

A scenic landscape photograph of a valley. In the foreground, there is a lush green field with some wildflowers. In the middle ground, a dense forest of evergreen trees covers a hillside. In the background, there are blue mountains under a sky with scattered white and grey clouds. The overall tone is natural and serene.

U P P E R
S A C O
V A L L E Y
L A N D
T R U S T

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



Preserving Land for Community Benefit

The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust is a nonprofit organization working with local landowners to permanently protect the lands and waters that define our communities and enrich our quality of life.

USVLT serves northern Carroll and western Oxford counties, including the communities of Bartlett, Jackson, Hart's Location, Conway, Albany, Madison, Eaton, Chatham, Fryeburg, Brownfield, and Denmark.

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SOLID AS THE GRANITE BENEATH US



Change is everywhere we look: in the headlines, in the weather, in the way we communicate. In the murkiness of this change, land conservation work can shine as a beacon of permanence – both literal and figurative. On the literal side, we protect land “in perpetuity,” and those lands help mitigate the impacts of rapid change. Case-in-point: during this last year’s Halloween storm, we witnessed intact forested floodplain land, conserved by USVLT, slow floodwaters. And, figuratively, the open space we protect offers solace and moments of clarity as the world around us speeds up.

And so, during these times of political, socioeconomic, and cultural turbulence, USVLT is celebrating our most successful year yet. In 2017 the organization capped its largest land conservation campaign to date, with nearly \$900,000 secured for the Pine Hill Community Forest and Bald Hill Road projects, thanks in large part to our strong partnership with Tin Mountain Conservation Center. Our band of loyal members grew by 20% and now totals over 600 households. With a debt of gratitude to the Saco Valley Chapter of Slow Foods, we adopted the renowned Fields on the Saco fall harvest dinner event. Under our wing, last October’s dinner was superb, and moving forward, the event will be the perfect complement to spring’s Art Celebrates Place show (now in its ninth year!). Once again, budgeted operational income exceeded projections, and we hired Erika Rowland as Conservation Lands Manager to fill the gap left by retiring Linda Comeau. At our Annual Meeting, a long-awaited update to our strategic organizational plan was adopted, which lays out the next ten years of growth. All this, while conserving land – in perpetuity – for community benefit.

We couldn’t do it without you – our loyal members and supporters. Membership contributions are the most reliable source of operational income, as they come from a “diverse portfolio” of community members who care about our work, whether it’s creating the Pine Hill Community Forest, identifying potential pollution threats to our surface and groundwater, or getting folks out on the land through our programs. Membership contributions comprise 42% of our operating budget – the single largest income line-item by far. Your donations are a part of that total – and a part of our future success. Thank you.

William Abbott, Executive Director

Doug Burnell, President

Cover: Hayfield, West Side/Oil on Canvas/Read Baldwin
This page: Foss Mountain/Hannah Kiesler

WATER INITIATIVE

PROGRESS IN 2017

Water is central to our work – after all, the Land Trust is named after a river valley. Healthy, intact forests and clean water supplies are interrelated priorities in our work to protect the natural environment. Since 2015, USVLT has intensified its focus on water, from the headwaters of the Wildcat River to the Brownfield Bog and beyond. Surface and groundwater are critical ecological resources that we work to protect, yet the same water that lands as rain on a conserved piece of land may soon be flowing down a parking lot gutter, ignorant of any parcel boundaries or political lines it crosses. The “fluidity” of water makes it of paramount importance that we maximize our efforts to protect this key resource throughout our service area.

In that light, the Land Trust secured a Drinking Water Grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) in 2017 to study current risks and opportunities for drinking water protection in the New Hampshire portion of the Upper Saco Valley. This grant funds work in three main areas: assessing threats to surface and groundwater by completing a “windshield survey” to identify “Potential Contamination Sites,” reviewing groundwater protection ordinances in the New Hampshire towns we serve, and thirdly, sharing findings with our community of stakeholders with a goal of having those towns adopt stronger measures to protect both surface and groundwater.



Twilight at the River's Edge/Oil on Canvas/Sandra Josephine Bell

By taking on this grant over the past year we learned critical lessons. We live in a part of the world that is blessed with abundant, clean drinking water, an inherent feature of our extraordinary natural environment, on which local communities have relied for generations. In late 2017, by conducting the proverbial “windshield tour,” several hundred Potential Contamination Sites (and please note the word “potential”) were identified within our service area, many not previously known about by NHDES.

A review of groundwater ordinances and related regulations within that same area revealed many opportunities to strengthen protections. Neighboring municipalities may look to Madison, the only town in our service area to have adopted the NHDES “gold standard” ordinance.

We are just embarking on the third task—sharing findings with our community of stakeholders—findings which confirmed how critical it is for groups like USVLT to do more to protect drinking water supplies now rather than after an accident or spill has occurred. We look forward to a dialogue with the leadership and community members of the towns we represent in order to strengthen the protection of one of our most valuable natural resources, water.

Protection of Madison’s Drinking Water Supply Gets Boost from Recent Conservation Easement Donation

In December, a conservation easement protecting 77 acres of property in Madison was generously donated to the organization by long-time Land Trust supporters, Robert and Priscilla Dannies.

The property includes a gorgeous wetland complex, as well as the headwaters of Forest Brook, one of the main tributaries of Silver Lake and also a primary source for freshwater “recharge” into Madison’s stratified drift aquifer. Without the benefit of protection, this property would likely have been developed in the future, degrading the Forest Brook watershed and impacting both Silver Lake and Madison’s drinking water supply. The 77-acre parcel is located on Glines Hill and Bickford Roads, both designated as scenic roads by the Town of Madison, and includes thousands of feet of natural, undeveloped land along these byways. Bob and Priscilla Dannies are no strangers to USVLT or land conservation. They have previously donated conservation easements to the Land Trust protecting over 100 nearby acres on Glines Hill Road in Madison and Eaton. We thank them, heartily, for their vision of the future!



Forest Brook at the Dannies Easement/USVLT Photo

AGRICULTURAL INITIATIVE

PROGRESS IN 2017



Hatches' Orchard/Jackson Grammar School Photo

HATCHES' ORCHARD

Hatches' Orchard is a cherished local landmark, a pick-your-own operation that has hosted countless families and school groups on fall outings for close to fifty years. In 2017, Bruce and Elaine Hatch secured that legacy with the donation of an easement on their 50-acre property, the 62nd Land Trust project in the organization's 17-year history.

Surrounded on three sides by other USVLT easements along the Brownfield Road in South Conway, the Hatches' donation strengthens a "block" of conservation land. In addition, the gift includes protection of 28 acres of "highest ranked habitat" in the White Mountain Biological Region, as delineated by the state of New Hampshire. The property, which the couple purchased in 1971, climbs to fields above the orchard which afford panoramic views of the Valley from the height of land.

Reflecting on their decision to grant an easement, Bruce and Elaine commented, "The transformation and development of the Mount Washington Valley over the decades, from a quiet, idyllic rural area, prompted and urged us to do something to preserve our little piece of heaven for future generations to enjoy." Sadly, Bruce passed away shortly after the project's completion in October, but the couple's gift guarantees that their stewardship efforts will endure.

SUPPORTING HEALTHY AGRICULTURE

The addition of Hatches' Orchard boosts the number of farms and agricultural properties under easement with the Land Trust, many with prime soils. While preserving these easements in perpetuity is a core mission, so is ensuring that conserved land is actually being farmed. Our service area boasts some of the most productive and fertile agricultural soils in the Northeast, yet many area farms face critical challenges.

Understanding and supporting all components of a healthy agricultural system is crucial – a key reason the Land Trust created the position of Local Food Systems Advocate. 2017 was Jesse Wright's second year on the job, where she has created a network of alliances with local farmers, as well as state and regional organizations.

Last spring Wright facilitated a "Scaling Up" workshop in Fryeburg in partnership with Maine Farmland Trust. The workshop detailed keys to success in scaling up production on small farms and best practices for sales within wholesale markets. After the session, Maine farms were eligible for fifteen hours of on-farm technical assistance to help implement lessons learned.

Another significant alliance is her work with the newly formed MWVEG—Mount Washington Valley Eaters & Growers. MWVEG is a group of farmers and food advocates whose mission is to strengthen the regional food system through communication, collaboration, and cooperation among our farms and our community. Their work aims to increase the visibility and viability of our region's farms.

Agricultural advocates assert that New England has the potential to produce more than 50% of its food by 2060, and that such a regional transformation would come with significant economic, health, and environmental benefits. The Land Trust embraces that vision of a sustainable future, realizing that supporting agriculture is a complex and vital undertaking.



Tomatoes at Black Mountain Farm in Sweden, Maine



PINE HILL COMMUNITY FOREST

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Pine Hill Community Forest has been lauded by many for its outstanding natural assets and diverse recreational opportunities. These same attributes attracted many grants and led to the successful completion of the fundraising campaign in December 2017. As the Land Trust fast approaches the formal legal “closing date” for this transaction, our focus turns to how the undertaking can become the best community asset possible – embodying the “community benefit” tagline that is central to our mission.

Already the site of numerous multi-use trails, the property also provides many other community benefits, including extensive scenic highway and river frontages and a wild 125-acre pollution- and flood-attenuating wetland complex. The challenge now will be stewarding those resources, all while allowing for change.

Through a Management Committee conceived last spring at a community forum and now formalized by an agreement with the Town of Conway, many viewpoints will coalesce to make future multi-use decisions, such as how to preserve and sustain natural communities while developing human recreation and outdoor-education opportunities. Joining Land Trust and project partner Tin Mountain representatives at the table will be representatives from the Conway Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Rec Path Committee and School District Facilities Committee.

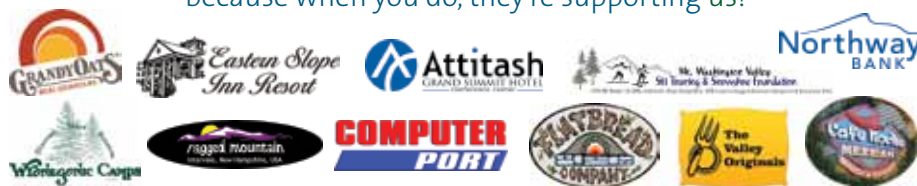
With planning for trailhead parking sites underway, groundwork is already being laid for enhanced public access. The Conway Rec Path may be upgraded and rerouted through forested areas around the high school campus. A footpath to the top of Pine Hill will offer vistas to Mount Chocorua and the Moat Range. School athletics and outdoor education programs will access the trail networks and nature-study areas as well.

We welcome the opportunity to thank all of you who donated to the purchase of this dynamic property and encourage your further support and ideas for the Community Forest’s long-term stewardship – for community benefit.

Under the tagline, “Two Great Properties, One Campaign,” in 2017 USVLT and Tin Mountain raised funds for both the Pine Hill Community Forest and a separate 90-acre tract on Bald Hill Road in Albany, which nearly doubles the Tin Mountain campus. The Tin Mountain addition includes rare black gum trees and more than three acres of Appalachian Oak-Mountain Laurel Forest, a rare natural community within the state of New Hampshire. The property will be dedicated this spring as the Dr. Michael Cline Memorial Forest.

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A special THANK YOU to these business partners! Please support them, because when you do, they’re supporting us!

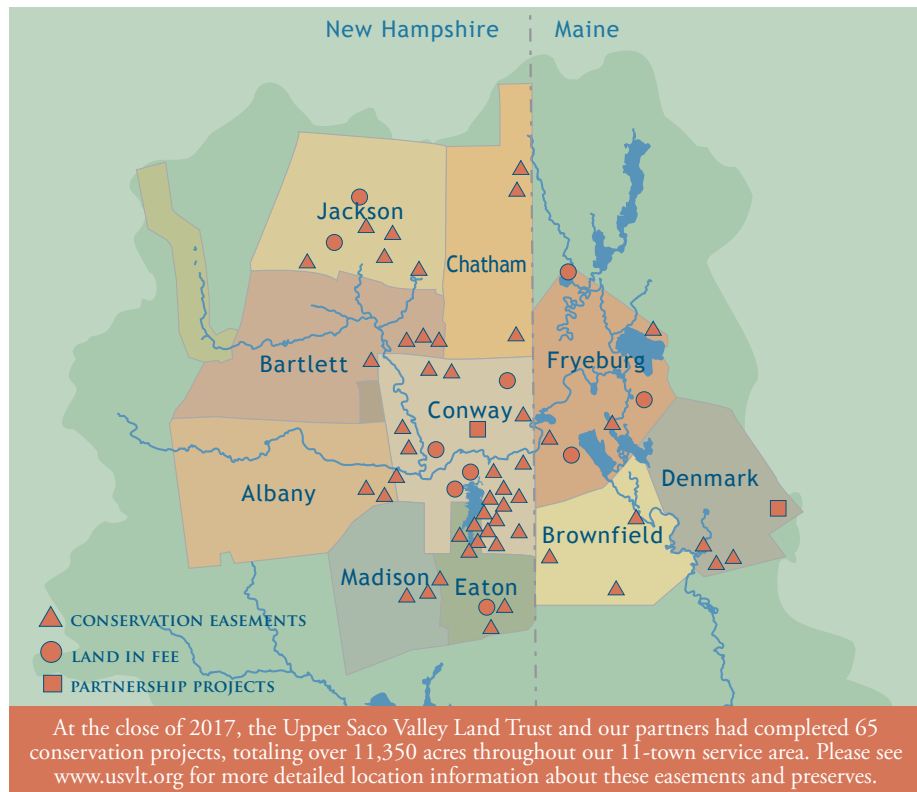


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LOOKING BACK

Publishing our Annual Report is a reflective process in which we get to re-examine the accomplishments of the previous year. We revisit the bright spots of community engagement and land exploration. From a long list of memorable moments, we highlight a few below as a “Year in Review.”



Easement Exploration Series

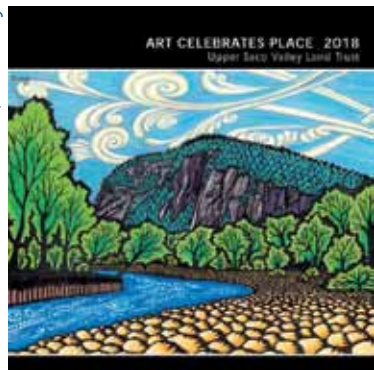
2017 brought another dynamic mix of easement events, connecting community members with the conserved lands that surround them. From learning about composting at Weston’s Farm in Fryeburg, or NRCS, funded conservation practices on the Dundee easement, to a springtime ephemeral wildflower walk in the floodplain forest, and introducing supporters to Pine Hill land, participants covered a lot of ground. They also took to the water for a fall foliage paddle to explore the spectacular scenery around Kezar Lake. These events are led by Land Trust staff, board members, naturalists, and volunteers. For more information on upcoming easement events visit the Land Trust website at www.usvlt.org.

Art Celebrates Place

There is no better way to shake off the winter doldrums than Art Celebrates Place, an evening of visual art, performances, music and delicious locally sourced food, all inspired by the landscapes of Mount Washington Valley and western Maine.

In 2017, Art Celebrates Place calendars again offered the opportunity to appreciate local landscapes in print form month by month, and they were a sellout in their second year. A huge thank you to Linda Gray, who launched and shepherds the calendar project. And watch for the 2019 edition, which will be available in late summer.

Take note! Change is in the air, and in 2018 Art Celebrates Place will be staged at Fryeburg Academy’s Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center. Set for Friday, April 6th from 5-7:30, in its 9th year the theme is ‘Over Hill and Dale,’ focusing on five conservation properties in the Land Trust’s 11-town service area.



From the River/Colored Pencil & Ink./Hanna Lucy

Fields on the Saco

In 2017 the Land Trust took Fields on the Saco under its wing, endorsing its message of highlighting both the creative talent of local chefs and the region’s best seasonal offerings. And while the 10th anniversary of the locally sourced dinner was USVLT’s first, Fields on the Saco was, by any measure, a huge success. Held in late October at the Barn at Merrill Farm Inn in Conway, the event drew both new and familiar faces, showcasing entrees created from sustainably raised dairy, meat, fresh vegetables and herbs paired with regionally made spirits, beers, and wines. The food was phenomenal and the weather perfect. Special thanks to our volunteers, chefs, hosts, and farmers who devoted hours preparing for the event in support of land conservation.

The 2018 edition of Fields on the Saco is in the works. Stay tuned for details.



Stewardship Efforts on the Leita Monroe Lucas Preserve East Conway, NH

Partnerships have been a driving theme in the ongoing work on the Leita Monroe Preserve in East Conway, spearheaded by USVLT president Doug Burnell, who laid out the original trails and has spent countless hours on the property. With funding from multiple sources and anchored by a grant from NRCS, in 2017 the Land Trust coordinated the efforts of stewardship partners to construct a trailhead parking area, improve habitat for songbirds and other wildlife, and enhance in-stream cover and shade for brook trout. It required many hands to accomplish all of this, including interns from both USVLT and Tin Mountain, and a pro-bono AMC youth trail crew. Last November, with the preserve donor on hand, a neighborhood trail opening highlighted the collaboration, noting the property’s unique history, and celebrating efforts to create a place for the local community to enjoy conservation land.



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Geoff & Betsy Race
Kenneth & Jane Rancourt
Ms. Jay Rancourt
David Publicover & Betsy Rand
Derek & Candy Rankin
Marcia & John Reed
Paul & Gwen Reiss
Mr. Richard Reuper
George & Frances Rhoads
John & Jane Rhoads
Ms. Katherine Rhoda
Missy Myers & Margaret Rieser
Dody Coman & Katy Robbart
Dan & Amy Robins L
Mr. & Mrs. James Robins
Lynn Rockwell
Barbara Rockwell
Mr. Seth Rockwell
Marilyn Rodes
Mrs. John Rogers L
Ms. Amy Rogers L
Ned & Liza Rogerson
Chris Rollings V
Dagmar von Schwerin &
Thomas Rose
Peter & Margaret Rose
Carl & Jadwiga Rosenthal M
Mark & Susan Ross-Parent
David Roth
Cheryl & Jason Roth
Mr. Joshua Royte
Mr. & Mrs. Elbridge Russell L
Cindy & Brett Russell
John Ryan
L. J. Sullivan & M. B. Ryan
Ron & Cathy Ryan
Colleen Ryan
Jim Salmon
Rich & Deb Samia
Mr. Eric Sandquist L
Sandy Beach Trust L
Glenn & Sonnhilde Saunders
Paul & Davnet Schaffer
Ms. Elaine Schiripo
Peter & Kathryn Schoch
Leslie & Warren Schomaker
Marten & Patricia Schoonman
Michael Lutjen & Marcia
Scogin
Robert & Suzanne Scolamiero
Tim & Sheila Scott
Ms. Peg Scully
Judith & David Seddon
Mr. & Mrs. Russ Seybold
Margaret Seymour
Mr. Robert Sgarzi
Nik Shah & Jessica Bennett
Shah
Julianne Sharp
Ms. Mary Jane Shaw
Mr. David Shedd V
Ms. Terri Dyer Shedd
Ned & Mary Sherburne
Hamish Sherlock
Diane & Thomas Shipp
Ms. Moira Simonds L
Ms. Diana Simonds L
Mr. Gerald Simone L
Mr. Eugene Simone L
Tony & Jenny Simone VML
Ward & Nancy Simonton L
Earl & Theresa Sires
Mr. Nicholas Skinner
Ted & Bonny Slader
Ms. Lyn Slanetz
Skip & Cathy Small
Linda Smiley
Ron & Kim Smith
Susan Beane & Peter Smith VM

Landowner contributor = L
Easement monitor = M
Volunteer = V
Pine Hill/Bald Hill Rd. Donors

Kevin Donohoe & Laurel Smith VM
Mr. & Mrs. Burgess Smith VM
Mr. R. Blake Smith
Mrs. Elenor Smith
David & Diane Smith
Linda & Noel Smith
Janet & Richard Snyder
The South Conway Club
Warren & Darlene Spence
Dan & Molly Sperduto
Ellen Snyder & Srinivasan
Robert St. Pierre
Alec Stansell
Wayne & Theresa Stanton
Valerie & John Stauffer
Mr. Robert Stearns L
Bruce & Barbara Stelle M
Daniel & Stephanie Step-
anuskas V
Kathy & Dick Stewart
Theo & Melanie Stibbons
Stonehurst Manor
Marc & Sue Stowbridge
Marnie Cobbs & Dennis
Sullivan VML
David Sweet
Steve & Sally Swenson
Ms. Emily Taylor V
Joanne Taylor deKay
Linda & Bill Terry
Mary Thayer
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
The Richard & Margaret
Margolis Philanthropic Fund
Grant & Heidi Thomas
Ms. Kate Thompson
Dr. Charles Thorne L
Virginia Thorne L
Muffy Thorne L
Bob & Lorraine Tilney
Tin Mountain Conservation
Center L
Town of Albany L
Town of Bartlett
Town of Eaton L
Sasha & Jack Tracy V
Jotham Trafton
Ms. Edith Tucker
Jim & Karen Umberger
Ms. Donna Urey
UUFES

Ms. Felicia Van den Broeke
Kathleen Van Deursen
Dave & Kathy Van Note M
Mr. David Vanderwyk
Ed & Zoe Veasey
Dennis & Johanna Vienneau
B. Grennan & H. F. Von Ulmer
Mr. Wyatt Wade (Old Blake
Farm)
Henry Barber & Sara Walbridge
Dr. Patricia Walker
Hilary Wallis
Richard & Sally Ward
Tish Hanlon & Stephen
Weeder
June McLeavey & Michael
Weeder
Dr. Harvey & Valerie Weener
Lou & Margaret Wells
Ms. Frances West
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Westervelt
George & Laurie Weston L
John Weston L
Ann & Tim Whalen L
Evelyn & Paul Whelton
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Keith & Judy White
Mr. Robert A. & Anne Whitten
John & Ann Wilcox
Ms. Jennifer Wiley M
Dr. David & Dr. Ann Thomas
Wilkins
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Martha Dupuis & Gary
Williams
David & Carolyn Williams
Andrew Williamson IV
Roy Willits L
Mr. Alan Wilson
WMNEMBA
Mr. Edward Wolcott
Mr. David Wood VM
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Woodman Jr.
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David & Jeanne Wright
Ms. Jessica Wright
Marvin Wright
Courtney & James Wrigley
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Colin & Meredith Wroblewski
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Mr. Chris Young V
Stephen T. Knox & Sara
Young-Knox
Robert Zakon

Dr. David Burkey & Mrs.
Linda Zembsch
Mr. Robert Zimmerman
Terry & Linda Zych V

IN HONOR OF/ IN MEMORY OF

In Memory of Bruce Hatch
Chester B. & Lydia T. Lucy
In Honor of Dexter Rust
Virginia Duquet
In Memory of Richard Pollock
Ellin Leonard
In Memory of Harold W.
Thorne Jr.
Ann & Tim Whalen
In Memory of Howard
Huemmler
Marion Frost
In Memory of James Cobbs
David Paige & William Abbott
Linda Comeau & Allan
Aldrich
Katrine Biddle
Helen & Bruce Dixon
Barbara & David Douglass
Judy Fowler
Jay & Marcia Kaufman
Peter & Elaine Klose
Mr. & Mrs. Chester Kunz
Kathleen Langan
Chester B. & Lydia T. Lucy
James & Marie Robins
Valerie & John Stauffer
In Memory of Joe Ryan
Carol & Donald McAnulty
Catherine Vinzanzo
Juliana Gilheany
Anne Gilheany
Carolyn Hepburn
Patricia Hood
Mary Catherine Iannoni
Ross Metzman
Patricia Morrow
John & Jane Rhoads
L. J. Sullivan & M. B. Ryan
In Memory of John Chandler
Martha W. Chandler
In Honor of Jon Marquis
Bette Ann & Joseph E.
Marquis
In Honor of Larry Garland
Leane Page Garland
In Honor of Linda Comeau
Carl & Jadwiga Rosenthal
In Memory of Maxwell E.
(Robin) Foster, Jr.

Joan MacPhail
In Memory of Dr. Michael Cline
Anonymous
Holly Huhn & Peter Crane
In Honor of Rick & Vickie
Jenkinson
Pamela Jenkinson
In Memory of Robert
Anderson Miller
Robert Osgood
In Memory of Roger &
Jo-Ann Gray
Linda Gray & David Gotjen
In Memory of Jonathan
Wottrich
Nancy Wottrich & Bruce
McNaught

ART CELEBRATES PLACE CONTRIBUTORS

Burnt Meadow Farm
Flatbread Company
Sunnyfield Brick Oven Bakery
Tuckerman Brewing Company
Hannaaford
Pied-a-terre Farm
Patch Farm
Earle Family Farm
Uplands Apple Farm
Hancock Family Farm
NH Mushroom Company
Margaret Rieser
Marnie Cobbs
Grandy Oats
Little Field Farm
Peter & Emily Benson
Virginia Ward
Linda Gray
Allie Kaplan-Thompson
Lindsay Johnston
Potluck Singers
Ann Bennett & Nick Foster
Dexter Harding
Lucy Gatchell

FIELDS ON THE SACO CONTRIBUTORS

Susan Beane
Ben Belcik
Sharrene Bernhardt
Theresa Bernhardt
Austen Bernier
Chef Alison Bickford
Nichole Cousins
Andy Davis
Jen Deraspe
Drew Duckworth
Nora Dufilho

Bob Dunleavy
Kelly Evans
Hannah Fleishman
Ryan Forestall
Linda Gray
Dexter Harding
Jim & Linda Hastings
Greg Heppe
Mark Johnson
Paula Jones
Amy Kutsenhow
Julie Levine
Lise Peters
Steven Salmeri
Nadia Sheppard
Tony Simone
Peter Smith
Erin Wright & Howard Stanten
Bruce & Barbara Stelle
Chef Mark Tapper
Dijit Taylor
Emily Taylor
David Wood
Alyssa Wooten
Appalachian Mountain Club
Art by 5-Fun with Paint!
Bavarian Chocolate Haus
Buttonwood Inn
Chef's Bistro
Cranmore Mountain
Currier Museum of Art
Earle Family Farm
Eastern Mountain Sports
Eyes Open Productions
For Your Paws Only
Freeport Wild Bird Supply
Frost Mountain Yurts
Good Vibes Coffee Roasters
Grand View Farm
Great Glen Trails
Jackson Chamber of Commerce
K9 Mountaineer Club
Karla's Pet Rendezvous
League of NH Craftsmen
Libby's Bistro & SAaLT Pub
Little Field Farm
Maine Grains
Merrill Farm Inn
Moonset Farm
Mt. Washington Observatory
Mt. Washington Valley Arts
Association
Mountain Heartbeet Farm
Nectars of Maine
North Conway Olive Oil
Company
Northway Bank

Nurture through Nature
Oxford House Inn
Patch Farm
Pork Hill Farm
Sap Hound Maple Company
Sherman Farm
Slow Food Saco Valley
Snowvillage Inn
Stone Turtle Baking & Cook-
ing School
Sweet Maple Café
The Trailing Yew
The Wentworth Inn
Thompson House Eatery
Weston's Farm
White Gates Farm
White Mountain Cider Company
White Mountain Winery
Wildcat Inn & Tavern
Wind Over Farm

GRANTS/FOUNDATIONS

Anonymous (4)
Buckingham Mountain
Foundation
Conway Conservation Commission
Davis Conservation Foundation
Fields Pond Foundation
The Robert and Dorothy
Goldberg Charitable
Foundation
New Hampshire Land & Com-
munity Heritage Investment
Program (LCHIP)
Maine Community Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable
Foundation:
Anonymous
Anna B. Stearns Fund
Jessie B. Cox Fund for the
Environment
Kineo Fund
Marshall Family Fund
Natural Resources Fund
Richard A. Ware Family Fund
NH Department of Environ-
mental Services Local Source
Water Protection Grant
NH Fish & Game
NH State Conservation Com-
mittee (Moose Plate Grant)
Newman's Own Foundation
Open Space Institute Commu-
nity Forest Fund
PayPal Giving Fund
Pequawket Foundation
The William P. Wharton Trust

FINANCIAL REPORT

(Year Ended December 31, 2017 — Unaudited)

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUE:			
Membership Contributions	\$ 92,443	\$ -	\$ 92,443
Grants and Donations	75,027	830,355	905,382
Other	41,615	-	41,615
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	475,321	(475,321)	-
Total Operating Revenue	\$684,406	355,034	1,039,440
EXPENSES:			
Program Services:			
Land Protection & Easement Acquisition	\$ 474,494	\$ -	\$ 474,494
Land Stewardship	61,998	-	61,998
Total Program Services	536,492	-	536,492
Management and General	74,643	-	74,643
Fundraising	33,902	-	33,902
Total Operating Expenses	645,037	-	645,037
Change in Net Assets	\$ 39,369	\$ 355,034	\$394,403

COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
ASSETS:				
Cash, Unrestricted	\$115,656	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 115,656
Cash, Restricted	-	357,826	-	357,826
Pledges Receivable	-	402,500	-	402,500
Prepaid Expenses	1,639	-	-	1,639
Beneficial Interest Held by Others	-	-	197,536	197,536
Property & Equipment, net	6,935	-	-	6,935
Land & Conservation Easements	-	-	1,135,862	1,135,862
Total Assets	\$124,230	\$ 760,326	\$1,333,398	\$2,127,954
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:				
Accrued Expenses	\$21,014	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 21,014
Net Assets	103,216	760,326	1,333,398	2,196,940
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$124,230	\$ 760,326	\$1,333,398	\$2,217,954

Unrestricted funds may be used for day to day operations. Temporarily restricted funds are grants and donations for a specific project or purpose to be used in the future. Permanently restricted assets include land, easements and stewardship endowment.

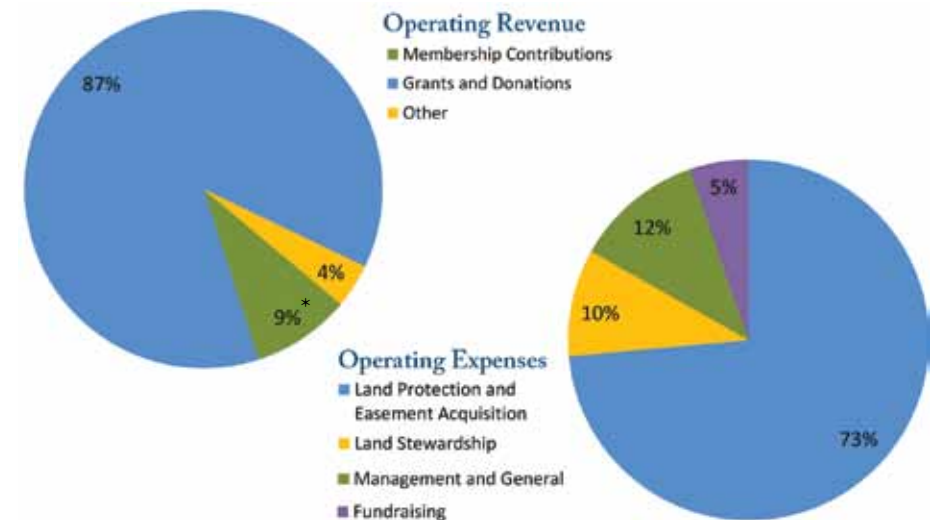


Monarch on Sunflower/Ellen Snyder

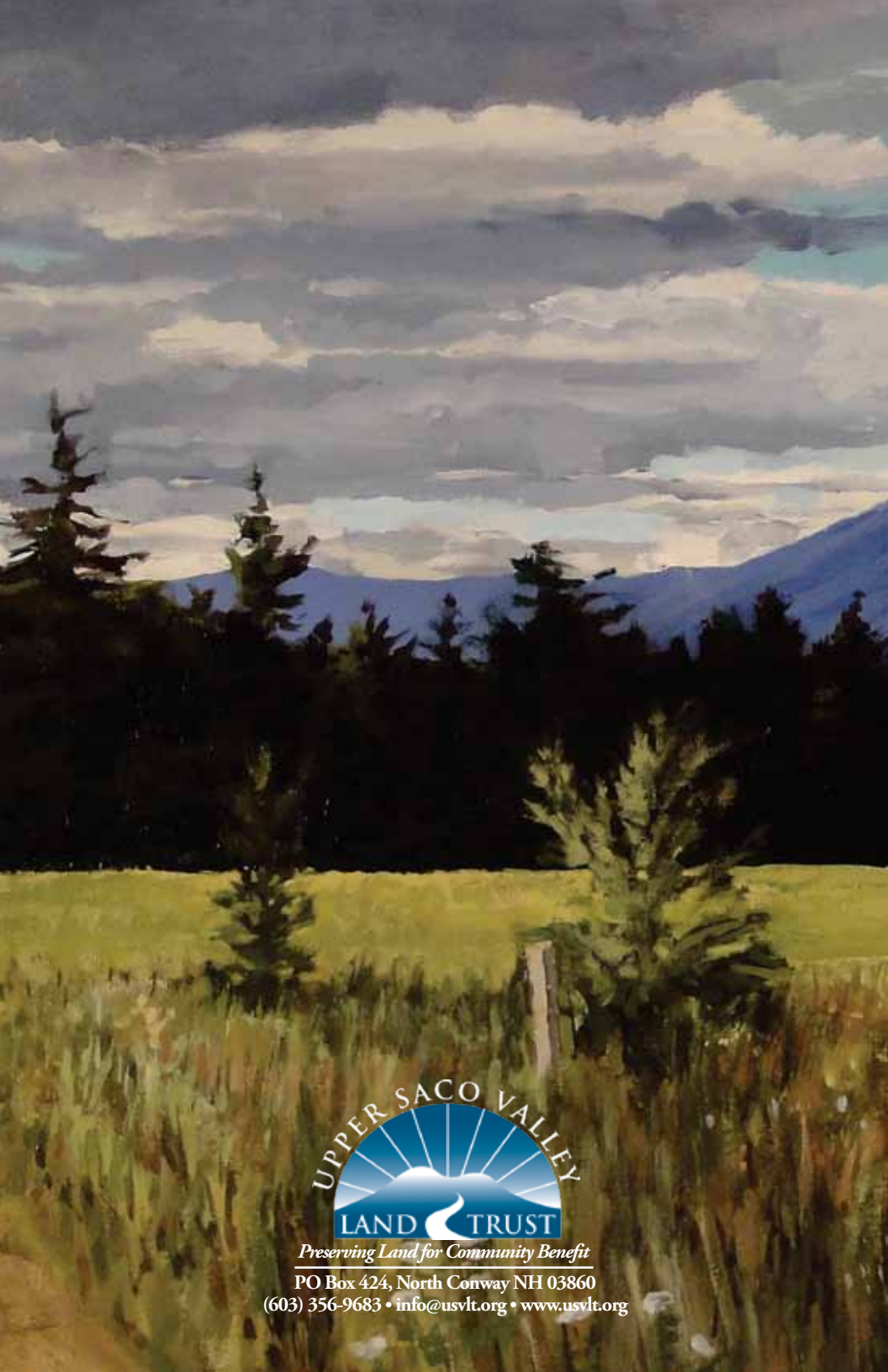
The Land Trust flourished during the year ending December 31, 2017, both in terms of projects and membership growth. Highlights included:

- Celebrating the highest level of membership support in the organization's history, measured by new members joining and existing members increasing their donation level,
- Completing several significant land protection projects, including securing long-term stewardship funding for these acquisitions,
- Receiving contributions and pledges to complete the Pine Hill project, the largest in the organization's history,
- Achieving sufficient financial strength to support three full-time staff, which will foster long-term viability through increased focus on development and diversification of skillsets, and
- Significantly increasing cash reserves to allow the Land Trust to continue its mission even in the event of a downturn in the economy.

For the Land Trust to carry out its mission, the support of members and the local community is essential. Membership donations underwrite operating costs, and the organization's continuing ability to preserve land for community benefit is only made possible with your support.* Thank you.



*The financials reported here include income and expenses relating both to our operating budget, as well as campaigns run for special projects or specific land projects. While membership support accounts for 9% of total income in 2017, it accounts for an impressive 42% of "operating income" that is not tied to a specific land project. Thank you.



Preserving Land for Community Benefit

PO Box 424, North Conway NH 03860
(603) 356-9683 • info@usvt.org • www.usvt.org