

Notes from

FLT



The Newsletter of the Francestown Land Trust, Inc. Spring 2014

11 Grants, 10 Lots, 4 Families, 3 Easement Donations: WOW!

It's been a busy few months for the Land Trust. Since the end of 2013, years of work culminated in the completion of 6 projects. The result is that nearly 500 acres of land in Francestown have been conserved through the collaborative efforts of the Francestown Land Trust (FLT), the Francestown Conservation Commission (FCC) and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC). The properties involved, and/or their natural resources, were all identified as conservation priorities by Francestown's 2014 Conservation Plan.

High ranking conservation values, scientifically documented, are just part of the explanation of our success. Partnerships among multiple conservation organizations, recreational usage, building strong landowner relationships, matching easement donations, patience and resilience and strong financial support from individual donors are also essential.

These factors combine to make our projects attractive to funders without whose support protection efforts would be far more difficult. More than a half million dollars in 11 grants from nine sources was raised for the current projects: two from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, two from Fields Pond, and one each from the Aquatic Resource Mitigation Fund, the Davis Conservation Foundation, the Russell Foundation, the Verney Foundation, Trout Unlimited, the McIninch Foundation and one foundation wishing to remain anonymous.

The six projects coming to a close are: a 180 acre conservation easement encompassing the Avery Brook watershed purchased from the Richard Miller family; a 75 acre easement donated by Skip and Peg-



Documenting conservation values is key to prioritizing conservation efforts and to fundraising. Professor Barry Wicklow leads much of our local research. Even the conservation values of our brooks are ranked based on information about the amount and type of wildlife, water temperature and Ph readings.

gy Tenney abutting the Avery Brook areage; a 10 acre conservation easement on Journey's End Road donated by the Town; the bargain sale purchase of 150 acres of land for public use on Bullard Hill including parts of Lost Village and Brennan Falls from John and Diane Schott; the bargain sale purchase, from the Herman Miller family of 37 acres along Collins Brook that consolidates other conserved land; and a 41 acre conservation easement donation on the 'gateway' entrance to Francestown from New Boston by Mary Frances and Bob Carey.

NEW PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT COMMUNITY RESOURCES



WATER

Brennan Brook (left) flows through 150 acre Schott property and Collins Brook (below) flows through 37 acre Miller property abutting Dinsmore Brook Conservation Area



In evaluating the appropriateness of a property for conservation, FLT considers multiple factors including water resources, soil types, documented flora and fauna, proximity to other conservation land, recreational values and community significance. The properties involved, and/or their natural resources, were also all identified as conservation priorities by Francestown's 2014 Conservation Plan.



AGRICULTURE AND VIEWSCAPES

(clockwise from above) Pettee /Carey Family 'gateway' field supported a working dairy into the 1970's; Dodge Hill fields belonging to Skip and Peggy Tenney looking out at Lyndeborough range drop to Avery Brook ; Miller family fields along the Piscataquog River look west towards Lyndeboough.



TRAIL NETWORKS



37 acres that have been in the Miller family for over 100 years will provide a trail connector between Dinsmore Conservation Area and Shattuck Pond Road; 150 acre Schott Reserve is the first public access conservation area in easy reach from the Village

Transitions

Real estate closings are not just a matter of paper shuffling. They offer a special space for reminiscences and hopes, for matters of the heart, for perspectives and long views.

Skip and Peggy Tenney's appreciation of the importance of agriculture began when they were young. Peggy grew up on a farm in Vermont where everything on the dinner table was raised by the family, and school closed while the sap ran. For his part, Skip began his romance with a 300 acre farm when his passion for skiing took him from local rope tows like Whit's in Peterborough north to the challenges of Mad River Glen and Sugarbush. However, it is clearly their curiosity about, and interest in, the future that caused the Tenneys to donate their Vermont farm to the Upper Valley Land trust and to place a conservation easement on 75 acres of the old Dodge Farm on Dodge Hill Road in Franconstown.

John and Diane Schott share the Tenneys interest in the future and a vision of active land



Barry Wicklow and other FLT directors joined Skip and Peggy Tenney for a luncheon to celebrate their 75 acre easement donation.

use. The Schotts and their children spent many happy hours on the property. Discussing the future at the closing, John said: "I can't wait to see what you and the Town do with the land". That's the invitation for each of you to explore, hike, picnic, make this special spot with its falls, pond and history part of your sense of place.



From left to right: Paul Doscher and Paula Bellmore of PLC, Diane and John Schott, Chris Rogers, Ben Haubrich and Paula Hunter of FLT. Lower left: Gerry Miller and Ben Haubrich. Lower right: Rick Miller, Leann Miller, Judi Miller, Betsy Hardwick, Barry Wicklow, Steve Miller, Mary Frances Carey, Bob Carey, Abigail Arnold, Greg Neilley and Mark Dunn. Missing from photo: Paula Bellemore of PLC.



Thank You to the 2013 Supporters of the Francestown Land Trust

Robert Abbott	Andy and Hilary Graham	Sheldon and Penelope Pennoyer
Len and Meredith Allen	Ted and Marcy Graham	William and Jennifer Petersen
Brewster and Elizabeth Ames	Jim Hamilton	Piscataquog Land Conservancy
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Harriet Cope	Linda, Bob and Ilsa Lindgren	Roger Swain
Louise and Robert Corrette	Mary Lindstrom	Charles and Ane Swift
Janine and David Cowell	Silas Little and Theresa Kirouac- Little	Fletcher and Janet Taft
Richard Crawford	Sandi and Tom Lowery	Ben and Kate Taylor
Martha and Henry Cruciani	Holly MacAdam and Bill Lee	David Taylor and Susie Sargent
Kip and Kim Dalley	Stanley and Lori Markowitz	John and Carson Taylor
Lee and Leslie Davis	Kelly and Paul Marshall	Skip and Peggy Tenney
Davis Family Foundation	Chester Masel	Patricia and John Thalhauser
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Ellen and Conrad Dumas	Don and Martha McGinley	Bill and Bessann Triplett
Elizabeth Duncan	McIninch Foundation	Trout Unlimited
George and Patricia Edmonds	Gerald Miller	Christine and Thomas Tyrie
Tim and Mary Feltz	Edith and Peter Milton	Verney Foundation
Joyce Ferraro	Ann Montgomery	Ray and Beth Wallace
Fields Pond Foundation	Jim and Sue Morash	Barry and Lois Wicklow
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Rick Goetting	Charles Oriel	Judith and Lou Zivic
	Karen and Andy Paul	
	Graham and Pam Pendlebury	

**Back by Popular Demand:
 Francestown Arts Fest
 Saturday, June 21st, 3-6 PM
 FIHS Lodge, Main Street, Francestown**

Francestown Arts Fest - sponsored again by FIHS and FLT- is on for Saturday, June 21st, 3-6 pm at the FIHS Lodge on Main Street. This is a community arts event featuring local artists of all ages and every type of art, craft, poetry and music. Come share light refreshments, buy a special piece, CD or note card, discover new talent. You never know what you will find.

Last year saw an award winning painting by McKenzie West that is currently on display at the U. S. Capitol Building in Washington DC.

This year relax and listen to Suzanne McGettigan's latest songs. Look for some new stanzas from Sarah Pyle. Or for an exquisite olive serving spoon fashioned by Anne Behrsing. Or for work (below) by Betsy Hardwick who has recently taken up painting again. And much, much more.



Note for artists: All arts, levels and ages are welcome. Drop off creations between 10 am and 2 pm, Saturday, June 21 or check out the upstairs performance venue. Fill out a registration card and

come back for the gala opening and performances starting at 3 pm. All art to be collected from the venue by 6 pm Saturday afternoon or between 10 and 12 am on Sunday. To volunteer to assist with logistics, call Marcy Tripp at 547-2548.

Larry Ames Joins FLT Board



Larry Ames's energy and commitment take him from a wide range of personal interests into the public sphere. A folk dancer himself with an interest in traditional music, Larry serves on the Board of Directors of the Monadnock Folklore Society. He is an elected member of the Francestown Planning Board and sits on the Master Plan Committee. His love of the outdoors which was reflected by his choice of studies in environmental biology and science education while an undergraduate at Brown first brought him to the Land Trust several years ago as an easement monitor. A gardener and beekeeper, Larry is a promoter of local agriculture, environmental education and alternative energy sources. He enjoys both cross country and downhill skiing, skating, biking and hiking. FLT is a stronger organization as a result of Larry's participation on the Board.

Francestown has been part of Larry's life since his family purchased a home on Bradford Hill in 1971.

2013-2014 Francestown Land Trust Board of Directors

Chris Rogers, Chair	crogerscpa@aol.com	547-2133
Greg Neilley, Vice-chairman	neilley@comcast.net	547-2856
Herb Bromberg, Secretary	herros@tiac.net	547-2711
Abigail Arnold, Treasurer	abigail03043@gmail.com	547-6806
Ben Haubrich	bph03043@gmail.com	547-2075
Barry Wicklow		547-9904
Ted Graham	graham.ted@gmail.com	547-2548
Paula Hunter	hunterpaula@comcast.net	547-6489
Larry Ames	lames@worldpath.net	547-8809



FRANCESTOWN LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 132
Francestown, NH 03043

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What's Happening in Your Backyard: Wildlife Cameras Tell the Story Thursday, June 12, 2014, 7 PM



At FLT's annual meeting on Thursday, June 12th at the Old Meeting House in the center of Francestown Mike Silver will share his stories and photos taken over the past 30 years mostly in Francestown.

A NH native, Mike has spent hours in the woods hunting, fishing, taking photos—all the time learning about wildlife. Mike lives in Nashua and is a long time employee of Osram Sylvania.

Join us for light refreshments, contemplate a new hobby and renew your connections with friends and the outdoors.

Celebrate New Public Lands

Join us when we formalize our responsibility for new public access lands and thank both landowners and major funders including LCHIP, Fields Pond, the Davis Conservation Foundation and the McIninch Foundation. Each celebration will include champagne, light refreshments and a hike(s) that will highlight natural resources.

Sunday, July 20th, 3 PM
Old County Road North
Sunday, August 17th, 3 PM
Bullard Hill Road

Watch your mailbox, email and the Francestown News for more information.