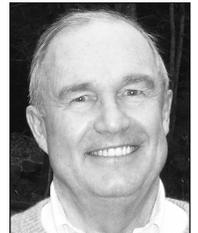


# Notes from



The Newsletter of the Francestown Land Trust, Inc. • Spring 2015

## The Chairman's Letter



Chris Rogers

## Dear Friends of FLT,

Happy Spring! Actually, spring appears to be getting shorter and shorter. It seems that I barely had put my skis away before the temperature jumped to almost summer-time temperatures and my thoughts turned to swimming.

### Time must be moving faster these days

More than ten years ago, the Francestown Land Trust was fortunate to have Abigail Arnold and Herb Bromberg join its Board of Directors. Now, it seems just a blink of an eye later that both are stepping off the board. Abigail has recently resigned and Herb will be resigning at our Annual Meeting in June. Both have worked countless hours on behalf of FLT. Without their efforts, the FLT would not be where it is today. Abigail and Herb – we thank you!

We are delighted to welcome Betsy Hardwick to our board. As many of you know, Betsy is a lifelong resident of Francestown, and a devoted member of the community. At our annual meeting, we will also be voting to add Martine Bohnsack to our board. Martine's love of nature and art are well known

and we look forward to her contributions. How lucky we are to have such a wealth of dedicated citizens in our town.

You may ask: just where is the Francestown Land Trust today? As of December 31, 2014 the FLT owns a fee interest in 823 acres of land—with 536 of these acres protected by non-development conservation easements held by other land trust organizations. We have accepted grant money that restricts any future development on an additional 37 acres. We hold 29 conservation easements on land owned by others that covers approximately 1,554 acres. Finally, we own an executory interest in an 18-acre easement. The total land protected by the FLT today amounts to 2,432 acres. These acres are protected for all of us today and for countless future generations.

Numerous people and organizations have worked together to protect this land. Since the FLT was founded in 1986, our partners have included residents who have contributed time and money, landowners who have contributed conservation easements, land conservation groups and foundations, the Town of Francestown and the State of New Hampshire.

*Continued on page 2*

## Thank You for Many Years of Dedication ...



Abigail Arnold



Herb Bromberg

Continued from page 1

We will be holding our Annual Meeting at 7:00 pm on Thursday, June 11th at the Old Meeting House this year.\* Please come join us to celebrate our progress to date and to give us your ideas on what needs to be done in the future. Let's continue to build on all of the hard work that has been done to preserve what makes Francestown and surrounding communities a wonderful place to live and work. ■

\*Please see page 6 for more information.

## Introducing Our New Directors



*Betsy Hardwick*

A life long resident of Francestown, Betsy's roots go back generations. She has served the town as a member of the Select Board for 7 years and has been chair of the Francestown Conservation Commission for 16 of the 17 years she has served. An avid outdoorswoman, Betsy enjoys the land year round with her husband Jeff Tarr, children, and grandchildren. Ms. Hardwick works full time at a small business in Antrim doing book-keeping and general office work.



*Martine Bohnsack*

Martine Villalard-Bohnsack is a professor emerita of Biology from Roger Williams University, Bristol, RI. She is the author and illustrator of a variety of research articles on marine algae and *The Illustrated Key to the Seaweeds of New England*. After retiring in 2004, she and her husband moved to Francestown. Since then, she has been taking painting classes and is a member of the Lone Mountain Artists. Martine also enjoys outdoor activities such as gardening, hiking, kayaking and botanizing.

### Do you have questions about or ideas for events?

Call Paula Hunter at 547-6489 or send an email to [info@francestownlandtrust.org](mailto:info@francestownlandtrust.org)

### Did you know?

## Deadwood – Let It Rot Where It Lies

A guy down the road has been working in his woods for the last couple of years. He's cleaning them up. And I mean cleaning. He cuts the underbrush. Takes out the dead trees, the downed logs, the dead branches.

Okay, I confess. The neatnik in me is envious. Part of me would like my 70 acres of woods to look like a park. But that's the problem. A park is not a forest. And the forest is more than the trees. It's an entire suite of complex systems, merging and interacting. An ecological orchestra in the woods.

Dead and dying wood, standing snags, rotting branches are more than Mother Nature's litter. They're an integral part of the forest symphony – what forestry types call "coarse woody debris," or CWD for short.

"Without that debris our forests would not be what they are. Not just in terms of aesthetics, but nutrient capture and recycling and wildlife," explained Andrew Whitman, a scientist with the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences in Maine.

Snags provide nesting and resting spots for woodpeckers and other birds, squirrels and fishers. A rotting log on the forest floor is home to mosses, fungi, liverworts and lichens, salamanders and frogs, millipedes and centipedes, mice and voles. Piles of branches shelter snowshoe hares and hibernating bears.

Deadwood is critical to many species of fungi, which make their living breaking down the lignins and cellulose in wood and leaves. A dead tree will host a succession of species, Whitman said. "The fungi that use fresh dead logs are not the same as the ones that use logs that have been rotting for 50 years."

Downed wood is also an important reservoir of bound-up carbon. "In older forests, 100 years or older, it can account for 22 tons per acre, or the weight of five cars. In younger forests it's about 1 to 5 tons per acre or the weight of about one car. It's not a trivial amount," Whitman explained. That's important because, in terms of climate change, carbon on the forest floor means less carbon in the atmosphere.

Carbon, nitrogen, calcium and the other elements that once made up a living tree are gradually released through the process of decay and then reused. It's the forest fertilizing itself. In the meantime, those dead trees and branches littering the forest floor slow runoff in times of high rainfall.

Coarse woody debris also plays a crucial role in aquatic ecosystems, noted Whitman, providing nutrients to a stream. Downed wood also improves a stream's "structure," creating plunge pools, eddies, and places for fish to hide and stay cool.

*Continued on page 3*

## On the Hunt for Photos of Wild Things



What do wild sasparilla, red wakerobin, monkey flower, and lady's slipper have in common? A peaceful home near the flowing waters of Brennan Brook. In conjunction with the surrounding area, the property also provides habitat for a wide range of wildlife species including birds known to be declining in the northeast, such as the scarlet tanager, eastern wood-pewee, veery, wood thrush, black- and-white warbler, and American redstart. Evidence of moose, bear, bobcat, otter, fisher, and mink are common.

But don't take our word for it, we would be delighted to have photos of the native flora and wildlife from our conserved properties. Send us your snaps, and with your permission we will share them on our website, via facebook, and in our mailings to our supporters. ■

### Directions to Brennan Falls Reserve

From the junction of Routes 136 and 47 in Franconstown, drive on Rte. 47 (northwesterly) 1.3 miles to Campbell Hill Road on the left (west).

Drive ~.25 miles on Campbell Hill Road past a white mail box numbered 130 to a fork of dirt roads on the left (south) at a sign "Bay State Forestry Services". This is just after the pavement on Campbell Hill Road ends. The right fork is unmaintained Bullard Hill Rd. (Left fork is a private driveway). Some people may park along Campbell Hill Road here. If you do be sure all cars are on one side of Campbell Hill Road only.

A few high clearance vehicles can drive in Bullard Hill Rd ~ .25 miles to the wood yard / trail head on the left.

*Continued from page 2*

In an intensively managed forest, the amount of coarse woody debris can decline over time. These days we often try to extract the last dime's worth of value from a harvest, chipping branches and tops for the biomass market. It's not unusual for trees that once would have been left to die and then rot to get chipped instead.

"About 20% of bird species, 50% of mammal species, 44% of amphibian species, and 58% of reptile species in the Northeast use coarse woody debris for foraging, shelter, or other uses. And this is for the vertebrate species we know well," said Whitman. "In an intensively managed forest, those species will struggle. While it looks great and it may be efficient in terms of fiber production, it can lead to a loss of biodiversity."

The effects of that sort of harvesting may not show up for decades. But some studies indicate that over three rotations, nutrient levels in forest soils may start to drop if whole tree harvesting is



used, he said. That would translate to slower tree growth and perhaps to a less complex forest that's less able to cope with pests and diseases. And restoring a depleted forest isn't economical, or easy, or fast. Dropping a few tons of 10-10-10 isn't going to bring back those complex ecosystems or restore species that were lost. Only time would do that. Lots of time.

"Northern New England is fortunate to have its current levels of CWD," said Whitman. "Similar forests in Europe have nowhere near the same amount of deadwood and so often lack species we still have. It is no wonder that tourists from Europe love to see our 'wild' northern forests, where deadwood is a mark of wildness. ■

Joe Rankin writes forestry articles from his home in central Maine. This article was recently published in *Northern Woodlands Magazine*, and printed here with permission from the author.

# Thank You to the 2015 Supporters of the Francestown Land Trust

Beverly Abbott  
 Len and Meredith Allen  
 Brewster and Elizabeth Ames  
 Larry Ames  
 Mary Ellen Ames  
 Abigail Arnold  
 David and Susan Avery  
 Pamela Avery  
 Tom Badgley  
 Judy Badot and Ron Cheney  
 Ron and Moe Baptiste  
 Robyn and Michael Beisang  
 Alice Benedict  
 Gerri Bernstein and Philip Sadler  
 Charles and Susan Blattman  
 David Bodnar  
 Martine and Chuck Bohnsack  
 James Bosman  
 Charles Boswell  
 Martha Boswell  
 Herb and Rosa Bromberg  
 Neal and Agneta Brown  
 Alison and Stephen Bryan  
 Timothy and Dianne Buirge  
 Kathy Byrne and Vic Hyman  
 Meade Cadot and Sandy Taylor  
 Marilyn Campbell and Laura Studen  
 Mary Frances and Robert Carey  
 Catherine Hawkins Foundation  
 Joanie and Keith Conley  
 Harriet Cope  
 Louise and Robert Corrette  
 David Courtright  
 Janine and David Cowell  
 Sara Cox and Jeff Gorton  
 Davis Family Foundation  
 Heidi Dawidoff  
 Abby Dawson  
 Edward and Katherine DiPietro  
 Conrad and Ellen Dumas  
 Ronald Dumas  
 Alfred and Martha Eisenberg  
 Joyce and Charles Ferraro  
 Fields Pond Foundation  
 Robert Fossbender  
 Barbara Gannon  
 John Giese  
 Kevin and Madeline Gordon  
 Ted Graham and Marcy Tripp

Sheryl Guterl  
 Nancy and Bart Hanlon  
 Ann Harkleroad  
 Ben and Robin Haubrich  
 Laurie and Laura Hawkins  
 Scot Heath  
 Jan Hicks  
 Isabella Britain Hill  
 Sirkka Holm  
 Hall Hoover  
 Warren and Emily Howarth  
 Jim and June Howe  
 Brad and Bridget Howell  
 Paula Hunter and Joseph Valentine  
 Pam Hurley  
 Carol Ireland  
 Paul and Patricia Jane  
 Jerry Johns  
 David and Sue Jonas  
 Henry and Linda Kunhardt  
 Barbara and Larry Laber  
 Rodney C. Lamon  
 Mary Jane LaMountain  
 Elizabeth and Ralph Lavallee  
 Jane and Paul Lawrence  
 Matthew and Stephanie Lee  
 Gary Leighton  
 Bob and Linda Lindgren  
 Mary Lindstrom  
 Chris Linell  
 Silas and Theresa Little  
 Mary Frances Livingston  
 Sandi and Tom Lowery  
 Barbara Macinnes  
 Stanley and Lori Markowitz  
 Kelly and Paul Marshall  
 Chester Masel  
 Bill McAuley and Elspeth Miles  
 John McCausland  
 Joseph and Susan McElhinney  
 Don and Marth McGinley  
 McIninch Foundation  
 John and Sally McLaughlin  
 Linda Mikula  
 Ann Montgomery  
 Pierre Morin and Donna Rafdal  
 Nation/Ames Family  
 Greg and Ellen Neilley  
 Pat Nelson

Gloria Normile  
 Veda O'Neill  
 Cheryl and Ken Paradis  
 Sheldon and Penelope Pennoyer  
 Hannah Proctor  
 Anne Rainey  
 Adrian and Susan Ricci  
 Nancy and Brooks Rice  
 Dennis and Eileen Rodier  
 Catharine Roehrig  
 Deborah and Christopher Rogers  
 Derek Sanger and Samantha Clark  
 William and Ruth Schmitz  
 John and Diane Schott  
 Anne Seamans  
 Roberat Seamans III  
 Kay and Don Severance  
 Jerry Shinn  
 Jaqueline Smethurst and David  
 Drinkwater  
 Paul Spivack  
 Jo and Rob Staub  
 Roger Swain  
 Pat Swan  
 Ben and Kate Taylor  
 David Taylor and Susie Sargent  
 John and Carson Taylor  
 Patricia and John Talhauser  
 Debra Therrien  
 Town of Francestown  
 Bill and Bessann Triplett  
 Christine and Thomas Tyrie  
 Francie VonMertens  
 Ray and Beth Wallace  
 Candace and Richard Wharton  
 Barry and Lois Wicklow  
 Lisa Wilsher and Stephen Chamberlin  
 Andrea and Thomas Wing  
 Harry Field Woodbury  
 Nancy Wright  
 Robert and Patricia Zeamans  
 Zelko Family

## In memory of:

Rosa Bromberg  
 Monroe Engel  
 N. Thomas Gilroy  
 Nancy Hibbard  
 Mary Jane Marsden  
 Herman Miller



## How the Francestown Land Trust Evaluates New Projects

FLT is often asked how it selects projects. This is the first in a series of articles on the FLT mission and the principles that guide how the Board of Directors (BoD) works and makes decisions. First up: FLT Project Selection Guidelines.

There are a number of factors evaluated as part of a decision to consider a new conservation project. FLT focuses on land in Francestown (including parcels that may have some land in adjoining towns) that protects or enhances two or more of the following four values:

- Water Quality and Quantity
- Wildlife Habitat and Natural Ecosystems
- Recreational, Educational, Scientific, or Scenic Value
- Forests and Agricultural Lands

In addition to meeting two or more of the above criteria, FLT prioritizes conservation land and projects that:

- Abut, expand, or provide connectivity to existing protected lands
- Are essential to completing or meeting the objectives of current projects
- Face land use changes that will undermine identified conservation values
- Include a headwater stream and all, or a significant portion, of its catchment area

### **Francestown Land Trust, Inc. Board of Directors**

Chris Rogers, Chair	crogersnhcpa@aol.com	547-2133
Greg Neilley, Vice Chair	neilley@comcast.net	547-2856
Herb Bromberg, Secretary (term expires 06/2015)	herros@tiac.net	547-2711
Ben Haubrich, Director	bph03043@gmail.com	547-2075
Barry Wicklow, Director	bwicklow@anselm.edu	547-9904
Paula Hunter, Director	hunterpaula@comcast.net	547-6489
Ted Graham, Director	graham.ted@gmail.com	547-2548
Larry Ames, Director	lames@worldpath.net	547-8809
Betsy Hardwick, Director	blhardwick1@hotmail.com	547-8773

- Leverage the protection of adjacent land having identified conservation values
- Are 50+ acres
- Show potential for financial support from individuals, foundations, town conservation committees, or other potential conservation partners
- Benefit people and wildlife and enjoy strong public support

We are disinclined to support land or projects that:

- Do not meet two or more of the four criteria above
- Are too small or have too high of an edge-to-area ratio to meet conservation values
- Pose risks or problems for effective monitoring and stewardship
- Are contaminated with hazardous chemicals or other material
- Primarily benefit the landowner or developer disproportionately to the land's conservation value
- Are compromised by landowner demands of rights to the land that undermine the conservation values at stake
- Are encumbered by title, mortgage subordination problems, or other legal issues
- Do not meet IRS guidelines for a "qualified conservation contribution"

The FLT BoD meets monthly to review new projects and has additional ad hoc meetings when required. If there is a matter that you would like to discuss with the BoD, please notify a Director. Directors review all potential projects with the FLT mission guidelines in mind. We recognize that we are dealing with delicate personal property transactions and will respect your privacy throughout the process.

Watch this space for more information about FLT. Visit our website at [www.francestownlandtrust.org](http://www.francestownlandtrust.org) and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/FrancestownLandTrust>. ■



**FRANCESTOWN  
LAND TRUST**

PO Box 132  
Francestown NH 03043

PRST NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FRANCESTOWN NH  
PERMIT NO. 9

Return Service Requested

## Don't Miss These Upcoming Events!



### **FLT Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 11th:**

We will conduct our annual meeting at the Francestown Old Meeting House. Doors will open at 6:30, and the meeting will commence at 7pm. After a brief report and elections, we will be featuring guest speaker Henry Walters, a writer, naturalist, and Secretary for Experimental Living at Dublin School in Dublin, New Hampshire.

Drawing on his experience as a falconer, bird rehabilitator, seasonal hawk watcher, and steward of a wild life sanctuary, Mr. Walters will discuss a few of the interwoven triumphs and failures of modern conservation efforts, sug-

gesting how a new brand of engagement with the natural world begins with a change in our individual and collective perspective- and is within sight. For more information check [www.francestownlandtrust.org](http://www.francestownlandtrust.org)

### **Francestown Arts Fest, Saturday, June 20, 12-4 pm:**

This 3rd Annual Francestown Arts Fest will again celebrate the fabulous conservation work of the Francestown Land Trust. Get your song and dance ready, dust off your paintbrushes and be ready to share. All art forms are encouraged. There will be sound checks, dropoff, and set up of displays from 10-11:30, at the FHis Lodge on Main Street. We will have some tasty snacks and lots of creative juices flowing.

We would like to encourage teens to join in with your garage bands or solo performances. Come play out and get some experience in a friendly atmosphere. The Fest will go from 12-4, and there will be a sign up sheet for performance times. Questions? Suggestions? Volunteer? Email [marcytripp@hotmail.com](mailto:marcytripp@hotmail.com) or see us on Facebook at Francestown Arts Fest.

