LRCT’s 40th Anniversary

The inherent character of the Lakes Region has inspired residents and visitors alike for generations. Our lakes, forests, and mountains create an unparalleled landscape. Breathtaking views from summits and ridgelines, clear waters of lakes and ponds, and expansive forests with diverse wildlife all remind us of how fortunate we are to be part of this landscape in all seasons of the year.

LRCT was founded in 1979 to preserve this extraordinary natural heritage and to ensure that it will continue to inspire and benefit all of the region’s inhabitants for generations to come. Over the past 40 years, LRCT has worked with tremendously generous donors and landowners, as well as other conservation organizations and towns, to create the mosaic of conserved lands we all now enjoy.

Since our founding, LRCT has permanently conserved over 27,000 acres of land throughout the region, protecting precious water quality, critical wildlife habitat, diverse ecosystems, and iconic natural landmarks. LRCT’s conserved lands include 33 miles of undeveloped shoreline, 22 mountain summits, and more than 90 miles of hiking trails that provide people with the chance to experience, connect with, and learn from the region’s special places.

We believe LRCT’s land conservation and stewardship work has a profoundly beneficial effect on the region’s landscape, its wildlife and water resources, and the well-being of the people who live, work, visit, and raise families here. We believe the work we do today has great value for the present and leaves an extraordinary legacy for the future.

Throughout 2019, we will be reflecting on LRCT’s 40 years of land conservation and celebrating the accomplishments that your support has made possible, while working to build upon these accomplishments. In recognition of this good work, we have created a challenge for all of you—40 Ways to Celebrate LRCT listed inside. We hope you will have an opportunity to participate in some or all of these activities, and we look forward to hearing about your progress and recognizing your accomplishments throughout the year.
It has been my good fortune to have been involved with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust for more than 26 of its 40 years, beginning when I was invited to join the Board of Trustees in the summer of 1992. A constant throughout this time has been the incredible people who make the organization run and thrive—wonderfully generous and loyal LRCT supporters, conservation-minded landowners, enthusiastic and energetic volunteers, and talented and dedicated staff members, advisors, and trustees.

All of these people deserve tremendous credit for LRCT’s 40 years of accomplishments.

Since LRCT’s earliest days with land conservation projects in Langdon Cove and on Stonedam Island, the commitment and contributions of dedicated people who love the Lakes Region has been essential to LRCT’s achievement of milestones of land conservation and stewardship, financial growth, and organizational professionalism, among them the following:

- over 27,000 acres of land conserved, with major protected lands in the Ossipees, Belknaps, and Squam Range and on Red Hill, in the Winnipesaukee, Squam, and Newfound watersheds, and elsewhere around the region;
- the more-than-ambitious acquisition of the Castle in the Clouds property and securing the long-term stewardship of this magnificent property’s natural and historical heritage in partnership with the Castle Preservation Society;
- an outstanding volunteer corps that helps LRCT accomplish monumental feats of land management and stewardship, as well as participation in the AmeriCorps Lakes Region Conservation Corps program;
- an innovative forest carbon project; and
- a true mark of distinction with accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

We look forward this year to recognizing the achievements of 40 years, to renewing old ties and establishing new ones with you, our supporters, who have made all this possible, and to celebrating as we prepare for LRCT’s next phase of growth and accomplishment.

We are pleased to share with you a momentous event in the life of one of LRCT’s staff members. On December 8, 2018, LRCT’s Administrative Coordinator Anne Liberti and Hunterr Payeur were married on Long Island, New York.

Anne is originally from Lake Grove, New York, and Hunterr is from Berlin, New Hampshire. They met while studying for their Master of Forestry degrees at Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment in Durham, North Carolina. Anne joined LRCT as our Administrative Coordinator in June 2018, and Hunterr works as a forester for New England Forestry Consultants. They live in Gilmanton with their Treeing Walker Coonhound, Oswald.

Congratulations to Anne and Hunterr and best wishes from us all!
LRCT’s Conserved Land Surpasses 27,000 Acres

Late last year, LRCT completed a conservation easement on The Farm Trust property in the Ossipee Mountains in Tamworth. This easement protects 1,615 acres of land, encompassing scenic mountain summits and slopes, the upper reaches of Cold Brook (a tributary of the Bearcamp River), productive farmland, working forests, and pristine wilderness. This is LRCT’s second largest conservation easement and brings the total of LRCT’s protected land to over 27,000 acres.

In addition, the land is part of a 21,150-acre conserved landscape in the Ossipee Mountains, including thousands of acres previously protected by LRCT, such as the Ossipee Mountains Preserve in Tamworth abutting The Farm Trust land and the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area in Moultonborough and Tuftonboro. This project is critical to the ongoing efforts to preserve unspoiled and climate resilient landscapes in the Ossipees and the habitat corridor connecting the Ossipees to the White Mountains.

The Farm Trust Project has been long in the making. Discussions about possible LRCT protection of Bemis/Perry family land began with former LRCT President Tom Curren’s efforts in the 1990s, when LRCT was acquiring abutting lands from the A.B. Thompson Trust. LRCT and family members have continued discussing the matter since then, with sustained work on the project taking place over the past four years. All of the LRCT staff have made important contributions to the project, and particular recognition goes to Lisetta Silvestri whose work in recent years has been essential to bringing the project to completion. In addition, we are thankful for generous grant funding provided by the Open Space Institute, through its Resilient Landscapes Initiative. Finally, we are grateful to The Farm Trust for wanting to work with LRCT to pursue a conservation vision for this magnificent landscape, and to the extraordinarily generous donors whose support ensured the success of this project.

— Tara

LRCT’s AmeriCorps Program

From May to October last year, LRCT hosted our first AmeriCorps crew as part of the Lakes Region Conservation Corps (LRCC), providing us with an enthusiastic and talented team of six service members. The LRCC crew assisted us in more land and easement stewardship work and outreach to visitors than we have ever been able to accomplish. The LRCC-LRCT program provides hands-on conservation work experience and training over a broad range of areas relevant to the environmental conservation field. This year, LRCT will have four Conservation Land Stewards for the LRCC-AmeriCorps Program. We can’t wait for this year’s AmeriCorps members to arrive!

**Here are a few thoughts from last year’s crew:**

What did you like most about island hosting?

“Seeing all of the families enjoying their summer out on Ragged and especially the sunsets.” — Rachele

What did you like most about hosting trails?

“Talking with hikers about their past experiences on the trail and how we can improve the trails.” — Dan

What was your favorite sound of summer?

“I will miss the peaceful sound of loons calling while I was on Ragged Island as the waves gently broke on the shore.” — Katie

What was your favorite LRCT property?

“Rattlesnake Island—a short hike on Lake Winnipesaukee for a gorgeous and unique view.” — Andrew

What did you like most about guided excursions?

“The highlights were connecting with people and learning different areas in a more in depth way than I would otherwise.” — Maria

What was your favorite project?

“It would have to be invasives removal at Sewall Woods. One day, we removed the largest bittersweet root I have ever seen! It was so long that we played jump rope with it!” — Tara
**40 Ways to Celebrate LRCT**

In recognition of LRCT’s 40th Anniversary, we’ve created a list of 40 activities and experiences involving LRCT’s conserved lands and our land conservation and stewardship work. We hope you will have an opportunity to accomplish some or all of these during the coming year and that they will be fun and fulfilling for you.

Visit [www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org) to download and print your own form to keep track of your progress while you complete each activity. Be sure to document your activities by taking pictures, writing notes, or sharing your experiences with us on social media using the #LakesRegionConservationTrust hashtag as you complete each activity! Have fun!

**HIKE!**
1. Hike Mt. Roberts at the Castle in the Clouds
2. Hike Red Hill and climb the Fire Tower
3. Hike the trails at Sugarloaf Ridge-Goose Pond
4. Hike Piper Mountain in the Belknap Range and sit atop the stone throne
5. Hike Fogg Hill and get a picture of the Kettle Bog
6. Hike the Mt. Morgan-Mt. Percival Loop in the Squam Range
7. Hike Mt. Shaw, the highest peak in the Lakes Region, at the Castle in the Clouds

**EXPLORE!**
8. Mountain bike at Page and Glory Hill
9. Take a walk at the Cotton-Hurd Preserve
10. Enjoy the scenery at Trask Swamp
11. Walk the trails at Center Harbor Woods
12. Take a walk around Knights Pond
13. Cross-country ski at Sewall Woods
14. Complete the Lee Settlement Quest at the Castle in the Clouds
15. Complete the Forgotten Farms Quest at Homestead Forest

**PADDLE!**
16. Paddle to Stonedam Island on Lake Winnipesaukee
17. Paddle to Jimmy Point through Squaw Cove on Squam Lake
18. Paddle to Ragged Island on Lake Winnipesaukee
19. Paddle to Blanchard Island on Lake Winnipesaukee
20. Paddle around Turtle Island on Lake Winnipesaukee
21. Paddle to Franks and Bayberry Islands on White Oak Pond

**ENJOY!**
22. Spot a loon or bear
23. Find spring wildflowers
24. Take in a scenic vista
25. Enjoy an outing on an LRCT property with your friends or family
26. Take a picture at your favorite LRCT property and tell us why it’s your favorite
27. Attend an LRCT Guided Excursion

**VOLUNTEER!**
28. Participate in an LRCT Workday Wednesday
29. Volunteer in the LRCT Office
30. Donate your skills to LRCT
31. Become an LRCT Stewardship Volunteer and work on an LRCT property

**CONNECT!**
32. Visit us at the LRCT Office and learn about the work we completed to make our building more energy efficient
33. Follow LRCT on Instagram
34. Like and follow LRCT on Facebook
35. Introduce yourself to an AmeriCorps member at one of our properties
36. Connect with a fellow hiker or paddler by introducing yourself as an LRCT member

**GIVE!**
37. Become a member of LRCT or renew your membership
38. Give a gift of membership to a family member or other loved one
39. Support a land project
40. Tell us how you learned of LRCT and why you continue to support us

Complete 10 or more activities by the end of the year and receive a special edition LRCT 40th Anniversary sticker!
Making a Difference

LRCT is honored to be the recipient of extraordinarily generous bequests recently received from the estates of two long-time LRCT members, both educators—Dave Roberts and Katie Lynch.

Dave Roberts, who lived in Farmington, New Hampshire, was a teacher for many years in Epsom, Farmington, and Dover. Dave was responsible for the first trail map for LRCT’s Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area, and he was a dedicated stewardship volunteer who served as LRCT’s first Property Adopter for the Castle property.

Katie Lynch, who lived in Chaplin, Connecticut and Sandwich New Hampshire, was a professor of East Asian history for over 23 years and retired in 2007 from Eastern Connecticut State University, where she had taught since 1995 and served as department chair from 2005 to 2007. She was a devoted and valued volunteer for Joshua’s Tract Conservation and Historic Trust, a land trust serving eastern Connecticut.

Both Dave and Katie gave careful consideration to the organizations to which they would leave bequests. They chose organizations whose missions were truly important to them and for which they thought their generosity would make a difference.

Support for LRCT through a planned gift is an effective and powerful way to demonstrate your commitment to the conservation of the Lakes Region’s natural heritage—a way to make a difference. By including LRCT in your estate plan, you can make a tangible and lasting impact on the conservation and stewardship of the special places that define our region.

We are very grateful to Dave and Katie for their faith in LRCT and for their tremendous generosity, as we are to all who also have provided for LRCT in their estate planning. If you are considering a planned gift to LRCT and we could be of assistance, please contact LRCT President Don Berry.

Expanding LRCT’s Red Hill Conservation Area

Situated between Lake Winnipesaukee and Squam Lake, Red Hill is a landmark of the Lakes Region. With its iconic fire tower and spectacular views in all directions, Red Hill is one of the most popular hiking destinations in the region.

For more than 30 years, conservation of land on Red Hill has been one of LRCT’s highest priorities. To date, with the extraordinary support of generous donors and landowners, LRCT has conserved more than 2,650 acres of land which make up the Red Hill Conservation Area. We steward this property for thoughtful public access, wildlife habitat, and preservation of the region’s natural and cultural heritage.

This year, LRCT plans to add land to the Red Hill Conservation Area and to continue the important work of maintaining the fire tower and improving the network of trails on the property. As this issue of The Legacy goes to press, LRCT is working to complete the fundraising needed to acquire an 88-acre parcel on the eastern flank of Red Hill, which will add to the scenic protected land on that side of the hill and expand the property’s valuable unfragmented habitat.

If you would like to support this project, LRCT’s ongoing stewardship work on the property, or future land acquisition efforts on Red Hill, please visit www.lrcct.org to make a donation online or contact us by telephone or email at the LRCT Office.

We are pleased that local enthusiasm for LRCT’s land conservation work on Red Hill was recently demonstrated at E.M. Heath’s Supermarket in Center Harbor, where customers had an opportunity to support the current land acquisition project by adding a contribution to their total at the checkout counter. In a short time, over 320 donors participated, contributing over $1,200 for the project. Thank you to Heath’s and to all who participated in this effort!
Red Hill Apple Trees
There is much to learn from LRCT’s conserved lands—of plants and wildlife, of water and geology, and the stories that these lands tell of the people who worked them, lived on them, and cherished them in earlier times.

In *New Hampshire Neighbors*, long-time Sandwich summer resident and noted University of Pennsylvania professor and author Cornelius Weygandt wrote of “old apple trees in a losing battle with young spruce or pine,” of “abandoned orchards that have lapsed into pastures, and from pastures into wilderness.” Weygandt wrote this in the 1930s, but we still find some of these old trees today.

We see them in the saddle of Red Hill, and elsewhere on other LRCT properties. It would be difficult to figure out whether these trees are old New Hampshire varieties such as Nodhead, Granite Beauty, or Milden (which originated here in the Lakes Region) or others whose names are more familiar to us today. But these trees, along with cellarholes and old lilacs, tell us of the farms from earlier generations that occupied our lands.

As you walk through the woods this spring, look for these remnants of the people who lived on these lands before us. And let us know what you find. We are always eager to add to our collection of the stories conserved lands tell.

In Memoriam
With tremendous friendship and gratitude, we mark the passing of former LRCT Board Chair Bruce Cramer. Bruce served on the Board of Trustees from 1986 to 1997, and for the last five years of this period served as Chair. Bruce enjoyed spending summers at the family camp on Birch Island on Lake Winnipesaukee and was committed to the conservation of the Lakes Region’s natural beauty. In particular, Bruce was a leader in LRCT’s work to conserve land on Red Hill, an effort which gained significant momentum during his tenure as Board Chair and continues today. We are honored to recognize Bruce for his wisdom, leadership, and extraordinary contributions to LRCT.

What’s Happening?
LRCT strives to provide opportunities for people to enjoy and learn from our conserved lands. We hope you can join us!

UPCOMING EVENTS
Visit our website for details and other events:
- **Saving Special Places Conference**
  - April 6 • Prospect Mountain High School • Alton
- **LRCT Volunteer Training**
  - TBD • LRCT Office • Center Harbor
- **LRCT Volunteer Appreciation Event**
  - June 26 • LRCT Office • Center Harbor
- **LRCT 40th Anniversary Celebration**
  - September 8 • Castle in the Clouds Meadow • Moultonborough

Guided Excursions
- Guided Hikes • Guided Paddles • Spring–Fall 2019

Workday Wednesdays
- Every Wednesday • July–August • Various Conservation Areas
LRCT’s Gemmill Newfound Fund Assists with Major Conservation Project

Located at the northwestern edge of the Newfound watershed, the 2,730-acre Kimball Hill Forest in Groton is a stunning property that has long been a conservation priority. The Nature Conservancy has recently completed a project involving transfer of the Kimball Hill Forest to the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game as a Wildlife Management Area, with The Nature Conservancy retaining a conservation easement on the property, ensuring the long-term protection of this magnificent landscape.

The project ensures protection of a spectacular ridgeline that will remain unspoiled, nearly 10 miles of rivers and streams that will help to ensure a future clean water supply flowing into Newfound Lake, forests that provide extensive and high-quality wildlife habitat, and opportunities for hiking and climbing, hunting and fishing, snowshoeing and snowmobiling, continuing the land’s tradition as a place for outdoor adventure and inspiration.

We are proud that funding from LRCT’s John Gemmill Newfound Fund has been able to assist with this important project. The Gemmill Fund was created in 2011 by Helen Gemmill, in memory of her father, John K. Gemmill, long-time Director of Camp Pasquaney in Hebron. The Gemmill Fund supports Newfound watershed land conservation by covering project costs such as surveys, appraisals, and stewardship that could otherwise be a challenge to successful land conservation transactions. The fund is managed by LRCT and can be used to facilitate Newfound watershed land conservation projects by any organization engaged in such work.

In establishing the Gemmill Fund, Helen Gemmill said “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.”

That vision has certainly been achieved. To date the Gemmill Fund has helped to support 16 land conservation projects around the Newfound watershed, with the Kimball Hill Forest being the most recent. We extend our hearty congratulations to our colleagues at The Nature Conservancy for this tremendous accomplishment, and we look forward to working with The Nature Conservancy and other conservation partners on future projects to protect water quality and wildlife habitat, maintain recreational opportunities, sustain the local economy, and preserve the scenic qualities and community character that make Newfound special.

Explore the Lakes Region with LRCT’s new maps!

Paddle on Lake Winnipesaukee with LRCT’s Paddle Map

Hike the BelknaPs with LRCT’s Belknap Range Hiking Trails Map

Explore new areas in the Lakes Region with LRCT’s Explorer Patch Program
Lakes Region Conservation Trust
156 Dane Road (Route 25B)
PO Box 766
Center Harbor, New Hampshire 03226-0766

THE LEGACY
For all who love the Lakes Region of New Hampshire