



*Helping to Preserve the Rural Landscape of the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee Region
Andover, Bradford, Danbury, Gosben, Grantham, New London, Newbury, Springfield, Sunapee, Sutton, Warner, & Wilmot*



CHATTER

Winter 2011



Battles Farm is located on Center Road in Bradford. This photo is taken from Jewett Road, looking north across Hoyt Brook. The proposed conservation easement of 143 acres includes farmland, woodland and nearly one mile of frontage on Hoyt Brook. (Photo: Bill Duffy)

Battles Farm Conservation Alliance

Significant State Grant Funding Secured

Years ago, I noticed that upon returning to Bradford from somewhere afar and ascending Center Road, I reflexively turn off the jabber emanating from the truck's radio. This habit began unconsciously as a private signal that I am almost home. Upon reaching the height of the land at Battles Farm, I become alert to my surroundings and watch, depending on the season, for kestrel perched on the barn roof, for vultures circling Goodwin Hill, or for the

neat, meandering tracks of fox across snow covered fields. This scenery is in large part what is known as "rural character," and what I am experiencing is known as "a sense of place." And I know I'm not alone in this. Surveys of Bradford's residents have listed these hard-to-define values as of primary importance to the town, with Battles Farm often mentioned specifically.

The first comprehensive town-wide poll was the 1986 Master Plan survey,

which was repeated in 1996 and 2006. The State's "Community Cornerstones" project was completed in 1993, followed by natural resource studies and a town-wide wetland inventory. These temperature-takings of the town evaluate what is important to its people and are intended for long-range planning. As the population of Bradford doubled between 1970 and 1985, farmland, forestland, views, wildlife, and clean water all became more valuable in retaining the

(continued on page 2)

by J. Ann Eldridge



From the Executive Director:

The nice thing about writing this column for Chatter is the opportunity to reflect on the past year. 2010 was an especially busy year for Ausbon Sargent as nearly 3,000 additional acres were conserved. As you read Chatter, I hope you are as moved as I was by the landowners' stories. We owe a great deal of gratitude to

these private citizens who are willing to share their legacy of land conservation with us.

And then there is the generosity of our members and supporters. It is heartwarming to know that people recognize that Ausbon Sargent's work makes a difference in their quality of life. Conserving land provides recreational opportunities for our enjoyment and well being.

When we conserve a farm like Hersey, Star Lake or Courser, we are preserving a land-based livelihood. By protecting lands, Ausbon Sargent helps preserve the unique character that defines our communities and makes them a desirable place to live and raise our families. Land conservation also means preserving scenic views that we cherish and treasure.

Clearly we can't do this alone. Many of our land protection successes and projects in-the-works depend upon partnerships with like minded organizations, town conservation commissions and government agencies. Collaboration takes many forms. Each entity has its constituent base and is able to build on each other's strengths. We are able to share skills, knowledge and expertise. For example, Ausbon Sargent has on staff a licensed forester and an attorney, whereas another organization may have science-based expertise. Conservation projects are often complex and require pooling these skills along with fundraising sources among our multiple partners.

As we approach our 25th anniversary in 2012, plans are underway to celebrate this milestone achievement. Ausbon Sargent now protects nearly 9,000 acres and growing. It is important that we build awareness that this protection includes a binding legal promise to watch over these lands. Stewardship is forever

and we take this responsibility seriously. That's why our staff and trained volunteers must monitor every conservation easement property annually.

In closing, I want to thank you for your steadfast and generous support. The work of Ausbon Sargent has never been more important because we are "Saving Land Today for Tomorrow." Thank you for investing in Ausbon Sargent. Together we make a difference!

"We are all actors on the stage of life, playing our part and then being gone in the twinkling of an eye. Only the land remains, and the land has the potential to add life to our years and years to our life."

- Audrey Peterman

(continued from page 1) character and well-being of the town. Indeed, the rural, small-town atmosphere was, and continues to be, a motive for new residents to settle here. Battles Farm has exemplified these values for many people.

Battles Farm represents both Bradford's past and its future. Established by the Presby family in the late 1700s, Edward Wadleigh Dodge was managing what was then called 'Meadow Brook Farm' between 1862 and 1868. Its faded sign is still nailed above the barn door. He planted the maple trees on the front lawn. Dodge, a selectman, kept a daily journal of life on the farm giving us a glimpse into Bradford's difficult Civil War years. Much of the wildlife of the century before was gone, the population was moving west and abandoned farms were reverting to forest.

Looking ahead, we can be fairly certain of several things: food security has become a topic of increasing urgency as current agricultural systems, based on high-energy inputs and long-distance transportation, are recognized as precarious in the long term. Changing weather patterns with greater swings in temperature and precipitation will make landowners more aware of the

importance of erosion and flooding. Population density will increase with all its attendant problems, among them further fragmentation of the landscape, loss of biodiversity, and the diminishment of cultural and regional identity as every crowded neighborhood starts to look and feel so much the same.

Obtaining a conservation easement on Battles Farm

has been a focus of the Bradford Conservation Commission and the non-profit Rural Heritage Connection of Bradford for a number of years. It came to the attention of Ausbon Sargent through its regional surveys and the State's comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan. These three organizations joined efforts to form the Battles Farm Conservation Alliance in the summer of 2010. The importance of New Hampshire's remaining farmland and this particular farm was recognized by the awarding of significant LCHIP and Moose Plate grants. And this project would not have happened without generous supporters who, despite these economic hard times, pledged donations in advance. The staff and boards of the grant organizations were impressed by the demonstration of support for this landmark property.

(continued on page 3)

Facts about the Battles Farm Conservation Easement:

- Actively managed working farm producing milk, eggs, meat and other farm products for local consumers.
- Nearly 1 mile of frontage on Hoyt Brook providing important flood control for downtown Bradford.
- Scenic views frequently photographed and appreciated by the public from Center Road of the open space of farm, fields and forest.
- 2010 Wildlife Action Plan ranks the farm fields as among the highest value wildlife habitat in the biological region.

Funding: The total estimated cost is \$373,00, which includes purchase price, and acquisition costs such as survey, legal, appraisal and stewardship.

Funding Partners: Bradford Conservation Commission, Rural Heritage Connection of Bradford, Inc., private donors, and grants from LCHIP, the Moose Plate and the Bafflin Foundation. The balance to be raised is \$10,000.

Funding from private donors is vital to the success of the conservation of Battles Farm
To donate visit our web site:
www.ausbonsargent.org/join/donate

Colby-Sawyer Students Help Conservation Planning

by Laura Alexander

Colby-Sawyer College students in this year's Community-Based Research Project class are working with members of the Ausbon Sargent Lands Committee to develop a region-wide conservation plan. The year-long class partners 3rd and 4th year Environmental Studies and Environmental Science majors with a community organization to gather data that can answer a question or guide future action. Recent past projects have included completing the NH Department of Environmental Service's Comprehensive Lake Inventory for Lake Sunapee, Pleasant and Blaisdell Lakes, and completing a Natural Resources Inventory and identifying conservation priorities for the town of New London.

In 2004-2005 students worked with Ausbon Sargent on a project similar to the one they are doing this year, and repeating that work five years later made sense for a few reasons. First, the previous project was completed just as our Land Protection Specialists Beth McGuinn, and later Andy Deegan, joined the Ausbon Sargent staff. Both Beth and Andy successfully addressed the many pending projects and they and the Lands Committee felt an updated version of the previous work would help them prioritize future projects. Board members recognized in the organization's newly adopted strategic plan that "Ausbon Sargent is at a critical juncture where it must consider carefully how to support expansion in the number of conserved lands and meet current and future stewardship obligations." So the opportunity to partner with Colby-Sawyer students to do this work again was appealing. The students do the bulk of the legwork and data analysis with the assistance of their faculty, seeking the advice of Ausbon Sargent staff and committee members as necessary. Additionally, access to improved spatial data created during the last five years greatly improves the accuracy and usability of the project documents.

During the fall semester this group of 11 students spent time familiarizing themselves with each of the 12 towns served by Ausbon Sargent - learning about the history of land conservation as well as why and how lands are conserved. They gathered data on population and development in each of the towns, learned where lands are already conserved and what level of protection exists on those lands, compiled data on which towns have completed natural resources inventories and identified conservation priorities, and



photo: Nancy Lyon

Front row: Alexandra Frisch, Alyssa Tamlyn-Hayden, Anna Hosmer Middle row: Prof. Ben Steele, Sam Kenney, Jack Nessen, Luke Fowler, Jeff Marc-Aurele, Prof. Laura Alexander Back row: Doug McKenna, Phil Oman, Aric Lantiegne, Tyler Griffin, Prof. Nick Baer

made note of when they updated their master plans. They also prepared maps for each of the towns that identified important conservation criteria such as unfragmented lands, agricultural lands, working forests, drinking water resources, and ecologically important lands. Using the research data developed this past fall, during the spring semester the students will create co-occurrence maps that show where these conservation criteria overlap, which can help to highlight areas where Ausbon Sargent might focus conservation efforts. Finally, they will determine what has changed with respect to conservation in the region since the 2004-2005 report.

The results of this work will be shared in the form of a public presentation in April 2011 at the College, and as presentations to interested town boards by Ausbon Sargent Land Protection staff and CSC faculty member (and Ausbon Sargent Trustee) Laura Alexander. The project documents will be posted on the Colby-Sawyer College website. Previous student projects, including the 2004-2005 report can be accessed here: <http://www.colby-sawyer.edu/environmental/projects/index.html>. Be sure to watch for the announcement of the project presentation in April.

Laura Alexander is an Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Colby-Sawyer College. She is an active member of the Ausbon Sargent Board of Trustees, member of the Lands Committee, and she Chairs both the Outreach Committee and the Lands Committee.

(continued from page 2)

With this keystone easement, generations of Bradford residents and history buffs will easily locate the fields and floodplains of 'Meadow Brook Farm' and the South Hills of Bradford. It will continue to be able to provide agricultural and forestry products and jobs for residents. Wildlife and residents will have a bit of permanent breathing space. And we won't need the distractions of the car radio until we reach the mind-numbing dullness of the highway.

We are planning for the long run, and not one set of owners, but many. This farm has had and, now, will continue to have many and varied lives – as a farm. And it will continue to play a rich role in our community.

J. Ann Eldridge has been a long-time member of the Bradford Conservation Commission. She is as a printmaker (etchings) and is offering a limited edition of one of her prints of Battles Farm on her web site. All profits from sales of these prints will go towards conservation projects of Ausbon Sargent, the Bradford Conservation Commission, and the Rural Heritage Connection of Bradford. To see Ann Eldridge's work and learn more about purchasing her fund raising print go to her web site: www.anneldridgeprints.com. You may also email: jaeldridge@tds.net or call 938-5266.



photo: Tom Honard

One of the many scenic vistas from Center Road looking west across the Battles Farm fields.

A Century of Life on Courser Farm

1,203 acres, Webster & Warner

by Bob Bowers

photo: Nancy Lyon



Laughing together during the signing of the fourth and final phase of the Courser Family conservation easements are the four Courser siblings (from left to right): Bill, Tim, Jerry and Rebecca.

Meandering down Schoodac Road from the center of Warner village, one leaves behind the slow hum of Interstate 89 and travels back in time. Fields flow off to the right, cattle graze on the hillside, and a white farmhouse and barn come into view. This is the Courser Farm, where the Courser family has lived for over one hundred years. The farmhouse, built in the 1780s, was bought by Fred “Senior” Courser, in 1905. He died in 1933, just as his son, Fred “Junior” graduated from Simonds High. Junior ran the farm with his mother, Lora, until she remarried in 1939, and then until his own death in 1996.

Rebecca and her brother Jerry sit at the dining table and talk laconically of the past. She tends the wood stove much as her mother and grandmother once did, as they tell stories of growing up on the Farm. She and her family now live here; Jerry and Tim live just down the road; and Bill lives in Concord.

Junior was born in Maine, where Fred Senior established the Bath Box Works and a lumber business. They came back each summer to this farm they loved, settling in full-time in 1926. Junior’s sister Margaret died of appendicitis in that house in 1923. His other sisters, Edith and Sarah, grew up and moved away. But Junior stayed on.

It wasn’t easy for him. During the Depression, they cut, but couldn’t sell, three million board feet of lumber, which was subject to the crushing burden of New Hampshire’s inventory tax. At the same time, they couldn’t sell their livestock at a decent price. Things started looking up in 1937, when Junior married Margaret Bartlett, his high school sweetheart. Then the hurricane of ‘38 hit, leveling even more standing timber. They made some into shingles for their own use, but most rotted on the ground.

Bill was born in 1940, Jerry in 1942, Rebecca in 1953, and Tim in 1957. That might have been a full house for a lot of people, but not for Junior and Margaret. They took in a couple of their nephews; and each summer cared for “Fresh Air” kids – first Barry, who helped Jerry and Bill, then fourteen and sixteen, drive sheep and cattle up to the mountain pastures; then young girls, who shared many of the other chores.

Once, when the cattle wandered into a stand of wild apple trees, Jerry and Bill left them to gorge themselves overnight, and went back the next day to drive them home. Often, they would track down the cattle up on the mountain, and drive them

down over Sawyer Hill into Salisbury, where Margaret would pick the boys up.

They had 50-60 sheep most times. Junior would shear them, Margaret would sell much of it to mills in Maine for blankets, and they would sell the meat for many an Easter dinner. Junior, Bill and Jerry often demonstrated their skills shearing sheep at Star Lake Farm, now another ASLPT protected property.

They had a large garden, raised their own meat, grew their own vegetables, and made all their butter and cheese. And, Rebecca ruefully notes, it wouldn’t be farming if they didn’t feed all the turkeys and raccoons, bear and coyotes – they planted extra vegetables as a “line of defense” just for that purpose. During World War II, they had a home sugaring operation. The sugar shack, now rebuilt, is just down from the farmhouse, next to the foundation of Senior’s original house – it burned down a year and a day after he and Lora married.

The farming tradition continues. Cattle, now owned by Junior’s grandchildren, still roam the hillside; and the family grows pumpkins by the thousands. At Halloween, they invite families out to carve pumpkins, which they light with candles and set out all along Schoodac Road. They even demonstrate a trebuchet, hurling pumpkins hundreds of feet through the air.

They also sell sweet corn, tomatoes, and squash from their garden; and maple syrup in the spring. In a salute to sustainable local farming, they sell some of their product to Spring Ledge Farm, yet another Ausbon Sargent protected land.

Bill, Jerry, Rebecca and Tim truly love the land and have shown it by protecting 1,203 acres. Courser Farm is now protected from development; protected as a working farm and forest; protected as an essential watershed; protected as a wildlife habitat. The Courser name, and their land, will be forever with us because of their altruism. Visit Courser Farm on Schoodac Road – or on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Courser-Farm/112415239543>).

Bob Bowers, erstwhile Chair of Ausbon Sargent (Board member ‘89-‘95; Chair ‘95,) retired in 2000 from a quarter-century of practicing law in New London. He and his wife Kathy love the beauty and serenity of the outdoors which Ausbon Sargent has been so instrumental in preserving. He is currently Chair of the Tracy Memorial Library Board of Trustees, and is a writer and occasional contributor to area publications.

Messer Pond

46.95 acres, New London

by Jessie Levine

Recent media coverage about “nature deficit disorder” -- a term coined by author Richard Louv in his book *Last Child in the Woods* – brought renewed attention to the importance of providing children with access to the natural world and encouragement to explore it. When I visit my young niece and nephew in Metro DC and Tucson, Arizona, respectively, I bemoan the time they must spend indoors due to heat, traffic, and other dangers, real or perceived.

Getting kids (and adults) outdoors is one of the less obvious challenges towns and cities must address in the 21st century. Studies show that the benefits of outdoor play go beyond the areas of weight and health -- being outdoors improves imagination and coordination, builds courage, and creates opportunities for self-discovery that are not available from a television set or video game. In other words, the natural world meets emotional and social needs as well as the physical.

We often talk about the role of government in financial terms -- budget deficits, budget cuts, tax rates, cost of services, sources of revenue – and we less often focus on the public and social benefits that government provides. And when we do, we often fail to recognize that important public and social service needs are being fulfilled by town Conservation Commissions, often in conjunction with their local land trusts.

One of the roles assumed by the New London Conservation Commission is to identify land and resources that are important to preserve and find ways to protect them, often partnering with other organizations. In 2010, for instance, the New London Conservation Commission asked voters at Town Meeting to approve a conservation easement over town-owned land on Messer Pond, adding just under 47 acres to the Town’s 350+ acres of land protected by easement or deed restriction.

The Messer Pond easement is a small example of what can be ac-

**“Nature never said to me:
Do not be poor; still less did she say: Be Rich;
her cry to me was always: Be independent.”**

-- Nicolas Chamfort



The conserved shoreline of the Messer Pond conservation easement can be seen behind and to the right of the small island.

photo: Nancy Lyon

The facts about the Messer Pond Easement

Acreage: 46.95

Owner: Town of New London

Location: County Road

- Protects 510 feet of shore frontage along Messer Pond
- Protects 1,360 feet of frontage along County Road
- Protects significant wetlands that flow into Messer Pond
- The Property will remain open for public access for noncommercial pedestrian activities.
- Will add to over 298 acres of conservation land near the property

complished when towns empower their Conservation Commissions. The Conservation Commission accepted, on behalf of the townspeople, three gifts of private land: in 1988, 20 acres from Bob and Lynne Bell, Robert Scott, and Molly MacNaughton; in 1990, 10 adjacent acres from John Melngailis; and in 1998 another 16.9 acres from Mr. Melngailis that included over 200 feet of frontage on Messer Pond.

The Messer Pond easement benefits the public in tangible ways: it protects the brook that feeds Messer Pond and supports a public trail from County Road to Messer Pond. But it represents more than that: it represents stability; it represents our best gifts to future generations; and it represents what can be accomplished through public-private partnerships.

Incidentally, the Town owns additional property that is not protected by conservation easement, such as the Philbrick/Cricenti Bog, and the Town holds conservation easements on privately-owned land, such as the 1,000-acre Webb forest. In addition, Ausbon Sargent holds easements on several hundred acres of land that the Conservation Commission had previously identified as property worthy of protection for the Town’s Master Plan.

By shepherding and monitoring the protection of town-owned property, Conservation Commissions are preserving not only nature itself, but also preserving future generations’ ability to be immersed in it.

Jessie Levine is the town administrator in New London. She grew up in Hopkinton, NH and lives in Springfield, where she runs and snowshoes with her dog on the network of Class VI roads that pass through the Star Lake Farm property protected by Ausbon Sargent in 2010.

Wish List:

Can you help us to purchase any of these items?

Call Debbie Stanley at 526-6555
or email her at aslpt@tds.net.

- ➔ Two - 20” Digital Display Frames for travelling public education events: \$300 each
- ➔ Two - Freestanding stands for Digital Display Frames: \$100 each
- ➔ A professional grade metal detector for boundary surveying: \$1,000

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Gifts & Thank You's

We only print the list of our Membership and Annual Preservation Fund donations once a year, in the summer issue of Chatter. If you have any questions concerning your membership status, please call Operations Manager, Sue Andrews at 526-6555 or email aslptsea@tds.net.

CORPORATE MATCHING GIFTS

(since June 1, 2010)
Bank of America
GE Foundation
Lincoln Financial Foundation
United Technologies

COURSER PHASE 4 DONATIONS

(since June 1, 2010)
Coursier Family Trust
State of NH LCHIP
State of NH Moose Plate

HERSEY PHASE 2 DONATIONS

(since June 1, 2010)
Marilyn F. Pike

IN KIND DONATIONS

New London Gallery

STEWARDSHIP AND ENFORCEMENT

CONTRIBUTIONS
Andover Conservation Commission
Lorraine and Don Cline
New London Conservation Commission
William and Betty Stockwell
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel K. Thorne

IN MEMORY OF PEG FAULKNER

(since June 1, 2010)
Kathleen Cavanaugh
Heidi and Pete Lauridsen

IN MEMORY OF BARBARA PARKER

(since June 1, 2010)
Betty Miller Dickerman

IN MEMORY OF DON SISSON

(since June 1, 2010)
Heidi and Pete Lauridsen
Katharine Tilson Murray
Thomas and Patricia Nye
Mary F. O'Donnell
Ruth Sisson
Priscilla and Whitney Williams

IN MEMORY OF ROBERT TEACH

(since June 1, 2010)
Joseph and Kathleen Carroll
Mrs. Hilary Cleveland
Scott and Judy Crandall and Family
Joseph and Laurie DiClerico
Cotton M. Cleveland and John B. Garvey
Heidi and Pete Lauridsen
Deirdre Segerson
Deborah and Peter Stanley
Ellie and Jess Taylor
Mary S. Teach

IN HONOR OF JANET MILLER HAINES

Edgar S. Miller

IN HONOR OF BOB AND EMMA CRANE

Marty Generous and Cindy Crane

MARILYN KIDDER AND THE STAFF AT COLDWELL BANKER MILESTONE REAL ESTATE (for donating a portion of every sales commission to Ausbon Sargent)

Pam Bowen
Emily Campbell
Jessica Davis
Sarah Ellis
Donna Forest
Sharon LaVigne
Chris Murray McKee
Judy Merrill
Jane Snow
Stacey Viandier
Joan Wallen

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK:

Charlie and Mary Lue Belden for office recycling.
Susan Chiarella and Wendy Johnson for providing shuttle service at the Progressive Dinner.
Devon Clougherty for the loan of walkie talkies.
Mary Jane Ellis for the donation of a defibrillator and two way radios.
Janet and Richard Haines for the donation of a sound system.
The Kearsarge Shopper for all they do for us.
King Solomon's Lodge #14 for choosing us for their Community Builders Award.
Mark Lennon for his beautiful notecard creations.
Nancy Lyon for designing and producing all of our PR materials.
Nancy Teach for manning the booth at Hospital Day.
Betsy Forsham for proofing easement deeds.
Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation for its extraordinary support and generosity.

CHATTER DELIVERY

Trish Berkov
Betsy Forsham
Bruce Freeman
Joe Goodnough
Kate Gordon
Cindy Lawson
Yah Maguire
David Rosso

LANDSCAPES FOR LANDSAKE ARTISTS

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J. Koron
Vicki Koron

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Cynthia Hayes
Cindy Lawson
Bob Richardson
Todd and Kathy Richardson
Travis Richardson
Scott Seekamp
Hannah Trachy
John Trachy

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

Karen Ebel and Yah Maguire for volunteering in the office on a regular basis.

EASEMENT MONITORS FOR 2010

Laura Alexander
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Larry and Jane Armstrong
Martin Bean
Dave Beardsley
George Beaton
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Seth Benowitz
Steven Berkeley
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Court and Midge Cross
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Jacqueline Donovan
Jen Ellis, Peter Guest and Nancy Teach
Bill and Tina Helm
David and Gail Hiley
Tom, Marilyn and Martha Hill
Bill and Toni Huther
Bob and Jean Kjellman
Paul and Joanne Lazdowski
Allan and Kathy Munro
Dave and Bev Payne
Jim and Barbara Sadowsky
Bill and Jan Wesson

HOLIDAY PARTY SUPPORTERS

Bluewater Farm - Host
Spring Ledge Farm - *Poinsettias*
Crozer & Crozer Orchids - *Orchid arrangement*
Sally Morse - *Kitchen Coordination*
Dick Katz and Nancy Lyon -
Photography
Jen Ellis, Andy Deegan and Wendy Johnson - *Parking*

HOLIDAY PARTY COMMITTEE AND SERVERS

Nancy Brazier
Midge Cross
Sheridan Danforth, Co-Chair
Bonnie Guterl
Pam Perkins, Co-Chair
Nancy Smith
Ruth Smith
Debbie Stanley
Marcella Starkey

FOOD DONATIONS TO HOLIDAY PARTY

Bubba's Bar and Grill
China City
Colonial Farm Inn
Dexter's Inn
Ellie's Café and Deli
Jane Solomon Catering
Lake Sunapee Country Club
La Meridiana
Laura Powers Catering
Millstone Restaurant
New London Confections
Peter Christian's Tavern
Pizza Chef
Rockwell's at the Inn
Woodcrest

PROOF READERS FOR THE WINTER CHATTER

Greg Berger
Anne Carroll
Maggie Ford
Jessie Levine

Visit our web site to view
all our protected properties,
meet our land donors,
and share
wildlife sightings:
www.ausbonsargent.org

Calendar (2011):

February 17 or 18 or 19
Midnight Madness snowshoe hike,
starting at 10:30 pm

May 12 (Thursday)
Thursday's Child dinner at
Rockwell's, New London Inn

July 21 & 28 (Thursdays)
Progressive Dinners

October 30 (Sunday)
Annual Meeting New London
Historical Society

Complete details regarding time,
driving directions and cost are on
our web site:

www.ausbonsargent.org
in the NEWS/Calendar menu.

Welcome Recently Elected Board Members:

Joe DiClerico and Nan Kaplan

Joe DiClerico:

Joe became a permanent resident of New London in 1966 after spending summers with his family at Twin Lake Villa since the 1940's. He is married to Laurie and they have a daughter, Devon.

He has served as a US District Court Judge of NH since 1992, currently serving in Senior Status.

Joe has been an active volunteer for both Town and nonprofit organizations. He has been a long-time supporter of Ausbon Sargent and its mission to preserve and protect environmentally critical properties. He believes that lands conserved through its efforts will be an invaluable legacy for future generations.



photo: Nancy Lyon

Nan Kaplan:



photo: Nancy Lyon

Nan was born in NH and graduated from Colby Junior College with an AS. She lived for 40 years in CT, returning 13 years ago to take up residence in Andover.

She is very active in her community, serving on Andover's Conservation Commission and Recycling Committee, as well as being on the Boards of the Andover Beacon and the Andover Service Club. She has a deep commitment to land protection, serving on the Boards of the SRK Greenway Coalition and acting as a monitor of the Forest Society's Fenton easement in Andover.

Nan and her husband Don, have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

"Natural environments are unique in their ability to provide solitude and privacy, no matter how we use them, or even whether we use them. The very idea that we can get away, whether or not we do so, provides a psychological "time-out."

-Nora Rubinstein

Land and Easement Donors

Our sincere appreciation to those who share their passion for natural places through land and easement donations.

Dorothy Adams* and Edith Nordstrom*
Sydney R. Badmington*
William H. and Carol L. Baldwin
Baptist Pond Trust
Barclan Land Company, LCC
Clare J. Bensley
Roger W. Birnbaum
Amy and John* Blitzer
Eunice Bohanon *
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Betty and Mary Anne Broshek
Burton E. "Gene" Burton
Marguerite "Peg" Carroll*
Children of Peg Dewey Carroll
Cleveland Family Trust
James C. Cleveland* and William F.
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Don and Lorraine Cline
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David W. and Celeste C. Cook
Fred William Courser, Jr. Family Trust
(4 phases)
Sydney Crook*

Stanley I. "Chris" and Janice Cundey
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The Roger Hersey Farm

54.25 acres, Andover

by Rita LaPlante Norander

It was Christmas in November for everyone in the Andover area, and for anyone who regularly travels Route 11 in East Andover. The gift received by all was the finalization of the conservation easement on the Roger Hersey Farm, thus ensuring that these picturesque open fields and scenic views would be protected forever.

In addition to preserving the beauty and tranquility of this property, it was important for the farm to be conserved from an historical point of view - the history of the Hersey family, the history of farming, and the history of the people of Andover.

In 1904, my grandparents, Guy and Nannie Hersey, purchased the property from Carlos Tilton. Carlos had owned the farm since 1877, and his wife was Nannie's great aunt. My mother, Dorothy Hersey LaPlante, was born in the farmhouse, as were her brothers Samuel (Roger's father) and James (Jerry's father). Samuel, the oldest son, inherited the farm, which he eventually deeded to his son Roger, the current owner.

My family grew up in close proximity to our grandparents, and when visiting them in the forties and fifties, it was like stepping back in time. They had no electricity or telephone, no running water or indoor plumbing, no tractor or car, and no central heating - things most people at that time did have, and considered necessities - even our struggling family of nine! This was my grandparents' way of life, and they seemed to be content with it. It was a life similar to that led by their ancestors before them, and by other Andover farm families as well.

The Hersey Farm has changed very little from when I was a child, or for that matter, from when my mother was a child a hundred years ago. This is what makes the Hersey Farm so special, and why it was important for it to be conserved. It is as if time has stood still on these 60 acres of land in East Andover - untouched and unchanged by the modern world - a relic of the past, to be honored, treasured, and appreciated by all.

While at the Ausbon Sargent annual meeting this fall, I overheard a conversation that made me smile. A member was telling my cousin, Jerry, that driving past the Hersey Farm can be a safety hazard (not the exact words, but the gist of the conversation).



"This is a family picture that was taken outside the farmhouse on September 27, 1953 - my grandparents' 50th wedding anniversary. In the front are Guy and Nannie Hersey (my grandparents). In the back Raymond Hersey (he is still alive and lives near the farm), Dorothy Hersey LaPlante (my mother), James (Jerry's father), Elsie Hersey Bassett (she is still alive & lives with her daughter in Rumney), Samuel Hersey (Roger's father)."



photo: Christopher Kontoes

Looking north across the hayfields of the Roger Hersey easement, which adds 55 acres of working farmland to the adjacent Hersey Family Farm's 268 acres protected in 2007.

Visit the Ausbon Sargent web site: Protected Properties for details:
www.ausbonsargent.org.

Immediately, I knew exactly what he meant, because I too, often have this feeling. When driving this stretch of highway, it is so hard for me to keep my eyes on the road! Instead I am trying to take in the sights around me - the buildings with the red doors, the stone walls, the cows and calves in the pastures, the haying in the summer and the beautiful foliage in the fall. I never tire of seeing these things, and how lucky we are that we will be able to continue to enjoy all this in perpetuity. Thank you Ausbon Sargent and all of the supporters who made this project possible and a special thank you to my cousin Roger Hersey.

In Their Time by Helen LaPlante Duchesne, tells the story of growing up in rural NH in the early 1900s. Copies can be obtained from Pat Cutter. Phone # 603-735-5628, or you may use e-mail: pres@andoverhistory.org Price is \$10, plus S&H, or pick up or delivery could be arranged.

Rita, a former teacher, grew up in East Andover, but has lived in Westford MA for 47 years with her husband Bob. In 1994 Rita & Bob purchased the LaPlante homestead, which had been owned by Rita's parents since 1929. Rita & Bob have extensively renovated the property, and will soon retire there. History of the area and family genealogy are two of Rita's many interests.

Sixty-nine Acres on Valley Road in Andover Conserved

Hiller Easement, Andover

By Mary and Edwin Hiller

In November, 2010, as we were well along the process of putting our land into conservation, we sat on our back porch looking toward Sucker Brook, which runs from Highland Lake in Andover to Webster Lake in Franklin, and watched a small white ermine cavorting across the stream. His bright white coat showed up beautifully against the November russets and browns, but he would be invisible after snowfall. As we watched we both said, "That wee beastie is why we are putting this land into conservation!"

As Woody Allen is quoted as saying, "Perpetuity is a long time!" For humans with a lifetime span of only eighty, ninety or even a hundred years, signing something away "in perpetuity" is a scary business. How can we predict what the future will bring, what the future needs and desires of the family or the community will be? Putting land into conservation easements is a relatively new process and all the possible effects have not yet been tested, so why take such an untried step? Shouldn't we just let the future take care of itself? Our stewardship of the property has already lasted for forty years and hopefully will last for several more years. Why even consider something as scary as "in perpetuity"?

In 2005 we had had a meeting with our neighbors and Beth McGuinn from Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust on our back porch to discuss the concept of conservation easements. Many of us felt concerned about encroaching development and increasing human takeover of the land. To preserve wildlife habitat, conserve forest and agricultural lands, and limit the building of houses and businesses on still open land seemed like a cause that needed more dedicated constituents and vocal advocacy – animals do not have a loud voice in our legislatures, and farmers and foresters all too often sell off their properties to raise funds for their retirements or to wring the last dollar value out of their only inheritance.

Out of that first meeting, attended by our neighbor Jerry



Remains of an old mill site on Sucker Brook within the Hiller easement.

photo: Beth McGuinn

Hersey among others, came one of the most important conservation easements for the town of Andover – the Hersey easement that preserves the Hersey farm on Route 11 as a glorious gateway of stone wall bounded open fields, rolling and lovely, for the town of Andover "in perpetuity". Achieving this conservation took several years of work, fund raising, dedication and effort. Credit goes to the Herseys, Ausbon Sargent and its staff, the Andover Conservation Commission, the Andover Historical Society and a large number of dedicated citizens who recognized the immense value and importance of conserving this land.

The gateway to Andover on the east side was preserved, but why should our small acreage, down a gravel road, unseen by passersby from the highway, bordering the Hersey land only on one side, good for forests and wildlife habitat, hiking and cross country skiing, but not much else, be preserved? The build out map for the town shows the possibility of fourteen house lots on our land – but putting in those house lots would mean destroying the homes of our ermine, our mink, our muskrats, our turtles, raccoons, foxes, bears, deer, bobcats, moose, great blue herons, etc, etc. Encroaching human development has destroyed animal habitats all across the country and it is only now, as we humans have procreated beyond all others, that we see how much we are destroying the natural heritage of the lands we share with other flora and fauna on our planet.

So it is primarily for the sake of creatures who have no voice that we are putting our sixty-nine acres into conservation easement "in perpetuity," preserving and conserving these acres for wildlife habitat, for managed forestry and for agricultural uses as needed. We humans can exist side by side with the other animals on our planet only if we are aware of our impact and preserve some space for their habitats as well as for our own. It's up to us.

Ed Hiller had a long career as an electrical engineer, and his wife, Mary (Becky), was a library researcher. They came to Andover, NH in 1971 as part-timers and upon retirement transitioned to full-time. Over the years, their two children and six grandchildren came to know and love the rural ambience that Andover offered. Ed has served on Andover's Planning Board and Budget Committee and they both have been active in the Andover Historical Society. Other recent passions have been the development and improvement of the Northern Rail Trail and the monitoring of easement properties for the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust.

The facts about **The Hiller Conservation Easement**

Town: Andover
Location: Valley Road
Acreage: 69.2 acres

- Prime wetlands and important frontage on Sucker Brook and its tributaries.
- Varied wildlife habitat including forest, wetlands and small fields - some ranked as among the best in the state.
- Important soils could support either productive forests or agriculture.
- Close to the Hersey Family Farm easements and other conserved land for a total of nearly 470 acres.
- Funding support for transaction costs from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership and the Andover Conservation Commission.

Acorn Society

A special group of donors to Ausbon Sargent

by Debbie Hall

In this issue of the Chatter, we highlight Nancy Lyon and Chris Cundey, two founding members of Ausbon Sargent's Acorn Society. As you may know, the Acorn Society is a special group of donors to Ausbon Sargent: those who have made a deferred gift in their estate plans. A deferred gift is one that takes effect in the future, such as a bequest in a will, provisions in a trust or naming Ausbon Sargent as the beneficiary of an IRA. Nancy and Chris came to their decisions to name Ausbon Sargent in their estate plans by different routes but for similar reasons.

As Nancy tells it, her progression was primarily geographical: a native New Hampshire-ite, she grew up near the seacoast and was

an outdoor person from the start, messing around in the salt marshes near Great Bay, taking a boat down the river, riding her horse in the woods. As an adult, she became involved with search and rescue, including training K-9 search dogs, which she continues to do today. From the coast, she has moved gradually westward, arriving in New London in 1990, in the early days of Ausbon Sargent. She became involved almost right away. Since then she has been a member of

all but one Ausbon Sargent committee, and has been responsible for its publications and educational outreach. She was a member of the Board of Trustees for nine years and its chairman for one year. Service to her community and education, especially education about the value of open space, have been Nancy's guideposts throughout her life. In thinking about their estate plan, Nancy and her husband Doug realized that, for them, one of the most lasting things they could do was to invest in permanently protecting the land and open space she has loved all her life. Both Nancy and Doug believe not many kinds of giving are as secure over the long term.

In Chris's case, the progression was as much mental as geographic. He and his wife, Janice, spent their working years in the metropolitan sprawl of New Jersey. As retirement neared, they began prospecting for a community that would be comfortable for them. They looked in New London because they had friends here whom they had visited. As Chris says, they were completely unaware of land conservation at the time. As luck would have it, they visited New London just as the old Colby Camp land on Little

"Will there be places like the Mt. Kearsarge/Lake Sunapee region for your grandchildren and their grandchildren and their grandchildren beyond them into the future to explore and add to their own individual stores of knowledge and experience?"

-Stephen Miller

Lake Sunapee went on the market. They quickly bought the six acres with their New London friends and suddenly found themselves in an entirely new environment. Chris initially figured that they would build a house and then sell off two acres. When they moved here early in 1998, however, they were struck by the enormous difference in the quality of life between metropolitan New Jersey and New London, and soon came

to love the quiet and the open space around them.

Chris heard about Ausbon Sargent early on and became convinced of the necessity of preserving open space. So, instead of selling the additional two acres, by the end of their first year here, he and Janice had given a conservation easement on them to Ausbon Sargent. Soon Chris joined the Finance Committee. He went on to serve six years on the Board and two years as Chairman and became an untiring advocate for preservation of open space. When the time came to redo his estate plan, Ausbon Sargent was on his priority list.

Both Nancy and Chris are now "retired" from the formal Ausbon Sargent organization, but they remain strong supporters of Ausbon Sargent and firm advocates of land conservation. By providing for Ausbon Sargent in their estate plans, they have made



Nancy and Doug Lyon moved to New London in 1990 when Doug joined Colby-Sawyer College as its Treasurer. In addition to her Ausbon Sargent work, Nancy hikes in the woods of NH and VT searching for lost people with her dogs.



Janice and Chris Cundey built their retirement home on Little Lake Sunapee and moved here in 1998. Since then, they have both been active in the community and their church.

a commitment that goes beyond their respective lifetimes and have become, as Nancy describes it, part of a chain of people, past, present and future, who care about maintaining the nature of the land that has been such a gift to them personally.

If you feel as Nancy and Chris do, we hope that you also will consider making a deferred gift to Ausbon Sargent and becoming members of the Acorn Society. If you have already done so, we thank you and ask that you consider letting us know so that we may formally welcome you as a member.

Debbie Hall is the Chairman of the Ausbon Sargent Planned Giving Committee and a member of the Development Committee. She is a retired attorney who lives with her husband Arthur on the west slope of Pleasant Lake in New London.

Conservation Goals Go Beyond Land Protection

Cline Easement, 33.21 acres, Andover

by Lorraine Cline

This past summer, my family and I had the pleasure of working with Ausbon Sargent's Beth McGuinn to complete our second easement. The Cline Easement is a 33.21-acre parcel of undeveloped farmland and forest. The land lies between two other Ausbon Sargent protected lands: the Broshek Easement, a 55-acre parcel consisting of farmland and forest, and the Barclin Easement, 17.75 forested acres that we protected with an easement in December of 2009. With the addition of the Cline Easement, protected acreage on Shaw Hill Road now totals 220 acres.

The New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan describes this area as a supportive landscape for wildlife. Deer, bear, turkey, bobcat, fox, snowshoe hare, roughed grouse, woodcock, moose, coyote, owls, bald eagles, hawks, amphibians and reptiles have all been observed on the property. Water flowing from the Cline Easement joins the Blackwater River and its associated wetlands, and is considered to be a very important wildlife resource in this region.

Protecting the land from future development was always a high priority. We farm this land. We keep bees and tap the maples in our sugarbush. We frequently walk, ski or snowshoe on our trails, observing the many species of wildlife and the scenic views the land offers. We wanted future generations to be able to do the same. Now, one thing is for certain: the land will be protected from development in perpetuity. But will everything else remain the same? I learned the answer to that question last September, and it has forever changed the way I look at the landscape.

This past fall, I attended a 3-1/2 day educational workshop sponsored by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and New Hampshire Fish & Game. The program, New Hampshire Coverts Project (coverts is pronounced "cover" with a "t" and is a thicket that provides shelter for wildlife), trains New Hampshire landowners to be volunteers for wildlife. As a Coverts Project Volunteer, I share with others what I learned about silviculture, wildlife habitat, conservation and forest management.

What I discovered is that land conservation is just the first step in protecting the landscape that we love. Consider this: 84% of New Hampshire is covered in forest, and approximately 70% of all of our state's land is privately-owned. Given these facts, it is easy to see how important it is for landowners to actively manage their properties if we hope to maintain the wildlife species we have come to enjoy.

To support a wide variety of wildlife species, the landscape must be diverse. Foresters refer to this as horizontal and vertical diversity. Maintaining a variety of tree species and vegetation heights is just as important as cultivating a mixture or mosaic of different habitat types. To sustain a variety of species, it is essential to provide early-successional forest, mature forest, grassland, farmland, shrubland and fields. Of New Hampshire's 250 species of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, 70% use fields and shrubland at some point in their lives. Of those 250 species, nearly 60 require field, shrub-land and early-successional forest as their primary habitat type. Old forests simply cannot support an adequate habitat for many species.

For example, despite its reputation for prolific breeding, the New England Cottontail is being considered for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act, and is currently listed as an endangered species in New Hampshire. The Cottontail re-



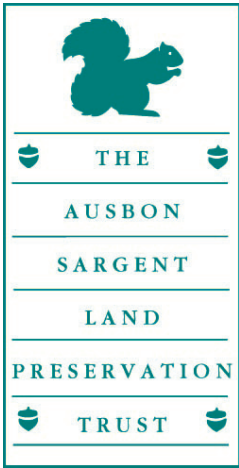
The Cline easement is an important link between two conserved properties and provides public access to trails like this logging road - available for pedestrian recreation. In the photo above are land donors Lorraine and Don Cline with their dog Peso.

lies upon early-successional or shrubland habitats for its survival, and those habitats are disappearing.

I suggest you contact your county forester or Forest Resources Educator (www.extension.unh.edu) and work with him/her to develop a management plan. Take an inventory of your land's natural resources. Do you have old forest, open fields, ponds or streams? List the wildlife you have observed and the types of habitat your land supports. Identify your objectives. Is there a specific type of wildlife you would like to attract? Would you like to manage your forest for timber or maple syrup production? Would you like to create fields or harvest mature timber?

Only when we begin to look closely at our land and its resources can we, as landowners, begin to actively manage it to help ensure wildlife have a sustainable habitat. Protecting the land is a valuable first step. Developing and implementing a management plan will help guarantee your goals are met well into the future.

Lorraine Cline lives with her husband, Don, and two daughters, Corinne and Meredith, on Shaw Hill Road in Andover. A former member of the Andover Conservation Commission, Lorraine is a UNH Coverts Project Volunteer who enjoys leading guided nature tours of her protected properties.



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Get outside everyday. Miracles are waiting everywhere.



photo: Nancy Lyon

This waterfall is part of the 106 acre Birnbaum easement in Danbury - a 50' walk from Walker Brook Road. Visit our web site to visit all of the Ausbon Sargent protected properties: www.ausbonsargent.org.

Thanks to Newsletter Editor Nancy Lyon for coordination, layout and editing. And special thanks to all our guest authors!

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