



# THE LEGACY

Fall 2014

FOR ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THE LAKES REGION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

## BELKNAP RANGE LAND CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN — SUCCESS!

The Belknap Range southwest of Lake Winnepesaukee has long been a treasured natural, recreational, and scenic resource, visible throughout the Lakes Region and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. Mt. Major, at the range's eastern end, beckons as one of the most popular hikes in New Hampshire.

While much acreage in the Belknaps has already been conserved, many people who visit the Belknaps have no idea that significant parts of this forested landscape, including portions of key trails, remain in private, unprotected ownership. Some landowners have generously allowed use of trails on their lands, but there have been no guarantees of future accessibility to such trails and no permanent protection for large parts of this landscape.

Last year the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, along with the Belknap Range Conservation Coalition and its members, began a campaign to conserve four key Belknaps parcels, totaling over 950 acres. The campaign has now been completed, and LRCT and its partners are very grateful that significant additional parts of the Belknaps' landscapes have been secured. More than 1,800 individual donors, foundations, and other grant-making organizations, and the towns of Gilford and Alton, provided generous support for the project to enable us to reach the \$1,800,000 campaign goal.

The four parcels are as follows: a 331-acre parcel in Gilford on the slopes of Piper Mountain and in the valley of Moulton Brook, which flows to Manning Lake; a 75-acre parcel in Alton adjacent to the Mt. Major Trailhead on Route 11; a 100-acre parcel in Alton just west of the summit of Mt. Major; and a 455-acre parcel in Alton west of Mt. Major, including the summit and slopes of East Quarry Mountain.

These lands encompass key hiking trails, including the most popular trails to the summit of Mt. Major, unfragmented forests

and rare plant communities, and valuable wildlife habitat. They also contribute to the protection of the water quality of Lake Winnepesaukee and other nearby lakes and rivers, and they add significantly to the lands already conserved in the huge unfragmented forest block in the Belknaps.



Anvil Rock on the Piper Mountain — Moulton Valley Property  
Rick Van de Poll Photo

The Mt. Major/Belknaps project has ensured that these key properties and significant portions of the Belknap Range trail network passing through the parcels will be protected in their natural state and will be available for people to enjoy today and in the future.

Thank you to all who supported the "Everybody Hikes Mt. Major" campaign. Your generosity makes it possible for the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, the Forest Society, and our partners to conserve and steward these key Belknaps parcels and lays the foundation for future conservation achievements in the Belknap Range.



Guided Hike on Mt. Major (Above) — Kate Wilcox Photo  
View of the Belknap Range from LRCT's Rattlesnake Island Preserve (Masthead) — Erin Mastine Photo

## REFLECTIONS

As I look back over the past year, I note a common theme in the successful conservation of hundreds of acres of precious Lakes Region property — partnership. Whether it's the success of the Belknap Range project, the protection of the Fogg Hill property and its prime wetland, land stewardship projects in the Squam Watershed, land protection accomplishments around Newfound, or other land conservation efforts throughout the region, LRCT has benefited from collaboration with strong and dedicated partners.

In recent years, LRCT has worked extensively with our communities, other organizations, working groups, coalitions, and local volunteers in our land conservation projects. This provides not only the extra support needed to handle many projects simultaneously, but also the wisdom, experience, and depth that make projects better. The people who live closest to a property with conservation potential usually know the most about it — who values the property, who uses it and how it is used, what species inhabit the property, what the property looks like in different seasons, what its vulnerabilities are, and what its defining characteristics are.

We expect that partnering with others will help projects happen more quickly and will make them better, but what we don't always anticipate is how much it contributes to LRCT. Long after finishing a project, we realize that the relationships we have forged while working on it continue to benefit LRCT — they enhance our character, expand our perspective, and help us become an even better organization.



View of Lake Winnepesaukee — Don Berry Photo

We are very grateful for all of the people, organizations, and communities that we have the good fortune to work with in our projects. Thank you for your dedication to the Lakes Region and to conservation. All of us at LRCT look forward to working with you more!

Sincerely,

Don Berry  
President



The Lakes Region Conservation Trust was founded in 1979 to conserve the natural heritage of New Hampshire's Lakes Region. Our conservation and stewardship work preserves community character, conserves critical wildlife habitat and diverse ecosystems, protects natural landmarks and scenic landscapes, and provides outdoor recreation for people of all ages.

Together with our dedicated community of supporters, we have conserved more than 130 properties totaling over 23,500 acres. These conserved lands encompass many of the special places that define this unique and spectacular part of New England, affording everyone abundant opportunities to explore and connect with the natural world and establishing a legacy of conservation for our children and grandchildren to inherit and enjoy.

### TRUSTEES

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David R. Mallard, *Land and Stewardship Director* (Sandwich)  
Lisetta J. Silvestri, *Operations Director* (Holderness)  
Erin C. Mastine, *Communications and Administrative Coordinator* (Gilford)

## NEWFOUND LAND CONSERVATION: NLCP AND GEMMILL FUND LEAD THE WAY

At the western end of the Lakes Region, the Newfound Watershed encompasses parts of eight towns, with Newfound Lake at its core. This is a place characterized by scenic slopes and ridgelines, large tracts of forested habitat, productive agricultural lands, and pristine waters and shorelines. Conserving critical lands is one of the best ways to protect water quality, maintain recreational opportunities, sustain the local economy, and preserve the inherent natural qualities and character of the communities that make Newfound special.

LRCT has been proud to participate, since 2009, as a charter member of the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership (NLCP), a collaboration that also includes the Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA) and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, as well as camps, other conservation organizations, and interested individuals. The NLCP was formed to promote land conservation in the Newfound Watershed, and its members evaluate conservation opportunities, build relationships with landowners, carry out conservation transactions, and provide a local resource for people interested in considering options for conserving their land.

In late 2011, Newfound area land conservation received an extraordinary boost with the establishment of the John Gemmill Newfound Fund, a \$750,000 fund created by Helen Gemmill in memory of her father, John K. Gemmill, long-time Director of Camp Pasquaney in Hebron. The Gemmill Fund promotes and facilitates land conservation by covering costs (e.g., surveys, appraisals, stewardship, staffing) that can otherwise be a challenge to successful land conservation transactions, and by supporting efforts to inform landowners, potential donors, and the community about land conservation and its environmental and community benefits. The Gemmill Fund is managed by LRCT and can be used to facilitate Newfound Watershed land conservation projects by any of the organizations engaged in such work.

In announcing the creation of the Gemmill Fund, Helen Gemmill said that “it is my great hope that this fund will be a good friend to Newfound, that it will inspire us all ..., and those who we touch, to see the true treasure in Newfound Lake and the surrounding hills and streams, and to take action upon our belief in those treasures.” And so it is doing.

To date the Gemmill Fund and the NLCP have played essential roles in the accomplishment of LRCT’s first land conservation projects in the Newfound Watershed. In Alexandria, the Patten Brook Conservation Easements protect 223 acres of scenic forest and fields and extensive frontage on Patten Brook, a tributary to the Fowler River and Newfound Lake. Landowners Jennifer and George Tuthill, Peter Brown, and Joe and Kate Humphrey donated these easements on their abutting parcels of land to LRCT. In Hebron, the Grey Rocks Conservation Area is the result of extraordinarily generous donations by Andy and Linda McLane of a conservation easement to LRCT and the land to NLRA. Our two organizations now work in partnership to care for this wonderful 30-acre property, encompassing

woodlands and wetlands and valuable wildlife habitat along the Cockermonth River at the head of Newfound Lake, abutting additional conserved land, and providing excellent opportunities for nature education and enjoyment of Newfound’s natural beauty. In addition, with the support of the Gemmill Fund and the NLCP, the Forest Society has completed three significant projects — the 486-acre Butman Conservation Easement in Alexandria, the 275-acre Hazelton Farm Conservation Easement in Hebron, and the 146-acre Caperton Conservation Easement also in Hebron.



View of Newfound Lake from the North — Martha Twombly Photo

And the work continues. A number of other projects are under way, and members of the NLCP are in discussion with numerous landowners interested in learning about and considering conservation options for their land. If you are interested, please don’t hesitate to talk with us.

### ***Breaking News!!***

*As we go to press, LRCT is completing the conservation of 400 magnificent acres in Alexandria encompassing the landmark Sugarloaf Ridge, pristine Goose Pond, unspoiled rugged and diverse habitat, and popular trails. The property also abuts Wellington State Park. We are extremely grateful for the essential support of the Gemmill Fund, for the roles played by members of the NLCP, and for the extraordinary generosity of two exceptional donors who ensured that this project would come to fruition. We look forward to providing more details on this remarkable property and project on the LRCT website ([www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org)) and in the next issue of *The Legacy*.*

## FOGG HILL, CENTER HARBOR — CONSERVATION MILESTONE

Conservation of the 192-acre Fogg Hill property in West Center Harbor is a milestone for LRCT and volunteers from Center Harbor and Meredith who have worked for years exploring conservation opportunities in the expansive forested area north of Lake Waukewan. This area, east of Lake Winona and south of Hawkins Pond, is the largest unfragmented forest and wildlife habitat block (totaling 950 acres) in Center Harbor, and the Fogg Hill parcel is the most significant in this landscape.

The Fogg Hill property has extensive ecological, scenic, wildlife habitat, recreational, and water quality resources. It includes a designated prime wetland and a rare kettle hole bog, as well as old growth forest and one of the town's highest elevations. The property also contains valuable wildlife habitat and old woods roads and trails, and it provides critical watershed protection for Lake Waukewan, the public drinking water supply for Meredith.

This project would not have succeeded without the dedicated support of people in nearby communities and throughout

the Lakes Region. LRCT is grateful to the individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations that contributed over \$80,000 in funding and donated services for the project. In addition, the Town of Center Harbor is contributing \$40,000 from its Conservation Fund and will hold a conservation easement on the property, and LRCT was awarded a \$98,500 grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Fund for the project. We are very appreciative of this significant support from the Town and DES, which is testament to the great environmental importance of this property.

We also owe thanks to real estate broker Tom Howard, who provided invaluable assistance in the transaction, and to ecologist Rick Van de Poll, who studied the property in his work on the Town's Natural Resources Inventory, educated us as to its ecological values, and provided help in mapping and assessing the property and developing plans for its future stewardship.

Now that the property has been acquired, the focus has turned toward restoration. For decades, debris near the wetlands has

presented a less-than-scenic initial view for visitors to the property. ARM Fund monies, along with tremendous efforts by LRCT staff and volunteers, are helping LRCT clean up and restore the affected area. LRCT looks forward to completing the restoration work and establishing trails that everyone can enjoy.

Maureen Criasia, Vice Chair of the Center Harbor Conservation Commission, commented that "Once again the collaborative effort of LRCT and the Center Harbor Conservation Commission yields a successful conservation project that will benefit the whole region!"

With the conservation easement to be held by the Town, LRCT also looks forward to another successful partnership with the Center Harbor Conservation Commission in stewarding key conservation lands in town. We are optimistic that completion of the Fogg Hill project will provide a good foundation for working with interested landowners in conserving additional lands in this forested area that is so important to the Waukewan watershed and to the region as a whole.

### What is a Kettle Hole Bog?

According to the NH Division of Forests and Lands, "kettle hole bog systems are found where big chunks of glacial ice were stranded and partially buried in glacial outwash or other coarse ice-contact deposits. The ice chunks subsequently melted, leaving ponds in holes in the ground, with no hydrologic inlets or outlets."

Read more about kettle hole bogs at [www.nhdfi.org](http://www.nhdfi.org).



Fogg Hill Wetland — Bernie Volz Photo

## STAY CONNECTED WITH LRCT E-BLASTS

Did you know that LRCT sends out periodic e-mail updates about upcoming events like our guided excursions, volunteer workdays, and other activities? If you wish to be added to our list, please join on our website, [www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org).

## JIMMY POINT PRESERVE, SQUAM LAKE — EXTRAORDINARY AND INSPIRING

The story of Jimmy Point is inspiring – Gil and Sally Steward donated their extraordinary 5.8 acres of Squam Lake waterfront property to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust with the express direction and funding to remove all the existing buildings, returning the property to a pristine, natural state. Over the past two years, LRCT has worked on this restoration project, and it is now complete. The work needed was extensive and included removing two camps, a garage, a pump house, two boathouses, and a paved boat ramp. When a boathouse foundation was removed, the lake shoreline had to be carefully stabilized naturally with the use of rocks, native plants, and fill.

LRCT has conveyed a conservation easement to the Squam Lakes Conservation

Society, so the two organizations will work in partnership in the future care of the Jimmy Point Preserve as we have worked together on a number of other conserved properties in the Squam Watershed. Pedestrian and human-powered water craft access is allowed for low-impact daytime recreation and nature study. With 1,850 feet of shoreline and two small islands, one of which was the site of a successful loon chick hatch this year, the property is truly best appreciated from the water. The property is located close to other conserved lands, including LRCT's Butterworth Preserve across Squaw Narrows, contributing significantly to the conservation and scenic values of this beautiful part of Squam Lake.

The Stewards' gift of the Jimmy Point Preserve is one of the most noteworthy conservation gifts that we know of. LRCT will remain forever grateful to the Steward family and is proud to work with SLCS in fulfilling the Stewards' vision for this property, which will reflect their love for Squam in perpetuity.



Dave Mallard Completing Restoration Work to Jimmy Point Shore Land — Paula Wanzer Photo

“I have never worked on a restoration project that included the removal of buildings and foundations — it was a great learning experience and such an inspiring project to work on. When I walk on Jimmy Point today, I don't see any signs of the buildings that stood there for so many years. It reminds me that the natural world is so resilient.” Dave Mallard, Land and Stewardship Director



View of Squam Lake From Jimmy Point — Don Berry Photo

## STONEDAM ISLAND, LAKE WINNIPESAUKEE — PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Stonedam Island was conserved in 1982, the result of LRCT's first major fundraising campaign. Stonedam is a beautiful island with pristine shores and scenic beaches, a wonderful trail network, and stunning views. LRCT owns 112 acres of the island and manages the trails and a dock for public use; the island's remaining 28 acres are privately owned and subject to conservation restrictions.

Thirty years after its preservation, Stonedam Island continues to be a conservation landmark on Winnepesaukee and a popular destination for people from all over the lake. LRCT is now working on a plan to address the island's current

and future needs. Key among these are replacement of the dock, restoration of the historic Camp Kehonka cabin, which was moved to the island in 1986 from Alton when the camp closed. We plan to have a new 40' dock in place next spring, making it easier for people to visit and for LRCT to have programs on the island.

In recent years, Stonedam has been the destination for a guided paddle trip, and we look forward to continuing the tradition of an annual trip to Stonedam, with an educational component highlighting the island's significant natural and cultural heritage.

If you are interested in supporting the Stonedam stewardship effort, please let us know. We will keep you posted on the progress on this project.



Stonedam Island — Brenda Griffin Photo

## THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

All that we do at the Lakes Region Conservation Trust would not be possible without the extraordinary volunteers that we are so fortunate to have on our team. The activities of these people include service on our Board of Trustees and Committees, stewardship of conserved lands and trails by property adopters, trail adopters, and other stewardship volunteers, the essential regular monitoring of conservation easements, leading and assisting on our guided excursions, help with mailings and other administrative tasks, work on land conservation projects, help with fundraising, representing LRCT at local gatherings and events, and serving as LRCT's eyes and ears out on our properties.



Bridge Crew at Castle in the Clouds — Rick Barrie Photo

community's precious landscapes and it is inspiring to all of us at LRCT and to all those around you. Thank you for all that you do.

The talent, enthusiasm, and dedication that our volunteers bring to their work can be seen on LRCT's conserved lands across the Lakes Region, at each event that we hold, and in each land conservation or stewardship project that is completed. LRCT volunteers, your hard work is a true investment in your

Are you interested in becoming a volunteer? We have a wide range of opportunities to fit your skills, interests, and schedule.

Visit our website, [www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org), to learn more and obtain a Volunteer Information Form.

## In Memoriam

With tremendous friendship and gratitude, we mark the passing in recent months of three people who have played important roles in the history of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

**Thomas D. Given** was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1979, LRCT's first year, beginning a remarkable 35-year record of commitment to LRCT and to conservation in the Lakes Region. Tom was a leader in the work to protect the Langdon Cove Preserve on Moultonborough Neck on the shores of Lake Winnepesaukee (LRCT's first conserved property), played a key role in the effort to conserve Ragged Island, and with his wife Donna led his family and several neighbors to donate the Garnet Point Preserve to LRCT. Tom served as a Trustee for 17 years and as a property stewardship volunteer and as a member of almost all of LRCT's committees. His thoughtful voice and wisdom were valued greatly by his colleagues, and in 1996 he was named as LRCT's first Honorary Trustee.

**Jocelyn F. Gutchess** served on the LRCT Board of Trustees from 1997 to 2006 and as an LRCT Advisor and Lands Committee member, and LRCT has benefited greatly from her dedication to our organization over many years. We remember Jocelyn for her wise and dedicated service as a Board and Committee member and for her enthusiastic and generous involvement in many of LRCT's most significant land conservation accomplishments, including protection of thousands of acres of land on Red Hill, in the Ossipee Mountains, in the Squam Range, and in numerous other places in the Squam and Winnepesaukee Watersheds. We also remember Jocelyn for her tremendous commitment to LRCT's success, to the cause of conservation throughout the Lakes Region, and to the well-being of her community of Sandwich.

**Frederic B. Preston** served as an LRCT Trustee from 1997 to 2008, as a member of our Stewardship, Development, and Lands Committees, as LRCT Vice Chair from 2002 to 2005, and as Chair of the LRCT Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2008. Fred played a critical role in some of LRCT's most important endeavors, including planning and action regarding land conservation on Red Hill, in the Ossipee Mountains, in the Squam Range, and elsewhere in the Squam and Winnepesaukee Watersheds, development of essential organizational policies and procedures, and strategic planning to build and sustain our organization. Fred had a lifelong dedication to Squam Lake and to conservation in the Lakes Region and beyond, and LRCT has been very fortunate to benefit from his commitment, generosity, and leadership.

## NH Land Trust Coalition

The New Hampshire Land Trust Coalition was formed in 2012 with a mission of advancing land conservation in New Hampshire through professional development, policy advocacy, and education. LRCT is proud to be one of the charter members of NHLTC, which is made up of land trusts and other organizations and individuals engaged in land conservation in the state. The Coalition promotes best practices and the exchange of ideas and information through workshops, the NHLTC listserv, and participation in the annual Saving Special Places conference. It also serves as a collective voice for NH land trusts in the state legislature and public agencies on land conservation issues. NHLTC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors made up of representatives from land trusts around the state, and LRCT President Don Berry is currently serving his second term as chair of the NHLTC Board. If you're interested in learning more about NHLTC, please talk with Don or visit [www.nhltc.org](http://www.nhltc.org).

## THE STORY OF THE SHANNON BROOK BRIDGE *by Lisetta Silvestri*

I am continually amazed by what LRCT volunteers accomplish. They help us steward thousands of acres of property, lead and guide hikes and paddles each year, maintain miles of trails, build bridges, reconstruct docks, organize speaker events, create maps – it is so inspiring! Castle in the Clouds property adopter Larry DeGeorge told me one story that I will never forget – it has also become a favorite bedtime story of my 3½ year old son, Edu.

A couple years ago, there was a huge springtime storm and Shannon Brook at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area ran very high, washing the Pond Trail bridge downstream about 300 feet. Larry called trail adopter Kurt Dietzer and asked him to find a way to move the bridge without using heavy machinery so that they wouldn't have to impact the trail. Kurt visited the bridge a few times, mulling over possible courses of action, and decided that he could use ropes and pulleys to move the bridge back into place. Over a few weeks, Kurt slowly accomplished this work by himself, attaching ropes to the bridge, and using trees as leverage for the pulleys. After the work was accomplished, he invited

Larry to meet him at the trail. The bridge was already back in place and Larry was amazed. Larry told me he could barely believe it was accomplished by one person. I think of this story every time I have to “move a bridge” – a seemingly impos-

sible task that a bit of ingenuity, patience, and hard work can accomplish. Thank you Kurt and Larry and all LRCT volunteers for all the ingenuity, patience, and hard work you give to LRCT and the Lakes Region.



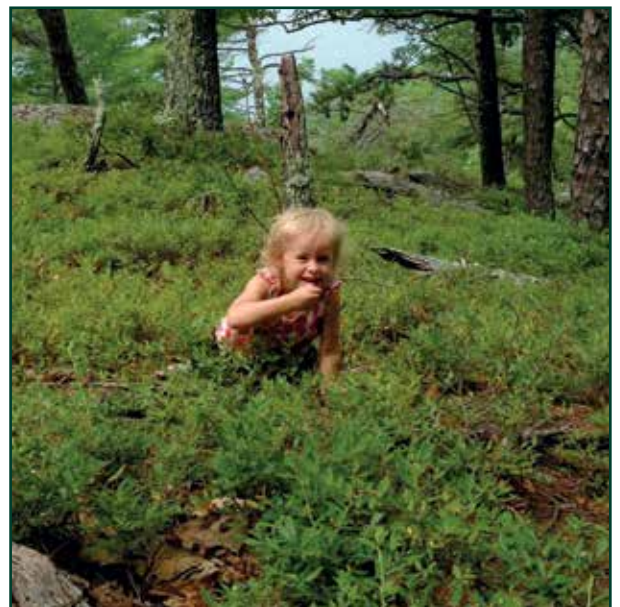
Lisetta and Her Son Edu Overlooking Squam Lake

### Legacy Giving

Thanks to the extraordinary support of LRCT Board of Trustees Chair Peggy Merritt and her husband Ron Lawler, LRCT and the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF) have partnered to create the Lakes Region Conservation Trust Legacy Fund. This fund provides a new giving option, in addition to LRCT's Endowment, for donors who wish to invest in the long-term sustainability of our land conservation and stewardship work. Establishment of the fund allows LRCT and our donors to benefit from NHCF's expertise and professional assistance regarding planned gifts, such as charitable gift annuities.

“We saw the establishment of a fund at the Charitable Foundation as a wonderful way to create another option for donors who wish to provide support in perpetuity for the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. We think that the Charitable Foundation's experience in such matters will be of great benefit to LRCT and our donors, and we hope that LRCT's community will want to take advantage of this opportunity and help us build an even stronger future for our organization,” said Peggy Merritt.

For more information on the Lakes Region Conservation Trust Legacy Fund, please contact LRCT Operations Director Lisetta Silvestri at 603-253-3301.



LRCT Members Bob and Sue Butler's Granddaughter Enjoying Blueberries at LRCT's Rattlesnake Island Preserve — Bob Butler Photo

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Fall 2014

**CONSERVE**  
**ENJOY**  
**EXPLORE**  
**CONNECT**  
**JOIN**

- The Lakes Region Conservation Trust welcomes three new staff members — Dave Mallard, Land and Stewardship Director; Lisetta Silvestri, Operations Director; and Erin Mastine, Communications and Administrative Coordinator.
- Thank you to Brad Wolff and the students of the Ashland School District who recently donated to LRCT a picnic table made from beautifully restored mahogany. The table now offers a spot to enjoy lunch outdoors at the LRCT office.
- We welcome you to stop by our office to meet our new staff, access Center Harbor Woods from our new parking area, and take in the beautiful views of Red Hill and the Ossipees.

View from LRCT Headquarters  
— Don Berry Photo