

Business News

Mt. WASHINGTON VALLEY REAL ESTATE LISTINGS



The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust has recently acquired three conservation easements, including a 46-acre property owned by Gary and Sarah Punsky in North Chatham (above).

Preserving land for the future

Upper Saco Valley Land Trust acquires 3 conservation easements

NORTH CONWAY —The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust has completed the donation of conservation easements on three local properties in the last year. This has resulted in a combined total of nearly 67 additional acres of land now protected from further subdivision and development.

The Land Trust works with willing landowners who wish to donate con-

servation easements on their land. The easements are permanent deed restrictions that prevent harmful land uses, thus maintaining a healthy, sustainable balance between developed lands, natural lands, and productive rural landscapes.

In Intervale, Charles and Patricia Osgood partnered with the Land Trust to place a conservation easement on their 16-acre property that abuts Merriman

State Forest. The land is bisected its full length by the upper reaches of the Eben Abbott Brook and could afford future pedestrian access to the State Forest.

Charlie Osgood comments, "We have always had access to the mountains on land people have made available, and we would like to do the same for others.

ments, "We have had connections here some 50 or 60 years, and just feel the town is so pleasant we would like to do what we can to help keep it the way it is. We would also like to commend the Land Trust for the work they're doing in helping people make this kind of thing possible."

"It concerns us that with so much land being sold, the avenues and entrances to the mountains and state forests are becoming limited."

— Charlie Osgood
Intervale Landowner

It concerns us that with so much land being sold, the avenues and entrances to the mountains and state forests are becoming limited. It is a small return we felt we could do for having had the pleasure of living here."

In North Chatham, an easement has been completed on a beautiful 46-acre property owned by Gary and Sarah Punsky. The property affords wonderful views to the south of Evans Notch and is bordered by the White Mountain National Forest and the AMC's Cold River Camp. The Cold River runs through a portion of the property and the Charles Brook serves as its southern boundary. The protection and preservation of water quality, wildlife habitat and scenic and open space on this property is an invaluable gift to the community.

In Jackson, Bradford and Carol Boynton have preserved four acres of land associated with the historic Shapleigh House property. The natural and undeveloped characteristics of the Boynton property contribute significantly to the rural scenery and character of Jackson Village. Brad Boynton com-

Tom Henderson, president of the U.S.V.L.T. board, states, "These easements are the culmination of a great deal of work by many people. They are possible due to the continued support of the local communities, our contributing members and our dedicated volunteers and workers. Our work continues in 2004 on several more conservation easements, including our first agricultural easement and our first easement in Maine."

The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust is a local, membership supported, non-profit organization founded in 2001 that is dedicated to preserving land for public benefit. The area served by USVLT includes the communities of Bartlett, Jackson, the Conways, Albany, Madison, Eaton, Chatham, Fryeburg, Brownfield, and Denmark.

For more information about conservation easements, membership, or volunteer opportunities, contact the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust at 356-9683 or email usvlt@ncia.net. ▲