



SELT everlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

SPRING 2021

Springing Forward

On the heels of a 2020 that was certainly unexpected, I am grateful that we enter a 2021 spring season where there is more than pollen in the air - I am, of course, referring to *hope*.

Hope that we are through the other side of the pandemic. Hope that our recharged lakes and streams retain their depth and vibrancy in the face of an unknown summer. And hope that the restorative properties of nature continue to work their magic on our friends and neighbors!

We had to make lots of adjustments last year, and are gearing up for a return to normalcy, including having our staff walk with the landowners we weren't able to walk with because of COVID concerns. In addition, we're always looking for ways to use technology for easement stewardship, including an exciting new aerial monitoring opportunity (keep reading to find out more!)

As easement owners, you have made the decision to preserve the great outdoors and help keep New Hampshire's distinct rural character intact. And while there will always be challenges - droughts and pests and the occasional lightning strike - know that SELT, myself, and our great stewardship team will always be available to support you and be a resource as needed. Please reach out anytime!

Best,

Deborah Goard, Stewardship Director
deborah@seltnh.org
603-658-9721



Planning to do some work on your property? Let us know!

If you're considering making a change or doing a project on your easement-protected property, please consider getting in touch with us first. We can help you navigate what the easement does and does not allow as well as what needs to be approved in advance to help make your project go smoothly!

Does the change of project involve working with a federal or state agency such as NRCS or NH DES, or are you working with a consultant forester or engineer? We're happy to work with them as your project moves along. And even if you don't need formal approval from SELT, hearing about any changes will make our easement monitoring much more efficient as we'll know of any changes prior to coming to your property! Call us anytime!

Introducing Megan Woods

It can be no coincidence that Megan's last name is "Woods." As a child, she spent her formative years exploring countless forests and since her dad was a biologist she was armed with reams of knowledge about vernal pools and salamanders and all manner of eco-insight to fully enjoy the outdoor experience.

"I loved hiking and being outside and learning about different ecosystems and how they were connected," Megan says.

This love of nature would manifest even further in college, when Megan earned a BS in Wildlife Ecology at the University of Maine. Her first job was maintaining and installing trails. And now, as a SELT Seasonal Land Steward, she is applying her education, experience, and passion into a job that she loves.

"I'm really enjoying going out to explore different properties that SELT owns or has easements on," she said. "This job is a perfect mixture of my experience and I love working for an organization that makes an impact on so many people."

As Megan has gotten outside to fulfill her monitoring duties, she's developed an appreciation for the relational aspect of easement stewardship.

"As the pandemic is subsiding, it's been great to talk with landowners and learn about their vision for the land," she says. "It's always cool to connect their ideas for their land and how the land being protected by SELT helps with their vision."



Upcoming Events

View the
SELT events
calendar at
seltnh.org/events

SELT's Virtual Conservation Celebration and Annual Meeting

June 23, 2021 • 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Join us via Zoom for SELT's annual gathering, where we celebrate the year that was and look towards the horizon.

Learn more at: seltnh.org/annualmeeting

2021 Women Owning Woodlands - Ladies Logging with Farm Tractors

June 19, 2021 • 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

A workshop for women woodland owners focusing on tractor applications, tasks, safety practices, and basic techniques. Join instructors Jon Martin of Martin Forestry Consulting, Steve Snow of Snow Conservation Group and Wendy Weisiger of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests for an "in action" introductory workshop to find out about ways you can safely and productively use a farm tractor as a tool in forest management (for example, harvesting firewood).

Learn more at: extension.unh.edu/events

Remote Monitoring with LENS

From 2009 to 2018, SELT implemented remote monitoring through a partnership with SPNHF which coordinated with regional land trusts to obtain aerial imagery captured by planes. In order to use aerial photos for monitoring, we needed to receive photos taken when the trees had no leaves and with no cloud cover or snow on the ground. Due to changes in weather patterns, a guarantee of obtaining photos under the right conditions became uncertain and SELT stopped remote monitoring in 2018.



Example of aerial image captured by LENS.

SELT's return to all ground monitoring in 2019 and 2020 allowed for more landowner visits, but also increased staff time for monitoring by approximately 40% from 2017 to 2020. A return to remote monitoring for SELT via Upstream Tech's LENS satellite image system will reduce the time staff spends on monitoring, allowing stewardship staff to focus more time on building relationships with landowners outside of monitoring. Learn more at: upstream.tech/lens.

Some properties will still be visited every year (due to funding requirements, heavily used properties, or properties with ongoing management activities). If there is no satellite imagery available or if we see anything concerning or changes due to normal land management, we will likely follow up with a visit even if not previously planned. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Hollenbeck at amanda@selt.nh.org or call 603-658-9480.

Know Your Pest: Jumping Worm

Jumping worms are an invasive earthworm that consume the upper layer of soil, negatively affecting native plants, which may disappear and may be replaced by invasive species. Jumping worms change the soil structure more than any other worm.

The true extent of the jumping worm population are still not known in New Hampshire. Jumping worms are found in gardens, compost piles, or nearby wooded areas.

While their appearance isn't distinct, you'll know you have one in your sights as they have firm bodies and will writhe around with a good amount of force if you pick them up. Keep an eye out for Jumping worms starting in June into mid-summer.

Jumping Worm Management Pro-Tips

- Investigate garden materials for any signs of jumping worms before bringing them home
- Exercise care when sharing material at plant sales and swaps. Jumping worms will readily crawl in to reproduce within nursery pots
- Report suspect worms at nhbugs.org



Photo by Josef Gorres, University of Vermont

Source: <https://nhbugs.org/jumping-worms>



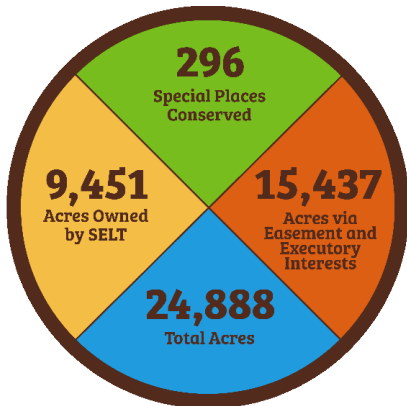
P.O. Box 675
Exeter, NH 03833
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Saving, sharing, and stewarding the lands you love.



Land Conservation by the Numbers



As of May 2021

Questions? Concerns? Comments?

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

SELT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible.

SELT Everlasting is published semi-annually and is the Easement Stewardship newsletter of SELT. Written and edited by Deborah Goard and Dave Johnson.

SELT • PO Box 675 • Exeter, NH 03833 • seltnh.org

Thinking of Selling Your Land?

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.