This fall, USVLT will turn 20. With the approach of this milestone, we are taking stock of the work accomplished in the past 19 years. USVLT has now permanently conserved more than 12,000 acres of habitat, working forest, and prime farmland throughout the Mount Washington Valley of New Hampshire and western Maine. As a watershed-based organization, we’ve also worked to safeguard drinking water aquifers and protected more than 16 miles of frontage along the Saco River and its tributaries. This track record is a remarkable success story: one of dedication and generosity on the part of countless landowners and supporters, all coalescing around a shared vision of the future.

On the cusp of our 20th birthday, we have reached out to several early land and conservation easement donors, original board members, and other community leaders who shared that bold and optimistic vision. Their reflections appear on pages 4 to 5.

Powerful partnerships with other area nonprofits defined 2019 as well. The new Redstone Preserve (see page 9 for more information) provides partnership opportunities with the Town of Conway, The Nature Conservancy, and also potentially, in a first for USVLT, with Habitat for Humanity. In conjunction with Tin Mountain Conservation Center, we continued our Easement Exploration Series, designed to connect supporters and community members with the lands that they have helped protect (see page 7). With the World Fellowship Center, we completed all fundraising necessary to conserve more than 400 acres of their campus.

2019 was also a year of planning for future land conservation initiatives. We are currently working on several projects throughout our 11-town service area that will cumulatively preserve more than 1500 acres of forests, prime agricultural soils, and lands protecting essential water resources. Thank you for your part in making this story complete, and for sharing our vision.

William Abbott, Executive Director  Doug Burnell, President
In 19 years, we’ve helped to preserve 12,000 acres, which is a lot of land to care for. A key element of our mission is to assure we have land “remaining in its natural state, benefiting natural and human communities,” inferring management involving an intentional “light touch” with infrequent visits. But USVLT’s mission statement also provides for the “well-being and availability of land for farming, forestry, recreation, and education.” It is these multi-use properties that necessitate a proverbial rolling up of sleeves. Whether working with lessee farmers at the Albany Town Forest’s fields behind Kennett Middle School, or developing interpretive signage that highlights the fascinating human history at the Leita Monroe Lucas Preserve in East Conway, USVLT is committed to these lands. They provide rich natural resources and educational opportunities, and are a worthy investment of our time, money and materials.

In 2019, USVLT established a Land Steward position to meet these opportunities head-on. Peter Howe (who was also our summer intern in 2018) accepted the job and hit the ground running in June. Throughout the summer, he worked with the Conservation Lands Manager to implement a transition of stewardship responsibilities. During the fall, Peter led the volunteer easement-monitoring program, all while planning for improvements at our “fee-owned” preserves, applying for funding for new trails, and wholly dedicating himself to upgrading Land Trust maps and signage.

Several USVLT properties are poised to demand an outsized portion of stewardship time and dollars, and they should. Chief among these is the Pine Hill Community Forest. (The Redstone Preserve, donated in 2019 by John Schiavi, also has a rich future—see page 9 for details.) With its network of trails, proximity to Kennett High School, and existing stakeholders including the Mount Washington Valley Trails Commission and the Mountain Meadow Riders snowmobile club, continuing the tradition of multiple use is essential.

In 2019, the Pine Hill Advisory Committee officially formed and started a collaborative planning process for the Community Forest. Comprised of representatives from Tin Mountain Conservation Center; the Conway School District, Conservation Commission, and Select Board; and the Land Trust, the committee serves as a voice for a wide constituency. In early 2019, it hired Recon Trail Design, and in the fall approved the conceptual trail master plan, which includes linkages to the Conway Rec Path, space for enhanced mountain biking trails, and better interface with the Kennett High School campus. USVLT staff has applied for funding to start turning these conceptual designs into reality. Stay tuned!
With the approach of our 20th anniversary, we asked several early supporters and volunteers to reflect on USVLT’s collective work to preserve land for community benefit. Their thoughts are captured here. Please note that this group is just a small subset of the many community members that helped launch USVLT in late 2000; we remain indebted and thankful for every one of those early visionaries.

I grew up in a rural community, which is now a suburban housing development. That experience reinforced for me the need for land preservation. It hurts to see these special places disappear. I both live and work on protected land which is appreciated and used by many. From chestnut trees, to ski trails, deep forests to undeveloped lakes, we have the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust to thank for encouraging many to protect and preserve land for the betterment of all.

—Lori Jean Kinsey, Executive Director, Tin Mountain Conservation Center, and current owner of the Harding Easement

I am proud to be one of the original founding members of USVLT and grateful for the opportunity to work for the Land Trust for many years as its Land Protection Specialist. It was my dream job. With the continued generous support of our members and community foundations as well as the dedication of our Board of Directors, staff and volunteers, I see a bright future ahead for USVLT and local land conservation.

—Linda Comeau, founding Board member and long-time USVLT Land Protection Specialist

In 2007, Linda Comeau’s expertise in guiding my husband, Farish, and me in our conservation easement process was instrumental in our overwhelming support for the mission of USVLT. We soon were involved with the new director, William Abbott, and found ourselves members of an extended family of like-minded conservation folk who met for the annual meetings and Art Celebrates Place; both events involving our Uplands Apple Farm at several points. At the time of my husband’s death, it was the knowledge that, together, we had already made sure that our land would be protected into the future that brought comfort.

—Eleanor Jenkins, USVLT member, early conservation easement donor, and owner, Uplands Apple Farm

Being one of the early members of the Board of Directors of this organization, and then serving on the land and development committees (and even leading a few canoe trips on the Saco), my involvement with USVLT has been very fulfilling. Through my position at NRCS, I have partnered with USVLT to secure farmland easements and encouraged landowners to donate easements and fee parcels. I think it is a very impressive organization that has grown tremendously, thanks to many people working together in harmony to make the world better.

—Nels Liljedahl, former Board member and Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist

When I think back on my twenty-year relationship with the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust, with all of its great land protection work, growth and vision, what really strikes me is the quality of the people. Throughout the years, the board members, volunteers, staff, donors, land owners and other supporters all have shared a common vision and dedication to land conservation and protecting our special places for the future, and it does not get much better than that.

—Peter Benson, founding member and current USVLT Board member

The Land Trust was incredibly fortunate to have experienced volunteer board members from the outset. Tom Henderson, a Land Trust charter member, was also executive director of the Greater Lovell Land Trust. Another charter member, Linda Comeau, was fresh from a graduate degree in Natural Resource Management from Antioch New England. Peter Benson and Wink Lees, early Land Trust Board members, were working with the NH Nature Conservancy, and Linda Gray was a staff person for the NH Charitable Foundation. Their combined experience, together with a very keen local Board, was one of the Land Trust’s major early successes.

—Tom Earle, USVLT long-time Board President, early easement donor, and owner, Earle Family Farm
Now in its seventh year, USVLT’s Easement Exploration Series is designed to introduce the land we’ve helped conserve, both far-flung and close-at-hand. The Series features a wide array of landscapes and educational topics. In 2019, that included a tour of historical ski trails at the Ware Preserve in Intervale, an astronomical star-gazing event at World Fellowship Center, an exploration of fire ecology at the King-Hayes easement in Brownfield (complete with finding charcoal, burn scars, and other traces of Brownfield’s devastating 1947 fire), and an “Impressions of Painters” history walk at the Leita Monroe Lucas preserve in East Conway, celebrating the legacy of two American Impressionists that once lived onsite, Thomas Wilmer Dewing and Maria Oakey Dewing.

2019 marked the 10th anniversary of Art Celebrates Place. Once again, the Pace Galleries and Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center at Fryeburg Academy showcased local visual artists, dancers, singer-songwriters, and story tellers. This annual rite of spring, with its stellar display of talent, was the most successful, financially, in our history. We owe tremendous gratitude to the volunteers that drive this event, year after year, and also to those pioneers who first envisioned ACP and its potential impact: Marnie Cobbs, Linda Gray and Lucy Gatchell.

As Art Celebrates Place so perfectly celebrates spring’s arrival, Fields on the Saco is the other seasonal bookend, marking the fall harvest. In 2019, the Land Trust hosted the event for the third year, and once again, the Valley’s finest chefs and farms were on display at the Hardy Farm in Fryeburg. With a special focus on the farmers who have been directly helped by USVLT’s land-conservation efforts, last year’s fundraising goal was handily surpassed. We are extremely grateful to Sasha Tracy, who voluntarily shepherded this event from start to finish with grace.

If you haven’t been, we’d love to see you at future events. They’re the best way to get to know what we really do, and why we do it.

Much of USVLT’s work is opaque, time-consuming, and hard to translate. Negotiating easement terms, combing through title reports, and writing grants can tend towards the mundane. For our staff and dedicated volunteer Board of Directors, these quotidian tasks can feel far removed from the land we love, which is a key reason that outreach programming and events are so essential. These activities reinforce our mission of conserving land for community benefit and connect us directly to our committed supporters.
PARTNERSHIPS & SPECIAL INITIATIVES

It takes a village. Partnerships amplify the Land Trust’s work, and chief among our partners are other environmental organizations that both conserve land and focus on education. Many Easement Exploration Series events, for example, partner with Tin Mountain Conservation Center (see page 6-7 for 2019 highlights). The Ware Preserve (a 2018 project) is stewarded with the help of Granite Backcountry Alliance. Community partners are planning the future of Pine Hill Community Forest (see page 2-3 for more), while other current land-protection projects will be completed only through the support of local and regional stakeholders, like The Nature Conservancy and The Trust for Public Land.

In 2019, a new partnership was seeded with Habitat for Humanity. As a land conservation organization, USVLT recognizes that it cannot work in a vacuum, isolated from other community issues. Critical among those concerns is the lack of affordable housing within our service area. In 2019, we received a donation of property from John Schiavi, the Redstone Preserve, which abuts historic Redstone Village (see box). While most of the land boasts excellent conservation values and natural resources, or provides a buffer to similar areas, some of it does not. A dialogue is underway with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity to explore whether a portion of the property is appropriate as a future site for affordable housing. While this relationship is in its initial stages, the Land Trust embraces the possibility of preserving land for community benefit in a new—and potentially profound—way.

Get to Know the Redstone Preserve

In August of 2019, USVLT received a three-parcel donation of 94 acres near historic Redstone Village from John Schiavi (Redstone Properties). The property has a history of multiple uses by bikers, hikers, neighborhood dog-walkers and snowmobilers (Corridor 19 crosses it). The land also abuts The Nature Conservancy’s Green Hills Preserve, so permanent ownership by USVLT only made sense. The property is considered “Supporting Landscape” for the rare natural communities just upslope, and it includes portions of the historic Redstone Quarry. The donation also came with a generous stewardship-fund contribution toward the property’s long-term management. Public access, historic assets, and natural resources make this property a true conservation gem, checking all the proverbial boxes. USVLT will partner with other area nonprofit groups for the parcel’s ongoing management, to continue responsible public access onsite, and to shine a light on Redstone’s fascinating history.

To access this preserve, park in the dirt lot behind Walmart at the end of Hemlock Lane, and then cross the railroad tracks. The Redstone Preserve is immediately east of Mountain Street and heads uphill toward Rattlesnake Mountain.

The Land Trust is also proud of its role in helping to create a new community nonprofit, the Saco Headwaters Alliance. Since 2015, USVLT has been increasingly concerned about both surface and groundwater quality. While traditional land conservation does address these issues (there is a direct correlation between water quality and the percentage of the watershed that remains forested), clearly there was a need to accelerate efforts to safeguard this critical resource. To this end, several area towns have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, aquifer protection ordinances, thanks to USVLT’s outreach. Protecting water resources is complex and time intensive, and the need emerged for an organization to take this on as a core mission. Land Trust Board members Tom Gross, Anne Pillion, and Mark Dindorf (as well as several USVLT advocates) have now created the Saco Headwaters Alliance to make headway on this critical work. We look forward to future partnerships with SHA.
USVLT sincerely thanks all of its 2019 contributors. We couldn’t do it without you!
Landowner contributor = L
Easement monitor = M
Volunteer = V

MEMBERS (continued)
Paula Brown & David Greenslit
John & Rosemary Griffin
Linda Gritz
Tom & Maria Gross
Deborah Guryn
Peter & Barbara Haack
Elizabeth Hager
Chris Chapman & Alison Hale
Wil & Don Hall
Susannah Halpern
Elizabeth Hamlin
Charles & Maureen Hanlon
Katharine Hanson
Sam & Bersey Harding
Lucy Gatchell & Dexter Harding
Mickey Hardt

Susan Hardt
Mark Koyama & Cary Hardwick
Leah Hart
Deb & Greg Hastings
Jim & Linda Hastings
Peter & Stefi Reed Hastings
Elaine Hatch
Lois Hatch
Sara Hatch
Mr. Doug Haver
Carroll Hayes
Mr. Ken King & Ms. Olga Hayes
Norman & Kathleen Head
Mr. Ross Heald
Bob & Pat Heiges
Mr. Geoff Heigh
Carolyn Hemstedt
Ms. Dorothy Hender
Colleen Henderson
Sharrene Henderson
Thomas & Emily Henriksen
Hepburn, LTD.
Bridget Herlihy

Richard Hesslein
Richard & Beverly Heydinger
Pat & John Higgins
Arliss Hill
George & Helene Hill
Jim Hill
Doug Hjelmsstad
Jean & James Hodgins
John & Patricia Hoffman
Matt & Jen Hohenboken
Ms. Lisa Holcomb
Edward Hollum
Valerie & Berthold Horn
Milt & Carla Horowitz
Harrison & Barbara Hoyt
Julie Hoyt
Greg & Jenny Huang-Dale
Margery Huemmler
Priscilla & Franklin Hundley
Max Hurgin
Helen & Sparky Hurgin
Mr. Robert Hurst & Cheryl M. Hurst
Justin & Julie Hussey

Scott Hutchins
Lois Burleigh & William Hutchins
Jamie Riel & Caren Hutchinson
Ned & Linda Iselin
Jackson Art Studio
Carolyn Jackson
Helen Jackson
Mrs. Eleanor Jenkins
Pamela Jenkinson
Rick & Vickie Jenkinson
Jewish Federation of Cleveland
The Richard & Margaret Margolis Philanthropic Fund
Glenda Davis & Pam Jezukawicz
Joan E. MacPhail Rev Trust of 2008
Chris Joosen & Jana Johnson
Diane Johnson
Lindsay Johnston
Paula Jones
Ms. Theresa Jones
Moya & Lindsey Joosten

Steve & Lindsay Kafka
Mary & Steve Kandrotas
Anne & Bob Kantack
Mr. Jack Karp
Stan & Martha Kaubris
John & Cheryl Keator
Mark Ruckstuhl & Sharon Keeler
Ms. Joan Kelley
Edward & Patricia Kelly
Pete Lewis & Joanne Kelly
Marian A. Keler
Judy & Dan Kennedy
Mr. Bruce Kennett
Peter & Joanne Kennett
Bayard & Theresa Kennett
Daryl Kent
Norman Cloutier & Wendy Ketchum
Kenneth & Sarah Kimball
Abby King
Kitty King
Nick King

Lori Jean Kinsey
Genie Tracy Kirchner
Elizabeth Klebe
Peter & Elaine Klose
Ms. Faith Knowles
Lynne Knox (Luciano)
Steve & Sara Knox
Erik Koeppel
Robert Koppe
Ernesta & Mark Kraczkiewicz
Andy & Heather Kramp
Richard & Sandy Krasker
Robert W. Kruszyna
Mr. James Kuhn
Laurie LaMountain
Walter & Debi Lancaster
Russ & Joan Lanoie
Cornelia Lanou
Harry & Patricia Lapham
Rich & Julie Laracy
Michael & Victoria Laracy
Tricia Mattos-Larson & Steve Larson

Chase Pond/ Anne Garland
Alison Verran
Dennis & Johanna Vienneau
Paul & Melissa Vigue
David Vitale-Wolff
Brian Grennan & Fritz Von Ulmer
Mr. Wyatt Wade (Old Blake Farm)
Henry Barber & Sara Walbridge
Dr. Patricia Walker
Hilary Wallys
Andy Davis & Andrea Walsh
Mary Jane Walsh
Richard & Sally Ward
Shirley Ward
Helen & Jim Wasco
Norma Wassel
June McLeavey & Michael Weeder
Tish Hanlon & Stephen Weeder
M
Dr. Harvey & Valerie Weener
Lou & Margaret Wells
Ms. Frances West
Ed & Carol Westervelt
George & Laurie Weston
John Weston
Ann & Tim Whalen
Rev. John Cole & Dr. Polly Wheat
Evelyn & Paul Whelton

IN HONOR OF/
IN MEMORY OF
In Honor Of Martha M. Cobbs
Helen & Bruce Dixon
In Honor Of Larry Garland
Leane Page Garland
Marc Garland
In Memory Of Howard Huemmler
Margery Huemmler
In Memory Of Holly Huhn
Peter Crane
In Honor Of Rick Jenkinson
Pamela Jenkinson
In Memory Of Duncan Kimball
Mr. Christopher Baldwin
In Memory Of Chet & Lydia Lucy
Bill & Sally Stoops
In Memory Of Lydia T. Lucy
Ann & Richard Bennett
Ed & Kathleen Bergeron
Mrs. Martha Cobbs
Barbara & David Douglass
Lori Jean Kinsey
Ms. Susan Nichols
Phil & Ann Ostroski
Gail F. Paine
Anne Rogers
Ms. Mary E. Shea

Michael & Donna Veilleux
In Honor Of Jon & Diane Marquis
Ms. Meredythe J. Schober
In Honor Of Winna
Chris Chapman & Alison Hale
In Honor Of Jesse Wright
Theresa Bernhardt
Trish Mansur & Elaine DiRusso

ART CELEBRATES PLACE
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS
Mabel Albert
Appalachian Mountain Club
Axis Dance Co.
Deb Ayers
Scott Barber
Susan Beane
Natalie Beittel
Ann Bennett
Peter Blue
Brookford Farm
Annie Burke
Burnt Meadow Blueberries
Ailie Byers
Katy Clark
Marie Cobbs
Mike Dana
Earle Family Farm
Mary Edes

Fish Nerds Guide Service
Flatbread Pizza
Foothills Farm Alliance
Gay Freeborn
Frith Farm
Fryeburg Academy
Lucy Gatchell
Grandy Oats
Linda Gray
Green Thumb Farm
Maria Gross
Herb Hollingsworth
Lindsay Johnston
Allie Kaplan-Thompson
Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center
Melanie Barash Levitt
Jeanne Limmer
Maine Medicinals
Tricia Mattos-Larson
Milan McNall
Meghan Moody
Molly Mundy
Naylen Farm
Old Village Bakery
Patch Farm
Pied-a-terre Farm
Kristen Pobatschnig
Jay Rancourt
Saco River Brewing
Saco River Farm

Sap Hound Maple Company
Shaw’s Supermarket
Sherman Farm
South Paw Farm
Georgia Stafford
Sunnyfield Brick Oven Bakery
Tamworth Mushroom Company
The Local Grocer
Purlin Twigg-Smith
Virginia Ward
Aurora Winkler

FIELDS ON THE SACO
IN-KIND CONTRIBUTORS
Anne Skidmore Photography
Bryan Alden
BAM Hospitality
Michael Beers
Ann Bennett
Peter & Emily Benson
Ailie Byers
Cormack Construction
Sarah & Jake Davis
Andrew Drummond
Dutch Bloemen Winkel
(Carrie Scribner)
Earle Family Farm
Good Vibes Coffee Roasters
Granite Backcountry Alliance
Linda Gray
Green Thumb Farms
Hardy Farm
GRANTS & SPECIAL PROGRAM SUPPORT

Advancing Local Agriculture
Anonymous
Anonymous family foundation
Maine Farmland Trust
State of NH Department of Agriculture
Thompson House Eatery
USDAs - Rural Business Development Grant

Aquifer Protection & Water Quality Work
NH Department of Environmental Services – Local Source Water Protection Grant
Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation

General Support
Anonymous family foundations (2)
Land Trust Alliance
Maine Community Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
donor advised funds:
Anonymous family funds (2)
Eagles Nest Fund
Kigme Fund
Kineo Fund
Lakes Region Environmental Fund
Marshall Family Fund
Melinda Richmond Fund
Richard A. Ware Family Fund
Salt and Elizabeth Davis Fund
Newmans Own Foundation
PayPal Giving Fund

Stewardship
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife
Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Grant
New Hampshire Land & Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP)
Redstone Properties, Inc. (John Schiavi)

Matching Gifts
GE Foundation
The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey
Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation

Dundee Project
Martha W. Chandler
Kimberly Siebert & Mr. Hugh MacPhail
Joan E. MacPhail Rev Trust of 2008

Lucy Brook Farm
Anonymous
Anonymous foundation
Gaudette Family

Pine Hill Community Forest
George & Laurie Weston

Secure the Ledges Initiative
Access Fund
Mr. Rob Adair
Anonymous foundation
Sasha & Jack Tracy

Ware Preserve
Mr. Rob Adair
Anonymous foundation
Rick & Pennie Boyle

World Fellowship Center Project
Ingrid & Mark Albee
Audubon Society of New Hampshire
Richard Brown
W. Robert Abbot & Claire M. Cifaloglio
Ms. Carol S. Coonrod

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

CONTRIBUTE TO PLACE & SACO RIVER LEVEL

SWIFT RIVER LEVEL
Jim Doucette Real Estate
The Tarberry Company
The Valley Originals
White Birch Books
White Mountain Oil & Propane
White Mountain Puzzles
Wyonegonic Camps

ELLIS RIVER LEVEL
The Burtonwood Inn
Dutch Bloemen Winkel
Eastern Mountain Sports
Edge of Maine Gallery
Emerald Tree Experts
Gamwell Caputo Kelsh & Co
Good Vibes Coffee Roasters
GrandyOats

HEB Engines
Hosac Farm
Jeff Fournier
Jason Huter
Liz Jackson
Paula Jones
Nicholas Kane
Erik Koeppel
Leone McDonnell & Roberts PA
Julie Levine
Libbys Bistro & SAaLT Pub
Little Field Farm
Lucy Hardware
Maine Grains
Tricia Mattox-Larson
Mill Brook Farm
Monhegan Wellness (Tobey Levine)
Moonset Farm (Jackie Gardner)
Mountain Heartbeet Farm
Naylen Farm
New Day Farm
Old Wells Farm
The Oxford House Inn
Patch Farm
Pietree Orchard
Pork Hill Farm
Portland Schooner Company
Range View Farm
Red Gables Farm
Susan Ross-Parent
Sap House Meadery
Richard Schmitt
Severance Lodge Club
Ski The Whites
Lisa Somerville
Jonathan & Natalie Spak
Spider Web Gardens
Teresa Starns
Table & Tonic
The Tarberry Company
Thompson House Eatery
Sasha Tracy
The Trailing Yew
Vintage Baking Company
Wessons Farm
White Mountain Cider Company
White Mountain Puzzles
Wildcat Inn & Tavern
WMWV 93.5
Wotton Farm

Redstone Properties, Inc. (John Schiavi)

About the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust

The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to conserving land in fee or in conservation easements throughout New Hampshire’s Saco River Valley. The Upper Saco Valley Land Trust was created in 1978 by founding members interested in protecting land and quality of life in our 11-town service area. Partnered with over 100 businesses and organizations, the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust has protected over 12,000 acres of land through conservation easements and land in fee. Please see www.usvlt.org for more detailed location information about these easements and preserves.

Main Contact Information:

Maine Office:

95 River Road
Carroll, NH 03595

(603) 533-0192
www.usvlt.org

NH Office:

1365 Ledge Road
Conway, NH 03818

(603) 532-6820
www.usvlt.org

Executive Director:

Norma Wassel

(603) 532-6820
normaw@usvlt.org

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

At the close of 2019, the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust and our partners had completed 69 conservation projects, totaling over 12,000 acres throughout our 11-town service area. Please see www.usvlt.org for more detailed location information about these easements and preserves.
Financially, as well as operationally, 2019 was another strong year for the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust. When reviewing the organization’s financial results, it is helpful to separate activities into two categories, operations (rent, phone, salaries, etc.) and special one-time projects. In 2019, the day-to-day operations generated an excess of revenues over expenses of nearly $10,000, which compared favorably to the $7,000 that was budgeted. Further, in 2019, one-time projects represented a net increase in Land Trust assets of over $400,000. The major portion of this increase was a generous donation of land, supplemented by numerous cash grants relating to current and future land-protection projects. The success of 2019 has given USVLT a solid foundation for growth into its 20th year, as we take on ambitious new land protection projects and increase our stewardship and staff capacity.

Sources of financial support are member contributions, grants, outreach activities, business partnerships, and events such as Art Celebrates Place and Fields on the Saco. As we follow our 2017 Strategic Plan to its fruition, our land holdings, stewardship responsibilities, operational capacity, and outreach programming are all expanding. Going forward, the Land Trust will also be increasing its financial reserves commensurate with this growth. These reserves will:

- Help ensure conservation easement terms are satisfied and other stewardship responsibilities are met.
- Attract and retain qualified staff.
- Allow USVLT to engage in larger and more complicated land protection projects.

For the Land Trust to carry out its mission, the support of the local community is essential. The organization’s continuing ability to preserve land for community benefit is only made possible with your support. Thank you.

The Light in Between/Purlin Twigg-Smith

Financially, as well as operationally, 2019 was another strong year for the Upper Saco Valley Land Trust.