



SELTeverlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

When the first issue of Everlasting came out in March of 2012, it included, as they all do, an update of conservation by the numbers. Just seven years ago, SELT held 125 conservation easements on just over 5,000 acres and owned 2,333 acres spread over 18 reservations. Fast-forward to today and we've basically doubled in size with 199 conservation easements on 11,839 acres with 33 reservations covering 5,996 acres. Plus, we hold the back-up interest in an additional 44 conservation easements on 2,072 acres. **We've come a long way with 276 special places conserved on nearly 20,000 acres!**

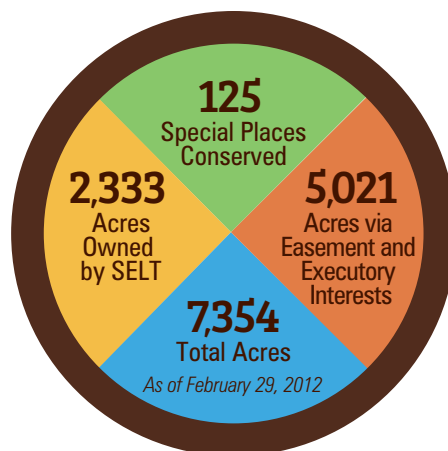
All this could not have been done without all of you! Whether you or your family members were the original partners with SELT to conserve the land, or you bought the land already conserved and are the current caretakers – in what will be a long line of caretakers – we're happy you're alongside us as we do our best to protect and care for these and future special places.

Best wishes,

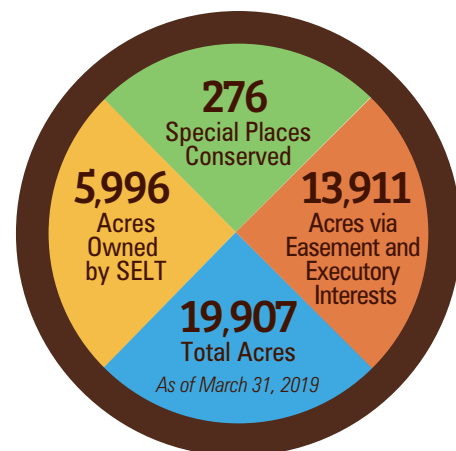
Deborah Goard
Stewardship Director

Land Conservation by the Numbers

February 29, 2012



March 31, 2019



WINTER/SPRING
2019

ISSUE 14

Thanks for doing your part to ensure these lands are permanently protected!

Lands Conserved in 2018

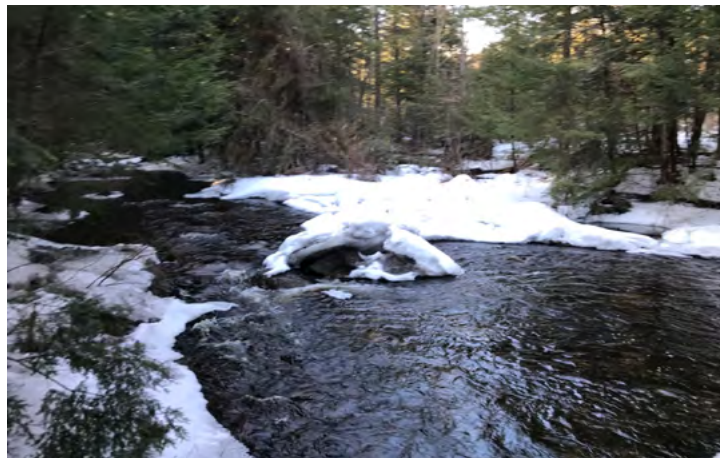
In 2018, SELT added eight new conservation easements in the towns of Candia, Farmington, Kensington, Rochester, and Salem. SELT also gained ownership of three new reservations in Epping, Farmington, and Lee. Read on to learn about a few of these newly conserved lands.

Kaczmarek Easements, Kensington

Elaine Kaczmarek and her son, Stefan Kaczmarek, donated two conservation easements on their abutting parcels expanding an already large block of conservation land off Drinkwater Road in Kensington. Combined, these two easements consist of 70.42 acres of field, forest and scrub-shrub and forested wetlands. They also protect almost 1,200 feet along Mill Brook and 1,800 feet along an unnamed perennial stream.

Right: Elaine and Jan Kaczmarek donated a conservation easement on their property in Kingston.

PHOTO: JERRY MONKMAN/ ECOPHOTOGRAPHY, LLC.



Berry Brook Forest, Farmington

SELT's 160.36-acre Berry Brook Forest off Sheepboro Road in Farmington was conserved by the Stuart family in partnership with the City of Rochester and the NH Drinking Water and Groundwater Trust Fund. This property increases the amount of permanently protected land upstream of the nearby City of Rochester's public drinking water supply, including a portion of Berry's Brook which runs through the property.

Left: Berry Brook Forest in Farmington.

PHOTO: JEREMY LOUGEE

Salem Town Forest, Salem

The 347.33-acre conservation easement on the Salem Town Forest was made possible through a partnership with the Town of Salem, the NH Department of Environmental Services Aquatic Resource Mitigation Program and LCHIP. The Town Forest contains approximately 6 miles of trails that are enjoyed by residents of the Town and the surrounding communities. Additionally, the property contains approximately 83 acres of wetlands and open water, including 29 documented vernal pools, as well as 7,200 feet of undeveloped and forested frontage on Hitty Titty Brook and another 21,900 feet of intermittent streams. The conservation of this land also helps protect the undeveloped land that overlays an aquifer and helps preserve the opportunity for this potential future public water supply and protect its recharge area. *See the National Trails Day event on page 5.*

Right: Salem Town Forest

PHOTO: LINDA HARVEY



Planning Your Attack on Invasive Plants

Invasive plants seem to be everywhere. They creep into your garden, create walls along your road frontage, strangle your favorite tree, and surround your beautiful pond. When invasive plants are everywhere it is hard not to feel overwhelmed by the idea of trying to control them and it may be difficult to know if it's even going to be worth your effort.

For the purposes of this article, invasive plants are those that are non-native to our region and regulated by the NH Department of Agriculture. Invasive plants are usually first introduced to a region inadvertently by humans and then use their aggressive traits to firmly take root and spread. Most invasive plant species can produce large amounts of seeds and take over an area very quickly. They monopolize light, moisture, and nutrients, allowing them to out-compete native plants.

Because they are not native themselves, invasive plants do not have native diseases and pests to help keep their populations in check like our native plants do. If left to their own devices, invasive plants will continue to spread with the potential to replace native plants, threaten biodiversity and potentially throw ecosystems out of whack.

Control of plants with these aggressive qualities is no easy task. You are not alone if you feel overwhelmed or maybe even discouraged at the thought of taking this on. However, invasive plant control can be a more manageable undertaking if you first come to terms with the fact that you don't need to remove every single plant to have an impact and then make a strategic plan of attack.

By identifying what, where and to what extent invasive plants are on your property, setting management goals and priorities and methodically taking action, you can get the most out of your efforts and set yourself up for long-term success.

Identify Invasives

As landowners, the first action you can take to plan for invasive plant control is to learn how to identify the common invasive plants of NH. There are many great resources available including the free "New Hampshire Guide to Upland Invasive Species" from the Department of Agriculture.

Once you know what to look for, survey your property and assess what



Garlic mustard is a common invasive in southeastern NH.

PHOTO: UNH EXTENSION/EMILY LORD



Common buckthorn
PHOTO COURTESY OF USDA NRCS

invasive plants are present. As you walk, sketch (or use a GPS) to make a map of the invasive plant locations and record the plant species and the size of their populations.

Often, you will find invasive plants along field edges, trails, roads, disturbed areas, and edges of wetlands and waterways. If you need help identifying the invasive plants on your property or would like a map of your land to sketch in the invasive plant locations, feel free to call or ask SELT Stewardship staff when we are out for our annual visit and we will do our best to assist you.

Set Management Goals & Prioritize

Once you know what invasive plants you have and where they are on your property, you can prioritize and set management goals. The goals set will likely depend on the features of your property, the invasive plant species and amount present, how much time you want to invest in invasive management and what resources you have. Goals can range from removal of all the invasive plants from your property to prevention of new infestations from occurring. Whatever your goals are, it may be helpful to consider these strategies to help prioritize your attack:

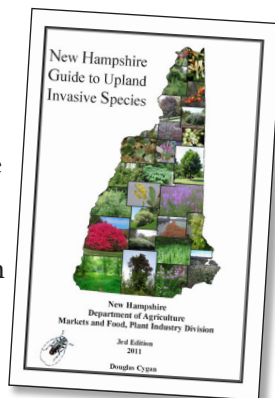
1 Early Detection

The most important, least labor-intensive, and least expensive strategy for invasive plant control is early detection and rapid response—spot new infestations early and remove them immediately. If you are going to commit to doing any invasive species management on your property, be proactive and keep your eyes open for new invasive plants. To be effective at this, it's important to know your property well so that you can say, "Hey, that plant wasn't there last year!"

2 Small Populations

Small populations of invasive plants are easier to manage. For example, you may be able to remove them manually. If you find a small population of an invasive plant, it's important to know your property well so that you can say, "Hey, that plant wasn't there last year!"

TIP Pay attention to disturbed areas, as they are very susceptible to invasive plant invasions. If you have recently done construction, disturbed the soil, or brought in offsite fill, make sure to monitor those areas and, if invasive plants are popping up, remove them right away.



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3 Important Places

Prioritize protecting the important places on your property. This could be a place you are particularly fond of or it could be a place you know is important habitat like along a stream or around a pond. If there are invasive species in and around those areas, tackle them first and leave other invasive plant patches for the time being. For example, you may have glossy buckthorn in the far corner of your property where you never go, in an area that is not particularly special to you, and a patch of Japanese barberry growing along the edge of your pond you have observed to be a hot-spot for wildlife activity. In this case, it may make sense to start with the barberry.

Take Action

Once you have set and prioritized your goals, you can determine how to remove those pesky invasive plants. The most common methods of control are mechanical and chemical. The right method for your project will depend on the characteristics of the plants you are trying to remove, the size of their populations, and the project location.

Mechanical treatments like hand-pulling and using a weed wrench are usually best for small populations. Other options include suffocating, mowing and cutting. With mechanical removal make sure you have a plan for safely disposing of the removed plants. Plant material that is not handled properly can cause the plant to spread to new areas or reinvade the area you just treated. Create a pile to either burn, compost or leave in place for wildlife. Some plants will continue to grow and flower after being cut and may need to be placed in a bag or in a covered brush pile.

Chemicals may be necessary when dealing with large or mature invasive plant infestations. When applied correctly, herbicides can be very effective. For both environmental and personal safety, always make sure to read the bottle, follow the instructions precisely, and apply them in accordance with state law. For those bigger projects, you may want to consider hiring a licensed applicator. If herbicide application needs to occur in or around a wetland or waterbody, remember to check with NH Department of Environmental Services beforehand to see if you need a permit.

Keys to Long-term Success

No matter what control method you choose, don't assume that your job is done after the first treatment. Plan for the long-term and consider what actions may be needed to keep invasive plants from coming back.



Volunteers remove invasive plants by hand at the Powwow River Woodlands in South Hampton. PHOTO: SELT STAFF

Multi-year Control Don't be discouraged when you see invasive species sprouting up in the area you previously treated. Many invasive plant removal projects will require going back several years in a row to retreat the area.

Restore with Native Plants In cases where the ground has been significantly disturbed from the removal process and not a lot of native vegetation is present, it may be necessary to plant native species

Se ground cover and not leave the V edgd W S ab W for another invasive plant invasion.

Continue to Monitor To help ensure success after a project is complete, make sure to continue to monitor your project area for invasive plants. If you do find any, remove them immediately.

Be Proud of Your Accomplishments When you have accomplished one of your goals, take a minute to celebrate your victory! Maybe you didn't remove every single invasive plant, but you methodically picked your battles and reduced the amount of invasive plants on your property and the amount of invasive plant seeds being introduced into the environment. **A positive attitude goes a long way when taking on invasive plants!**

Having a plan for tackling invasive plants will save you time and effort. Give it a shot on your own property and if you have any questions don't hesitate to ask us. If we can't answer your questions, we will direct you to an expert that can!

Resources

Control Invasive Plants

UNH Extension: extension.unh.edu/resource/invasive-plants

Picking our Battles: wildlife.state.nh.us/invasives/documents/picking-battles.pdf

NH Invasive Plant Guide: extension.unh.edu/resources/files/Resource000988_Rep1134.pdf

Prohibited Invasive Plant Species List: agriculture.nh.gov/publications-forms/documents/prohibited-invasive-species.pdf

Invasive Plant Crowdsourced Mapping: eddmaps.org

Get Native Plants

NH State Forest Nursery: nhnursery.com

Native Plant Trust: nativeplanttrust.org



Upcoming Events

View the full calendar and sign up at seltnh.org. Suggested donation is \$5/person or \$10/family. Please register early; our events fill quickly. Registration closes at Noon the day before the event.

Birding the Piscassic Greenway

May 18 · 6 AM - 10 AM · Newfields

Join Roger Stephenson and SELT's own birding enthusiast Kylee Noga bright and early for SELT's annual spring bird walk at the Piscassic Greenway. This trip, scheduled to coincide with the spring migration, is geared for the beginner but birders of all levels are welcome. We'll explore six different bird habitats – be sure to bring binoculars!

National Trails Day Hike

June 1 · 10 AM - Noon · Salem

Come explore the 350-acre Salem Town Forest, conserved by SELT in partnership with the Town of Salem. Glen Edwards from the Salem Conservation Commission will lead this hike along the well-maintained trail system and highlight some unique aspects of this hidden jewel that many people may not even know exists. *See the conservation update on page 2.*

Kinney Hill and Heron Pond Farm Tour

June 15 · 9 AM - 11 AM · South Hampton

Visit Kinney Hill Farm, home of the local favorite: Heron Pond Farm. We'll learn about their year-round CSA, check out the Children's Garden and pick-your-own areas, and drive down the road to one of the fields being conserved by SELT to see the cover cropping and intercropping, some forage, an irrigation pond, and much more!

Join Us!

Conservation Celebration

June 12, 2019 – Save the Date!

Zorvino Winery, Sandown

Guided tours of the winery and field trips to local forests will start at 4:30 pm. With a catered dinner and conservation updates at 6 pm.

PHOTO: ZORVINO



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- Sign up for our **free monthly e-news** on our website or by emailing info@seltnh.org
- Stop by our office at 6 Center Street, Exeter, NH, and say hi!



Find SELT on Facebook to stay in touch with us daily!

www.seltnh.org



SELT

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of NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Planning Your Attack on Invasive Plants

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Calendar of Events

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Staff member, Dani Almeida, enjoys a site walk with land owner, Ed Duston.

PHOTO: JERRY MONKMAN/ECOPHOTOGRAPHY, LLC.

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

To contact the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire, please call **603-778-6088** or email info@seltnh.org.

PO Box 675, Exeter, NH 03833 • Website: www.seltnh.org

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Thinking of Selling Your Property?

More and more conserved land is selling – meaning there is a whole new generation of landowners who need to understand what a conservation easement is and the associated privileges and responsibilities. SELT can help make your sale smoother by working with your realtor to properly inform buyers about your conservation easement. Once you've decided to sell and have selected a realtor, please have him or her call us. We will provide an electronic packet of information to incorporate in your disclosures and can answer questions from buyers. Once you've scheduled a closing, please remember to give us the required notification of transfer of title in accordance with the terms of the easement.