



SELT everlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

FALL 2021

We Want to Hear from You!

Happy fall! As the foliage colors have changed, I am reminded of the lesson that this seasonal change always teaches me: change is a constant!

At SELT, our goal is to be nimble and flexible and open to adapt to ensure our relationships with our valued landowners are strong and mutually supportive.

With that in mind, I would like to encourage you to take a few minutes to fill out our Landowner Survey, which you can find on the SELT website at seltnh.org/landownersurvey.

It will not take long to complete and your responses will be enormously helpful as SELT's Stewardship Team works to strengthen our connections with you and the other landowners who have made such an incredible impact on our region through land conservation.

Thank you for taking the time to help us better partner with you and enjoy the New England autumn!

Best,

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



SELT Easement Landowner Survey

Please take a moment to fill out a brief Landowner Survey. We want to make sure we have the most up-to-date contact information (so we can notify you of any important news and updates), learn about your preferred communication methods, and discover what else we as a Stewardship team can do to support your land management and conservation needs.

Please email Amanda Hollenbeck, Easement Stewardship Manager, at amanda@seltnh.org or call her at 603-658-9480 to request a mailed copy or to ask any questions pertaining to the survey.

To complete the survey please visit
seltnh.org/landownersurvey

Turtle Power! How Turtle Nesting Sites Can Benefit Your Land

Turtles may be some of the most under-appreciated species around. They're unassuming, low-key, and generally keep to themselves. As far as wildlife goes, they don't have the flash of bobcats or mountain lions, the gravitas of bears, or the grace of deer. But turtles provide immense value to the natural world and many species are threatened.

Creating turtle nesting areas on your property may be an option and would bring a bounty of benefits to your land and to New Hampshire's habitat as a whole! SELT has created several turtle nesting sites on our properties precisely for these reasons.



With sandy soils and open areas, old gravel pits can be great areas for turtles to nest.

What do we mean by turtle nesting sites? These are open areas with sandy, well-drained soils that turtles will travel to, often year after year, to lay their eggs. If the right soil is present already on the landscape, creating openings in the forest to expose the ground to direct sunlight may be all that is needed. If there are already large openings with plenty of sunlight in the right location, bringing in the right type of sand can work as well - although as with any time off-site materials are used it comes with the risk of introducing invasive plants to the area as well.

Ecological benefits of turtles include the support and strengthening of a variety of ecosystem processes like mineral cycling, scavenging, soil enrichment, energy flow, and biomass contribution. Turtles are major participants in the circle of life, both as prey and predator.

For conservation easement owners, turtle nesting site creation will likely work hand-in-hand with your easement terms, as most conservation easements have specific purposes for protecting wildlife habitat, especially threatened and endangered species as well as allow for land management activities for wildlife habitat purposes. (Plus it's always great to see turtles on your property and say "shell"-o!)

Perhaps you've already had turtle activity on your property! Maybe you came across some turtle egg shells. Or you've got an abundance of vernal pools and wetlands, favorite hang-out spots for turtles. You can also check for any known occurrences of threatened or endangered turtle species on or near your land with the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau search tool at <https://www4.des.state.nh.us/NHB-DataCheck>. (Remember: threatened/endangered species are protected so please do not to reveal their location to the public!)

If you would like to consider improving nesting sites on your land, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and New Hampshire Fish and Game would be great partners and offer excellent tips and advice to help you get started.

Not sure where to start? Give us a call and we can point you in the right direction. And, as always, when you are looking at making some changes to your land please contact us first! We are your willing partners in these endeavors and will help you navigate what your easement allows. A quick phone call to our Stewardship team is a great way to save you a lot of potential time and resources!

Landowner Workshop: Recognizing and Managing Wildlife Habitat on Your Land

Join SELT for this special guest workshop led by Matthew Tarr, UNH Cooperative Extension Professor and Wildlife Specialist, and Greg Jordan, UNHCE Rockingham County Forester, to learn how to recognize and improve habitat for wildlife in forests, fields, and wetlands.

The workshop will be held outdoors at SELT's Burley Farms in Epping and include a slow-paced off-trail walk over moderate terrain, with many stops for discussion. This series is intended for landowners and anyone interested in learning how to manage habitat for wildlife.

During this workshop we will visit forest, field, and wetland habitats where you will learn:

- How to recognize specific features that comprise each habitat type
- What and how specific wildlife species use each feature as habitat
- How to create or enhance habitat opportunities for specific wildlife

Before attending the workshop, please watch *Intro to Assessing & Managing Wildlife Habitat* (33 min). We will apply the information introduced in this presentation during our workshop.

November 12 • 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Burley Farms, 245 North River Road, Epping NH

To register and watch the video intro visit seltnh.org/habitatworkshop

Know Your Invasive: Tree of Heaven

Don't be fooled by its divine nomenclature: Tree of Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is an active and aggressive invasive tree species that finds its roots in China. It has become a New Hampshire interloper, especially thriving in urban locations and disturbed habitats.

What makes Tree of Heaven particularly insidious is its fast rate of growth. The tree is quick to reproduce and can send out legions of seeds via the wind to germinate and populate rapidly. Why does Tree of Heaven offer such a significant challenge to the natural equilibrium? If left unchecked, these towering species (some can grow as tall as 60 feet!) will drown out habitats with shade and negatively impact biodiversity.

Management techniques include cutting it at the base (especially in the winter) and utilizing certain chemical treatments.

To learn more about Tree of Heaven and mitigation strategies please visit the UNH Extension blog at: extension.unh.edu/blog/2018/03/invasive-spotlight-tree-heaven.



Tree of Heaven



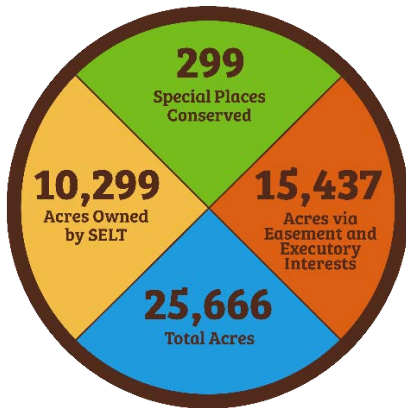
P.O. Box 675
Exeter, NH 03833
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

SELT

SELT Everlasting • Fall 2021
Saving, sharing, and stewarding the lands you love.



Land Conservation by the Numbers



As of October 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.