



The Legacy

The Life and Times of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust

TRUST COMPLETES PROTECTION OF KEY PROPERTIES

Sandwich, Red Hill, Squam, Pemigewasset Valley, Tuftonboro

Conservation Advances in 2005

Property Value of \$4,000,000 Preserved

The Ossipees across Lake Winnepesaukee

Brenda Griffin Photo

Through the generosity of its supporters as well as the dedication and beneficence of caring landowners, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust has brought a total of more than 600 acres, valued at more than \$4,000,000, into permanent conservation protection during the latter part of 2005. In addition, the Trust is moving forward on the effort to protect additional landmark quality properties throughout the Lakes Region in 2006 (see page 4). The newly protected properties include the following:

Sandwich: In late December, the Trust received the first part of an extraordinary gift of land from Nathaniel Coolidge — approximately 140 acres of forested land, including Hacker Pond, located between Squam Lake and Route 113 in Sandwich. These woodlands and wetlands, managed carefully over the years, represent a significant expansion to the Kusumpe Pond-Intervale Pond lands preserved during the past decade, and represent, outside the Ossipees and Red Hill, the third largest contiguous area protected by LRCT. A second part of the gift, approximately 302 acres of fields and forests that include one-third of the shoreline of Barville Pond, is expected to be received in 2006. These lands are one of the most generous and ecologically sensitive legacies ever entrusted to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. We are deeply indebted to

Nat Coolidge for this remarkable gift.

Red Hill, Moultonborough: The Trust has been working to accomplish the permanent protection of Red Hill since the late 1980's. In the fall of 2005, the Trust added an important component to the Red Hill Conservation Area when it acquired 70 acres of land in Moultonborough from the Lingelbach family. This property is located on the western slope of Red Hill, overlooking Squam Lake. Thousands of people use a network of trails on Red Hill each year to enjoy a view that has been described as one of the finest in New England, and the forests of Red Hill provide prime wildlife habitat. With the addition of the Lingelbach property, the Trust now protects over 2,500 acres of contiguous land on Red Hill, making the area one of the largest recreational and natural preserves between metropolitan Boston and the White Mountain National Forest.

Squam Lake, Sandwich: In December, the Trust received title to the Squam Lake waterfront property of Gil and Sally Steward, which is 5.8 acres in size and includes approximately 1,850 feet of shoreline and two small islands. The Stewards have retained a life estate and have provided for the removal of the buildings on the property at the end



Don Berry Photo

Jimmy Point, Squam Lake, and Red Hill, from the Trust's Butterworth Preserve

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Reflections

For the past 11 years, one of the great joys of my life has been to write to you in this column. I have always considered this space to be a great opportunity to share my hopes as a New Hampshire conservationist; in the midst of all sorts of challenge and pressure it has been an honor to work with all of you. Together, we have added more than 15,000 acres of prime conservation land to the lists of permanently protected wildlife habitat, public recreational resources, and cultural bedrock of the heart of New Hampshire. We have much to be proud of, but, as the roster of LRCT conservation priorities across these pages amply illustrates, there is much work yet ahead of us—on Squam, on Winnepesaukee, in the Ossipees, near Newfound, and in every town in the region.

Together, we have raised more than \$30,000,000 in the 8 years since Trask Swamp was protected. In the next 8 years, we in the Lakes Region will probably need to raise at least twice that amount, if we are to adequately protect our wildlife, our heritage of outdoor activities, and the connection between healthy American culture and the land we love. To that good list I would add our precious water resources and our few remaining agricultural lands—two resources that belong at the top of any American security agenda. I look back over a decade (and more than half-a-million miles) of landowner contacts, donor cultivation, stewardship efforts, sleepless nights, meetings, thousands of cell phone conversations and e-mails, joyous celebrations, and careful planning, and I think: we have to do more, we need to work smarter, be more effective, and enlist more resources. We have to keep the faith of those who have gone before us; we need to persevere; we need to win this home game.

In the darkest hours of the \$6,000,000 Castle in the Clouds campaign, I was motivated to write a vision

statement regarding the culture and the conservation of the Northeast which I had come to see as the essence of my life's work. Eventually, that paper found its way to the offices of a number of foundations. Last summer, the Pew Charitable Trusts asked that I construct a model for the advancement of key conservation initiatives and support of best practice in organizational structure and performance here in the Northeast. In order to do so, I took a partial leave of absence from the LRCT; at that time we were fortunate to secure the services of Don Berry as Executive Director of the Trust. The report that I submitted in August was approved by the Pew Trusts late last year, and the organization has asked me to take the position of director of its new Northeast Land Trust Consortium. I have accepted the offer to lead that initiative in a crucial 1-year pilot phase which has



Red Hill from the Ossipees, with the Squam Range beyond

Brenda Griffin Photo

necessitated that my new duties begin immediately. While the decision to leave the Trust has been a difficult one, I am looking forward to the prospect of doing this work on a broader scale, and heartened by the knowledge that in Fred Preston and Don Berry the LRCT has as strong a first team as it has ever had. I am now honored to count them as colleagues.

Although my travel has now broadened to include eight northeastern states, my new office will be in my home, and among the conservation projects that I will be concentrating on will be the effort by the Trust to protect the Squam Range here in the Lakes Region. The boundaries of the Cardigan-to-the-Ossipees corridor are now, for me, part of a larger vision that runs from Fort Kent to Fort Duquesne.

I owe thanks to a lot of people, now, and all the time. To my wife Kathy, first and foremost; to my late parents and mother-in-law; to Molly and Becca; to Mary Brewster at Dartmouth, Joe Breiteneicher, Martin Berman, Bruce Cramer, Fred Rozelle, Rachel Armstrong, Bob Copeland, Paul Walker, and so many other donors, friends, mentors, and governors. To Juliet Peverley and Larry Graham; to Wege Avery, Sally Swenson, and Marcia Steckler, and to all

Transitions

the other folks who have written me in response to these pages (including the person who kindly noted that in my last column I misplaced a song in “The King and I” that rightfully belongs in “South Pacific”); to all the donors and volunteers; and, above all, to the landowners—Ed Sutherland, Jim Wenck, the Alice Bemis Thompson Trust, the Dane family, John and Charlotte Welch, J. Paul Sticht, Steve and Lori Burrows, Denley Emerson, Alan and JoAnn Wiggin, the Richardson brothers, Tim and Audrey Fisher, Nat Coolidge, the Munro family, Ray Tuttle, the McBride family, members of the Severance family—who have entrusted their ideals to us, I owe the most profound personal thanks. Thank you, thank you, thank you one and all.

I’ll look forward to seeing you, in all the old familiar places.....



Tom Curren



Mill Brook, at the Trust’s Mill Brook Preserve, Tamworth Brenda Griffin Photo

Tom Curren’s extraordinary accomplishments in lands protected and funds raised to do so are legendary, and may represent a new standard for a regional land trust. These unparalleled achievements—16,122 acres protected, over \$30,000,000 raised—are a huge tribute to Tom’s remarkable abilities in this important work. His instincts and intuitive skills are superb, and they have served him and the Trust exceedingly well as he has roamed the region these past 11 years developing relationships with donors and landowners. In land trust work, relationships are everything . . . and central to what we do. It has been said that Tom “wrote the book” (and he probably will some day!) on the art of land and natural resource conservation. After 11 years at the helm of LRCT, it makes eminently good sense that Tom take on the larger challenges of a broader arena, working with land trusts across the Northeast as the Director of the Pew Charitable Trusts’ new Northeast Land Trust Consortium. Happily for him and us, he will be working out of his home in Danbury, NH, and sharing his talents and skills with other land trusts in the Northeast, as well as with the LRCT in our effort to protect the Squam Range and possibly with other significant Trust initiatives including key Squam watershed lands, Winnepesaukee shoreline, and the Ossipees. We congratulate and salute Tom on his new venture, and extend to him our very best wishes and heartfelt thanks for all he has done, and will continue to do, for the Trust, our Lakes Region, and the good cause of land conservation.

Don Berry succeeds Tom as President and brings to the position a wide range of talents and experiences. An environmental attorney with 23 years of law firm practice in Boston, Don became LRCT’s Executive Director on September 1, 2005. Over the years he has served the Trust with distinction in countless ways, including Trustee—13 years, member of the Lands Committee—13 years and Chair for 5, and Chair of the Castle Preservation Society Board. A life-long seasonal resident on the shores of Winnepesaukee, Don knows the Lakes Region well and has the skills and professional experiences to lead the Trust into its next era. Best of all, his passion is land protection. As members of the Trust’s “family” of donors, land owners, and staff, please join me in congratulating Don on his appointment as the Trust’s fifth Chief Operating Officer.

Fred Preston, Board Chair

THE ROAD AHEAD: LRCT'S CONSERVATION AGENDA FOR 2006

The Squam Range: Burleigh Land Limited Partnership Property, Squam Range, Holderness and Campton

In December, the Trust completed negotiation of the conservation easement for the Burleigh Squam Range property, which will permanently protect approximately 2,475 acres of land overlooking Squam Lake. The completion of these negotiations is a critical step toward accomplishment of the Trust's largest land protection project since the Castle in the Clouds. Fundraising work for the acquisition of the easement is ongoing; a total of \$2,500,000 must be raised by the close of 2006 to complete the protection of this vital property.

Sewall Woods: Horne Property, Wolfeboro

The Horne property, the fourth and final lot in Sewall Woods, is slated to be protected prior to the close of 2006. Under generous terms provided by the owner, the property is available for purchase by the Trust for \$675,000. Generous pledges and donations totaling over \$200,000 have been received thus far for this 37-acre parcel, part of the popular cross-country skiing and hiking resource in Wolfeboro.

Lake Winnepesaukee

During the past several years, the Trust has been working closely with landowners and volunteers to develop a roster of properties whose protection would constitute a network of shorefront conservation points, and this important effort is ongoing. As 2006 begins, we are in various stages of active discussion concerning



Winter view at the Trust's Trask Swamp property in Alton Brenda Griffin Photo

more than a dozen properties. The Trust anticipates the announcement in the near future of a \$200,000 campaign to protect one key island property, and there is strong potential for additional significant initiatives in the coming months. A Winnepesaukee waterfront fund has already raised \$100,000; persons wishing to support this effort are encouraged to contact the Trust.

The Ossipees

The Ossipee Mountains remain one of the most remote and unspoiled areas in the region—and one of the last remaining wilderness areas between the White Mountain National Forest and the more densely developed part of New Hampshire to the south. Several key properties are presently under consideration for

protection. The Trust plans to work closely with donors, landowners, and other organizational partners to see to it that the Ossipees are protected.

Newfound Lake and Pemigewasset River Watersheds

With the expansion of the Hill property, the Trust now manages a total of more than 470 acres in the greater Newfound region, and is working with landowners and donors to increase conservation protection in the Newfound Lake and Pemigewasset River watersheds.



Young skiers enjoying the Trust's Sewall Woods property in Wolfeboro

Brenda Griffin Photo

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

The work of the Trust—planning in 31 towns, prospective land protection projects involving approximately 6,000 acres of unspoiled property, and stewardship of over 17,000 acres of conservation land—depends upon your generosity! We thank the faithful donors who helped create another record Annual Fund this year—and, if you are a past supporter who was not able to give in 2005, we ask that you please consider a generous response to our annual appeal when you receive it!

IN MEMORIAM

We note with appreciation and with sadness the life and passing of Larry Graham, who served the Trust as Trustee and Honorary Trustee, wise counselor, and devoted and generous supporter for many years.



Brenda Griffin Photo

Barred Owl at the Trust's Ledgy Pond Preserve in Moultonborough

TRUST COMPLETES PROTECTION OF KEY PROPERTIES

Continued from page 1

of the life estate, thus ensuring that this very special property will return to its natural state. This gift of land represents a significant conservation accomplishment on the Squam shoreline and is located immediately across Squaw Narrows from the Trust's Butterworth Preserve, thus enhancing the conservation and aesthetic values of one of the most beautiful spots on Squam Lake. Our thanks go to the Stewards, whose love of Squam will be reflected in perpetuity.

Hill: The Trust received title in late December to 86 acres of land in Hill, abutting the Trust's 388-acre Witte property. This beautiful property, the very generous gift



View north from the Trust's new property in Hill

Don Berry Photo

of Mary and Bob Lincoln, includes a stone cabin and a log cabin that the LRCT hopes to utilize in the future for summer intern housing, as well as old stone walls and the remnants of historic roads. The property has stunning views stretching from the Belknaps around to Mount Moosilauke and beyond.

Tuftonboro: Through the generous gift of Joan Gale and Thomas Gale, the Trust received title to 30 acres of conservation land in Tuftonboro in the spring of 2005. This land is a key component in a vital wildlife corridor that stretches from the Ossipees, through the Great Meadow, to Lake Winnepesaukee.

The properties described above, along with the second part of the Coolidge gift to be received in early 2006, total approximately 615 acres and have an estimated value of approximately \$4,000,000. These properties have been acquired by the Trust on an operating budget of approximately \$410,000 during the course of the fiscal year thus far and for a direct expenditure by the Trust of only \$90,000.

Many thanks to the generous landowners and donors who made these conservation acquisitions possible!



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THE WORK OF THE LAKES REGION CONSERVATION TRUST IS IMPORTANT TO YOU BECAUSE:

The Trust preserves key wildlife habitat and valuable watershed resources.
The Trust provides public access for thoughtful recreational use
of our forests and shorelines.

The Trust protects the native character of the Lakes Region.
Local volunteers and donors make this work possible through private initiative.
Your support of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust
will pay dividends in your community for years to come!

SPECIAL THANKS:

To **Kitty Boyle** and her crew of volunteers who make possible your reception of the Legacy. To **Sue Drouin** for her continued work above and beyond the call of duty. To **Kristen Clothier** for her incredible energy and dedication. To **Lee Mattson** and the Trust's other consultants whose efforts make possible the meeting of our year-end deadlines. To the landowners who have entrusted their conservation aspirations to the Trust, and to the donors who make the work possible.

WORDS TO REMEMBER

"There is hardly a New England town or village which is not surrounded by...patches of forest, little strips of parklike country or some eminence or cliff from which a grand view could be obtained, or some pond or lake attractive to the eye. My plan is to lay out winding paths to these places. It costs scarcely anything to mark and lay out such paths, or to keep them in repair; and if the entrances to them were marked in some way and what is to be seen at the end of them were pointed out, thousands would be drawn into these woodland recesses, and would be benefited and uplifted, not only by the physical exercise obtained, but by that better hopefulness of life which is inspired by close communion with Nature."

Governor Frank Rollins, 1900



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