

# UPPER SACO VALLEY LAND TRUST

Preserving Land for Community Benefit

Autumn 2018

## An Enduring Legacy of Conservation

The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust owes its existence to those who came before us. As much as our work is driven by protection of special-status species, or acres of wetlands, or miles of river frontage, we also conserve land to honor our past, to create our future legacy, and, perhaps, even out of a sense of nostalgia. These thoughts are made all the more poignant when remembering those champions of conservation we have recently lost.

Tom Henderson, long-time member of USVLT's Executive Committee, died in April and was commemorated at our Annual Meeting in May. As Board President for USVLT at the same time as he was Executive Director for the

Greater Lovell Land Trust, Tom has perhaps done more for local conservation than any other person. He was also a great chef, a passionate gardener, and a natural-born teacher. He leaves behind thousands of acres of conserved land as part of his legacy. Tom will be sorely missed for his unwavering and unapologetic advocacy for our natural world, and his tenacity at getting things done.

2018 also saw the passing of Chet Lucy. A lifelong advocate for conservation, Chet served on the board of the Society for the Protection of NH Forests, and helped steer the early direction of USVLT at community-led gatherings. It was Chet's idea that we name ourselves after our watershed. Prior to

USVLT's founding, Chet and his wife Lydia donated several conservation easements to the Forest Society. In 2016, we were honored to work with his family to protect an additional 45 acres of West Side Road farmland.

Our legacy is rooted in a deep sense of stewardship—"gardening on a grand scale." Nancy Earle, another conservation champion who rallied her South Conway neighborhood together long before there was a local land trust, embodied that sense of stewardship. Thanks in no small part to Nancy's efforts, carried on today by her family members, much of Conway Lake remains pristine.

—continued on page 4



Photo Courtesy of Tin Mountain Conservation

Photo Courtesy of The Lucy Family

Photo Courtesy of Harvest Doucette

*Pictured clockwise from top left: Tom Henderson, Chet Lucy, Nancy Earle, Thad Thorne, Mike Cline—just some of the pioneers of local conservation to whom we are indebted*

*"The idea of wilderness needs no defense. It only needs more defenders."*

EDWARD ABBEY



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## USVLT President's Message



### Doug Burnell

Legacy. Passing on. Death versus permanence. These ideas permeate the land conservation work we do. Marc Smiley, a West Coast land trust consultant, coined the phrase “the audacity of perpetuity” to demonstrate this tension. When “the only thing that is constant is change” (to quote Heraclitus this time), how can we be so rash as to grasp at permanence? Yet we do, by writing conservation easements that protect natural resources for future generations, and it brings us solace and resolve.

While easements are sometimes perceived as “locking land up,” they don’t. Easements allow for flexibility and adaptation, and for different management strategies. While we acknowledge that easements change, our hope is not too much, so as to allow the original spirit and intent to live on.

The tension between change and stasis is evident within own organization, too. This year, we are introducing new staff (see page 6), sharing expertise with and learning new things from another excellent summer intern (at right), and making our presence better known with limited signage (see next page). As was

noted at May’s Annual Meeting, 2018 marks the first time in our organization’s 18-year history that all seated board members are “new” – that is, none of the founding board members remain, although many still advise and steer us from the vantage of committees. We have, very slowly, turned the page, all while heeding lessons learned from those that came before us. While the players onstage change, our backdrop mission remains constant in this, our very long play.

Thank you for supporting us on this journey.



### Reflections on Our Watershed from Intern Peter Howe

When I first looked into USVLT’s stewardship internship, two things caught my attention. First, the name: *Upper Saco Valley Land Trust*; and second, that the organization worked across state lines. Both simple matters of fact struck a chord, because they spoke immediately to an uncontrived and unambiguous relationship to place. The Upper Saco River Valley—as with all river valleys— is cut, fed, flooded, and

## Stewardship & Signs

unified by water; water which for at least the last 10,000 years has collected and flowed down through the watershed, and found its way out to sea. As for state boundary lines, those remain relatively recent phenomena, ones which watersheds seem yet to pay much attention to.

That an organization or community might orient itself and identify with a place by watershed is unusual these days, though in the scope of human history, hardly at all. More recently, people like Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder have reminded us as much. And while bioregionalism and watershed consciousness all sound a bit “voodoo hoodoo,” as my (adopted) Gramma Gail Paine would say, watersheds are darn functional. Clearly delineated geographical regions, they contain ecologically distinct and cohesive natural communities. For an organization in the business of protecting the ecology, culture, and spirit of a landscape for the long haul, to work within any other framework simply seems less effective.

Prior to coming to North Conway for the summer, I’d done plenty of dancing around on the mountain tops and ridgelines lining the upper reaches of the Saco watershed, but had yet to really get to know it. This summer, while blazing and painting boundary lines, monitoring easements, and working on trail maps for our preserves, I’ve also learned what’s downstream— the people, the stories, the plants, the politics. Though land conservation often seems like a lot of effort for a few acres here and a few acres there, in context of place within the age-old watershed, it is a worthy acknowledgement of all other things big and small, upstream and downstream, that make a home here. Thanks for sharing your watershed with me for the summer!

*Peter Howe is finishing his last year at Middlebury College in Vermont, where he will be graduating with a BA in Environmental Studies and Geography, with a minor in Biology.*

### Signs of Progress

*“Sign, sign, everywhere a sign  
Blockin’ out the scenery, breakin’ my mind  
Do this, don’t do that, can’t you read the sign?”*  
—Five Man Electrical Band, *Signs* (1971)

Perhaps not everywhere, not quite yet . . . but if you are traveling the roads and trails of the Saco River Valley this summer, you may have noticed USVLT’s new signs beginning to appear on our preserves and a handful of our conservation easement properties.



Signs are tricky. And, as the song indicates, not everyone appreciates them. So, why, you might ask, would we post signs, especially on conservation lands where there are no public trails?

The impetus for creating and posting signs came out of the Land Trust’s 2017 Strategic Plan update. A key goal was to expand the visibility of the organization’s work in the communities we serve to help foster continued land conservation, membership, and partnership building. Recognizable signs scattered across the landscape, with the USVLT logo prominently displayed, was identified as a way to reach more people.

Signs are a communications tool, so design and message are important. The planning has taken over a year. Last summer’s intern started pulling together design ideas, which we revised through the fall. Prototypes were shared with willing landowners in January, who served as a “focus group” to provide feedback and help finalize the look.

One year after I started with USVLT, I can finally check this task off my “to do” list. I could not have done this without the landowners who supported the process, and, most importantly, voluntarily agreed to let us post signs on their properties. The Land Trust’s new signs are meant to welcome folks to our preserves and acknowledge the amazing amount of land conservation that has taken place, thanks to the efforts of so many private landowners in our service area.

Finally, if you own a conservation easement property and would like a sign, it is not too late! I have extras in the office, so don’t hesitate to call.

—Erika Rowland



—continued from page 1

Other South Conway visionaries who conserved their land early on include Brad and Carol Boynton (with an easement to the Society for the Protection of NH Forests), followed more recently by donations of easements to USVLT by the families of Crow Dickinson and Thad Thorne. The Earle, Dickinson and Thorne easements alone contributed 1,657 acres of protected land, all before we had any staff members on payroll. Last year saw the addition of another 54 acres of South Conway conservation land, Hatches' Apple Orchard, donated by Elaine and Bruce. Sadly, Bruce died soon after this donation, but his labor of love lives on.

Mike Cline, who died in early 2017, also "gardened" on a grand scale, not only as Tin Mountain's long-time Executive Director, but also the forester responsible for 1,318 acres of USVLT conservation land owned by Tin Mountain. Thanks to his vision, old tree farms are slowly transitioning to complexly structured forests that mimic old-growth stands. We hope we do good by you, Mike.

Others who shared this vision, conserved their land, and tirelessly worked toward a brighter future include Charles & Patricia Osgood, Hanna Papanek, Anders Henriksen, Edmund Morgan, Farish Jenkins, David Nichols, members of the Briggs (Mt. Surprise) family, Jim Cobbs, Bob & Pam Fisher, Harry Thorne, Robin Willets, Richard Ware, and so many more.

"Nostalgia" is a combination of two Greek words, one meaning "homecoming" and the other meaning "pain or ache." Perhaps – through conservation of our most beloved landscapes – we can turn this ache and sense of loss into a palpable promise to the future, making the homecoming a happy one.

*Before his death, Tom set up an education fund for his son, Aidan Henderson. Contributions to support Aidan's future education can be made out to the Aidan Henderson Education Fund, c/o Peter Henderson, 243 Morse Road, Sudbury, MA 01776.*

# Conservation Projects

## World Fellowship Center on Whitton Pond

USVLT is partnering with the World Fellowship Center (WFC) on a conservation easement that will protect **over 400 acres** on Whitton Pond in Albany, and nearly complete the pond's protection.

The project also has extensive frontage on the Chocorua River and busy Route 16.

WFC was founded in 1941 as a non-profit focused on promoting social justice and the connections between people, communities, and nature through education, recreation, and creative expression. With your help, USVLT will purchase a conservation easement on the property, and as an exemplary steward of the land, WFC will continue to own and manage the property much as it has for over half a century. Important conservation values of the property include:

- 3500 feet of the Whitton Pond shoreline
- 2200 feet of frontage on the Chocorua River
- 76 acres of the Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire, as identified by state's Wildlife Action Plan
- Rare plants & natural communities
- Nesting sites for the Common Loon, pond residents for more than a hundred years
- Connectivity to 900 acres of conserved land around Whitton Pond and over 250,000 acres of the White Mountain National Forest.

**Project Total: \$394,000**



Photo Courtesy of Liz Popolo



Cheryl Senter Photo



Cheryl Senter Photo

## Lucy Brook Farm

Inspired by a strong tradition of land conservation, the Gaudette family, owners of Lucy Brook Farm, are protecting their 45 acres of farmland, maple sugar bush, and riparian forest along scenic West Side Road in Conway. This corner of Conway was settled by the John Lucy family in the early 1800's, and many of his descendants, including the Gaudettes, still live on and farm the land. The Lucy Brook Farm is also just downstream from our 2016 Lucy Family Farm project.

USVLT hopes to purchase a conservation easement on the property, which will allow the farm to remain intact for future generations. Important conservation values of the property include:

- 2250 and 940 feet of frontage along Lucy Brook and the Saco River, respectively
- 40 acres of the Highest Ranked Habitat in New Hampshire, as identified by the State's Wildlife Action Plan
- 44 acres of prime and locally important agricultural soils
- An underlying high-yield aquifer that provides drinking water to area towns
- Connectivity to conserved lands, including the White Mountain National Forest, NH state parks, and other conservation easement lands, including ones held by USVLT

**Project Total: \$242,000**



Photo Courtesy of Tyler Ray



Photo Courtesy of Tyler Ray

## Ware Preserve

USVLT is partnering with Granite Backcountry Alliance (GBA) on the purchase of 48 acres in Intervale. The acquisition is named in memory of local conservation advocate Richard Ware, who first acquired this property to protect it from development more than two decades ago. The Ware Preserve will be managed for habitat, as well as for public access to glade skiing in the White Mountain National Forest located on the northwest slope of Bartlett Mountain. The purchase also coincides with approval by the US Forest Service for a 410-acre special-use zone on the mountain, 60 acres of which can be actively managed for backcountry skiing.

The landscape around the property has a rich history of skiing that began in the mid-1930's, when the Civilian Conservation Corps first cut the Maple Villa Trail. The trail started at the original site of the New England Inn and proceeded to the summit of 3004-foot-high Bartlett Mountain. The Ware property purchase ensures that the historic Maple Villa Trail will remain open for future public use.

GBA, a New Hampshire nonprofit organization, was formed in 2016 to develop human-powered backcountry skiing opportunities in New Hampshire and western Maine. The total Ware project price tag is just shy of \$100,000. This includes the property purchase, as well as funds necessary for onsite improvements and long-term maintenance, which include a welcome kiosk, parking area, signage, and trail maintenance.



Photo Courtesy of GBA

## New Staff



### Trisha Beringer

I started my college career interested in media broadcasting, and pursuing a degree in Communications. I took a required course in ethics taught by a philosophy professor, and it completely changed my trajectory. I thought about the things that give me joy and made me who I am, and harkened back to many fond memories spent outdoors growing up, mostly in the forest. Also drawing on values my family taught me about being stewards of the land, I came to the conclusion that conservation could be the perfect marriage between science and ethics. By graduation in May of 2015, I had earned enough credits to receive my Bachelor of Arts in Communications with a minor in Philosophy, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies.

My first job after college was at a start-up transportation logistics company. As the business grew, I had many sleepless nights, preoccupied by thoughts of what needed to be done at work. As the Administrative Manager, I was having increasing difficulty separating my work life from my home life. It was only in the woods with my family that I felt a sense of authenticity again. I had always seen

## Joining the Board



### Rebecca McReynolds

Rebecca McReynolds first came to Mt. Washington Valley in the summer of 2000, vacationing to escape the desert heat of Tucson, Arizona. An avid hiker, kayaker and skier, though, she quickly fell in love with New Hampshire's year-round outdoor lifestyle and moved to the Valley full time in 2017. As a freelance business writer, she looks to apply her financial and organizational development skills to a nonprofit which shares her commitment to community and the environment. In Tucson, she leveraged her professional expertise to help the Primavera Foundation stabilize its financial plan and build an endowment fund to preserve its mission. Her current goal is to help strengthen USVLT from within to ensure its long-term sustainability.

this job as a stepping stone, but began to wonder if it was time to rejoin the environmental field, rather than simply working for a paycheck.

After the birth of our second child, my husband and I decided it was time to make a change. I applied for jobs in the conservation field, and once I returned back to work, I gave my notice. It may have seemed crazy, but we knew it was the right decision.

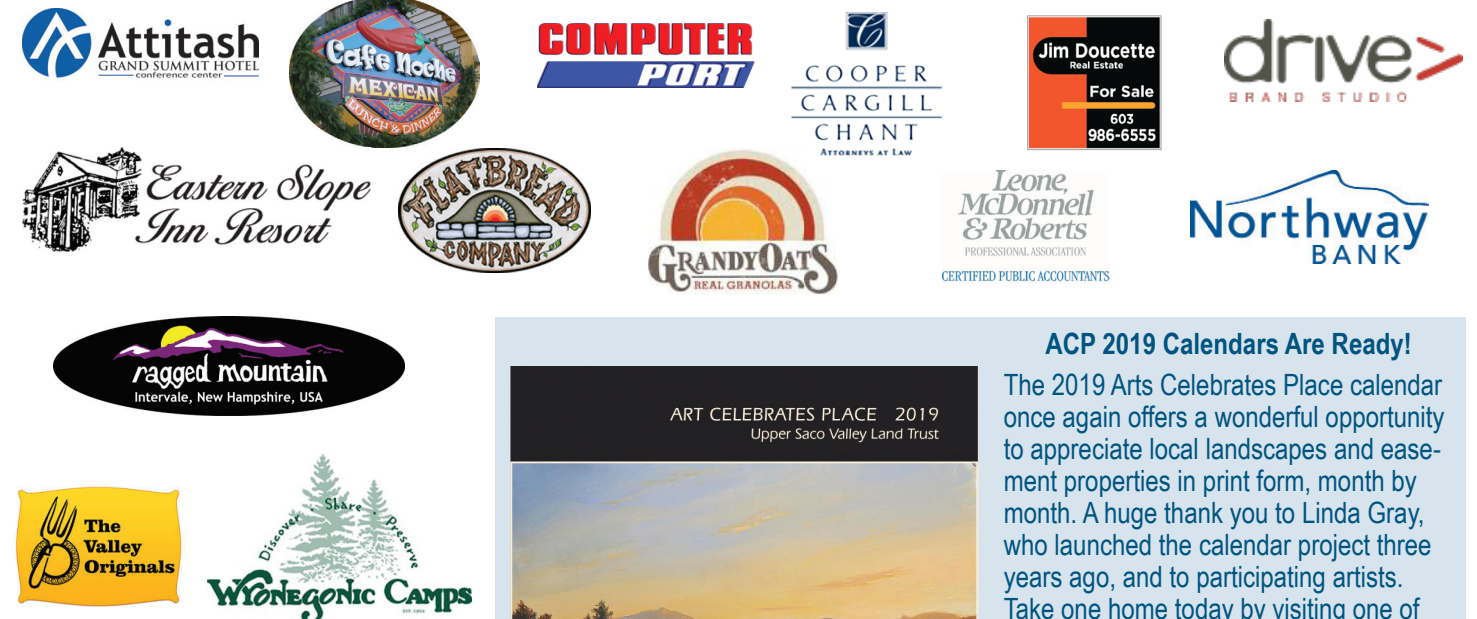
Now, I'm able to go to work knowing that what I'm doing is making a tangible difference in the community. I no longer wonder if my job is worthy of the time I spend away from my family. Rather, there is a great sense of fulfillment that comes with this new territory.

### Deborah Fauver

A counsel attorney at Cooper Cargill Chant in North Conway, Deborah Fauver Esq. is delighted to begin her semi-retirement from the firm with a seat on the USVLT board. Mt. Washington Valley has been her home since 1985, and she has spent countless hours in the local woods and fields with family and friends. Deborah and her husband, Peter, are both active in the ownership and operation of Camp Pemigewasset, a boys' summer camp in Wentworth, NH, founded by Fauvers and Reeds in 1908, and still owned and operated by both families. Reading the natural landscape for clues of past and present animal and human presence is a particular passion for Deborah. She also enjoys walking, hiking, gardening, and skiing.

## 2018 BUSINESS SUPPORT

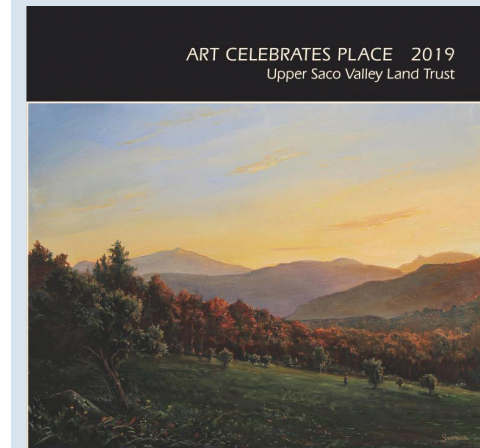
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### ACP 2019 Calendars Are Ready!

The 2019 Arts Celebrates Place calendar once again offers a wonderful opportunity to appreciate local landscapes and easement properties in print form, month by month. A huge thank you to Linda Gray, who launched the calendar project three years ago, and to participating artists. Take one home today by visiting one of the following locations: Edge of Maine Gallery, Dutch Bloemen Winkel, Jackson Art Studio, North Conway Chamber of Commerce, Soyfire Candle, Spice & Grain, The Local Grocer, The Met, Vintage Frameworks, and White Birch Books.



## SUPPORT THE LAND TRUST

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY



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USVLT is a 501 (c) (3) tax exempt organization and contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**You can also donate online OR give a Gift Membership to a friend at [www.usvlt.org](http://www.usvlt.org)**

### PLANNED GIVING

You can always have a future with the Land Trust. Include Upper Saco Valley Land Trust in your estate planning, when finalizing your will, or establishing an annuities trust. Call us 603-356-9683 for more information.

### VOLUNTEER!

It's boots on the ground that makes land preservation happen. From monitoring easement properties to trail maintenance, Upper Saco Valley Land Trust has something for you!



PRESENTS  
THE 11TH ANNUAL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

HARDY FARM  
FRYEBURG, MAINE

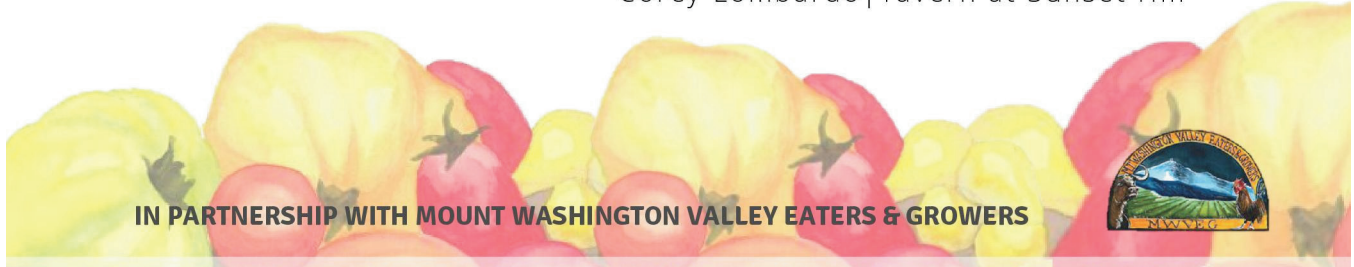
# Fields on the Saco

*The Chefs*

*farm to table dinner • tickets required*

.....  
LIVE MUSIC BY  
*Jonathan Sarty*  
.....  
SILENT AUCTION

Michael Beers | Tavern at Sunset Hill  
Jeff Fournier | Thompson House Eatery  
Bryant Alden | Wildcat Inn & Tavern  
Teresa Stearns | White Mountain Cider Co.  
Jonathan Spak | The Oxford House Inn  
Liz Jackson | SAaLT Pub  
Lisa Somerville | Vintage Bakery  
Corey Lombardo | Tavern at Sunset Hill



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FOR TICKETS & MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT [WWW.USVLT.ORG/FIELDS-ON-THE-SACO](http://WWW.USVLT.ORG/FIELDS-ON-THE-SACO)

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