife.

Cole Farm, Newfields

We also need volunteers for a follow-up day of invasive species management at the **Cole Farm in Newfields on Saturday, October 2, from 9a.m.–12p.m.** On this day we will gather and pile invasive plant stems that were cut and treated by a contractor and pull any remaining seedlings. Many invasive plants – buckthorn, honeysuckle, autumn olive, bittersweet, barberry, and others – are growing in along the field edges and riparian corridor, edging out native plants and invading the field. The Cole Farm offers a scenic backdrop and opportunities to watch wildlife as we gather invasive plants.

In addition to fulfilling work, your volunteer hours will help the Land Trust secure matching cost-share funds for these wildlife habitat improvement projects. No previous experience is needed. Bring gloves and wear long pants and long-sleeved shirt. We may encounter poison ivy and some invasive plants are scratchy. We will provide water and snacks. To sign up, please contact Karen McCormack at 778.6088 or info@seltnh.org. ■

30 Years: Celebrating our Past and Planning Our Future, continued...

land at its average pace (around 700 acres a year) using the same techniques (easements and ownership) at the same ratio since hiring its first staff person in 2002. By 2035, whatever land is left is either prohibitively expensive or not of sufficient conservation value to warrant its permanent protection.

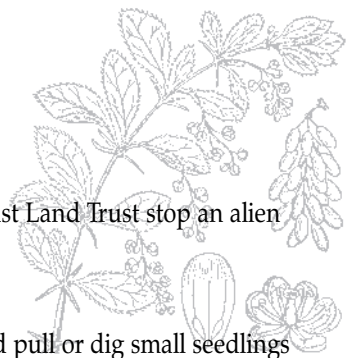
Under these assumptions, the Southeast Land Trust will have protected a total of 24,000 acres of land, four times our acreage in 2010! If current trends continue, we will:

- Hold 366 conservation easements protecting 17,500 acres of land (note: as of this writing, we hold 111 easements totaling 5,380 acres)
- Own 6,500 acres of land through 100 different properties (note: as of this writing, we own twelve properties totaling 908 acres)

As you consider this scenario and what it means, please reflect on the following questions:

- What do these assumptions about the future and their implications mean for our work today? Should we be doing anything differently? Should we be doing more of the same?
- Does this change your perspective on our current work and focus?
- If the Southeast Land Trust is not protecting new properties in 2035, who will be supporting us and why would they support us?

We don't have the answers to these questions – and are looking for your help in considering them and shaping the future of our organization and southeastern New Hampshire. The Board of Directors invites you to share your ideas, comments, criticisms, and suggestions. Please e-mail bhart@seltnh.org or call Brian at 778.6088. ■



Two Families Conserve 550+ Acres of Forestland, continued...

1970, we really wanted to see the land stay as an asset for the benefit of town without costing the town people a lot of money. The Wetlands Reserve Program seemed like the ideal way to do that.”

Both families conserved their lands through two transactions. First, each family sold a conservation easement on the property to the federal Wetlands Reserve Program. The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service. WRP is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore, and enhance wetlands on their property.

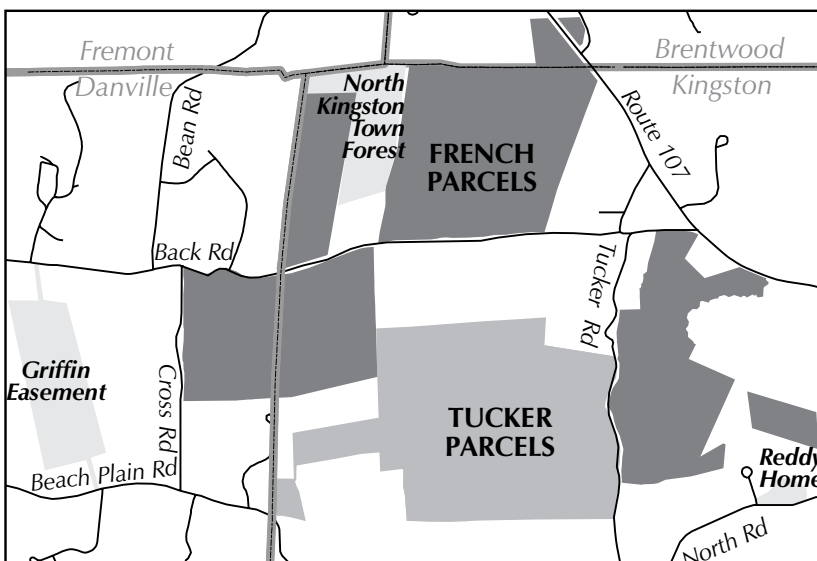
“The Tucker and Meadowsend properties are a great example of how the Wetlands Reserve Program has grown to be an important vehicle for the protection and restoration of New Hampshire’s wetlands,” said Rick Ellsmore, NRCS State Conservationist. “Conserving and restoring properties with a diversity of wetlands is a goal of the Federal Wetlands Reserve Program. Thanks to the Land Trust for their hard work and dedication to help these landowners and NRCS protect and restore this land and its critical wildlife habitat, wetlands, and forestland.”

The WRP goal is to achieve the greatest wetland functions and values, along with optimum wildlife habitat, on every acre enrolled in the program. This program offers

landowners an opportunity to establish long-term conservation and wildlife practices and protection. Following the conveyance of the conservation easement to WRP, the families conveyed the now-protected land to the Land Trust, which will own and manage it with a focus on wildlife habitat, wetlands preservation, compatible recreation, and forestry. Additional funding was provided by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act program.

“We are pleased to know that these lands will be conserved as open space and productive forestland, and in the good hands of the Southeast Land Trust,” notes French. “They worked tirelessly for more than a year now to bring this deal to completion. In fact I would say the deal would not have happened if it wasn’t for the Land Trust’s efforts and commitment.”

While the acquisition is complete, much work remains to ensure that the important conservation values of this land are protected and enhanced. With a myriad of trails and skid roads throughout the properties, off-highway recreational vehicles have historically had unfettered and destructive access, causing significant erosion and sedimentation. With funding from the Wetlands Reserve Program, the Land Trust will be installing gates and other access controls this fall to prevent additional damage. Over the next year, additional work will be done to fix the damaged trails and close unneeded ones. ■



Together, the Tucker and French forests help create a nearly contiguous block of conservation land along the Kingston-Danville border.



“Our family has a great interest in preserving the remaining rural qualities of Rockingham County, having owned property here since 1928,” explained Steve French... “Because Kingston has been the home of our lumber business since 1970, we really wanted to see the land stay as an asset for the benefit of the town without costing the town people a lot of money. The Wetlands Reserve Program seemed like the ideal way to do that.”

Board Members

Tom Chamberlin, President, Exeter
Richard Adams, Vice President, Portsmouth
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Phil Auger, Brentwood
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Ann Smith, Kensington
Roger Stephenson, Stratham
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Fall Fundraiser moves to Downtown Portsmouth!

The 8th Annual Fall Foliage Fundraiser – the Land Trust’s most important fundraising event – will be at a new venue, the Discover Portsmouth Center on **Saturday, November 6th from 6–10:30p.m.**! As always there will be live music, delicious cuisine, beer from Smuttynose Brewing Company and Redhook Ale Brewery and wine from Philbrick’s Fresh Market.

The evening features separate silent and live auctions. The silent auction lets you have the chance to bid on any number of items by writing your name and bid amount for the particular item. At the close of the silent auction, the highest bidder wins. Of course, you can also participate in the evening’s live auction and enjoy the playful banter of the auctioneer and bidding wars between friends! With more than 100 items donated by local and national

merchants – including artwork, jewelry, crafts, sporting goods, vacation packages, gift certificates to local spas and restaurants, and tickets to many local and Boston sporting events – there is something for everyone (think easy holiday shopping!)

Save the date!
8th Annual Fall Fundraiser
Saturday, November 6, 2010

Bring a friend, make it a night out on the town, and support the Southeast Land Trust at this fun, festive evening. Enjoy the food, music and good company and leave with fantastic purchases and the knowledge that all proceeds from this event will support land conservation in southeastern New Hampshire. Tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 after October 22nd or at the door. Please call Karen McCormack at 778.6088 or send an e-mail to tickets@seltnh.org to reserve your spot. For details on the auction items, please visit our website at www.seltnh.org. ■



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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Join us for the Fall Fundraiser!
Saturday, November 6 • Details on page 6

550+ acres protected!
See page 1

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Rockingham Land Trust and Seacoast Land Trust*

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