



SELT everlasting

NEWS FOR OWNERS OF LAND PROTECTED BY A CONSERVATION EASEMENT

SPRING 2022

A New Chapter on the Horizon

Hello and happy 2022! Spring is here and for us in the conservation world that means a new season of field work is upon us.

As owners of SELT-conserved lands, you are key partners in our shared stewardship goals and we are continually grateful to have you as collaborators on behalf of the natural world.

Specifically for SELT, this is no ordinary spring. The obvious sentiment when it comes to this time of year is “change,” and it doesn’t get more transformational than what lies ahead for us at the end of March: we move to The Nan and George Mathey (pronounced “Muh-tay”) Center at Burley Farms in Epping.



This is truly a momentous occasion and signifies an exciting new chapter for SELT and our friends, donors, neighbors, and you, our landowner partners. The Mathey Center, a net-zero building, will be more than a place for our offices; our vision is to see it become a destination for like-minded conservationists. The Mathey Center will feature community meeting room access, nature-based education space for children, families, and school classes, as well as proximity to hundreds of acres of conservation land surrounding Burley Farms for visitors (and staff!) to take a break and explore...

Needless to say, we’re all excited and welcome you all to come by for a visit!

Best,

Deborah Goard, Stewardship Director
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603-658-9721

SELT's Big Move

By the end of March, the SELT crew will have completed our move to Burley Farms and will be working out of The Mathey Center. Here are some important logistical reminders pertaining to contact information at our new headquarters:

The physical and mailing address for The Mathey Center is:
247 North River Road, Epping, NH 03042.

Our main phone number will remain the same at 603-778-6088 and all staff direct dials will not change.



A Messy Forest May Be Just What You Need

Sometimes “clean” isn’t always better. What do we mean by clean? When it comes to land management, we’re talking about the cleaning up of brush, branches, dead trees, and assorted debris following an activity like a timber harvest.

Understandably, the first inclination for some is to clean house and expose as much soil and greenery to make the forest more visually appealing. But leaving a layer of woody debris or even keeping a selection of dead trees around can lead to diverse wildlife habitat and richer, healthier soils.

The recommendation to keep things messy wasn’t always the case. For many years, removal of trees and debris, especially along flowing waterways was looked at as a beneficial action (as well as something that could enhance scenic views). But research has since shown there are enormous benefits to the natural world to keep this organic matter in place.



Coarse woody debris can offer great benefits for your land.

Nutrients

As coarse woody debris decomposes, nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorous are recycled, offering rich consumables for organisms like fungi, bacteria, and insects. They in turn release more nutrients for other organisms to absorb, creating a true *circle of life* ripple effect in the ecosystem.

Wildlife

Fallen debris and “snags” (aka standing dead trees) have proven to be a veritable metropolis for all manner of wildlife inhabitants, from lichens and invertebrates up to birds and chipmunks and beyond. These microhabitats found amidst dead and dying wood account for a surprising percentage of wildlife domiciles, with studies showing that up to 40% of woodland organisms rely on this part of the forest ecosystem. A third of all woodland bird species make their homes in the cavities of dead tree trunks.

Along streams and rivers, woody debris offers shelter for fish, amphibians, and aquatic insects, and many turtle species utilize it for basking. All in all, these microhabitats and the associated food and nutrients that are generated by organisms that dwell within are key contributors to building and maintaining the biodiversity in your forest.

Soils

Finally, coarse woody debris has a tremendous positive impact on the quality of the soils. For lands with slopes and higher gradients, the wood keeps the soils stable and slows downhill movement of important organic matter and soils rich in minerals. In addition, as organic matter collects behind the debris, decomposition occurs, inputting essential nutrients and minerals into the soil, making for a healthy, thriving forest floor.

Do you have upcoming management plans? Have a discussion with your forester about the benefits of leaving coarse woody debris and snags. And instead of cleaning up the woods after, use that time to stroll through the forest to find out what just might have decided to make that mess their home.

An Update to Our Communications

This year, SELT will not be sending out a spring letter, which in the past has given landowners a reminder that we'll be monitoring again in the coming year. But rest assured we will be reaching out as usual to all of you prior to monitoring.

Our change in practice will simply allow us to reach out with this reminder closer to when staff will be visiting the land with the benefit of saving a little time and paper. Like last year, we are going to be conducting both aerial and ground monitoring. For the properties we plan to ground monitor this year, SELT will continue to offer you the opportunity to join us on our site walk.

Contact is key (and we love hearing from you!). Please call our office at 603-778-6088 with any updates, planned changes to your property, or questions.

Speaking of questions, if you ever need clarification on what is permitted on your conservation easement property, don't hesitate to ask us! Deed language can be tricky and we are happy to work with you to answer any and all questions you may have.

And don't forget to fill out our Landowner Survey if you have updated contact information or preferences. You can find the survey online at www.seltnh.org/landownersurvey.

Introducing the Spongy Moth

"Spongy moth" has been formally adopted as the new common name for the moth species *Lymantria dispar* by the Entomological Society of America (previously known as the "Gypsy moth.")

"*Lymantria dispar* is a damaging pest in North American forests, and public awareness is critical in slowing its spread. 'Spongy moth' gives entomologists and foresters a name for this species that reinforces an important feature of the moth's biology and moves away from the out-dated term that was previously used," says ESA President Jessica Ware, Ph.D.



The spongy moth is an invasive pest of North American forests that can defoliate hundreds of tree and shrub species. Native to Europe, Asia, and North Africa, it was introduced in Massachusetts in the 1800s and is now widespread in the northeastern United States and eastern Canada and costs hundreds of millions of dollars each year in damage, prevention, and control efforts. A primary way the spongy moth spreads is via egg masses when transported on firewood, outdoor equipment, and vehicles. Public awareness of the *L. dispar* egg mass and its sponge-like appearance is important in controlling the pest, as the insect spends most of its life cycle (10 months) in the egg stage.

Excerpted from the Entomological Society of America press release (entsoc.org/news/press-releases)

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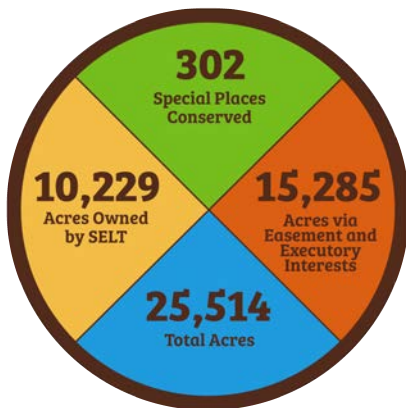
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Saving, sharing, and stewarding the lands you love.



Land Conservation by the Numbers



As of March 2022

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.

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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 them 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.