

# THE LEGACY

FOR ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THE LAKES REGION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



## NEWFOUND LANDMARK CONSERVED

A Newfound watershed landmark has been permanently conserved with the donation to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust of 400 magnificent acres in Alexandria overlooking Newfound Lake and encompassing the ridgeline of Big and Little Sugarloaf and much of the shoreline of pristine Goose Pond. Later this year LRCT will convey a conservation easement on the land to the Newfound Lake Region Association (NLRA).

The Sugarloaf Ridge–Goose Pond Conservation Area, as the property is now known, forms a key part of the viewscape on the western side of Newfound Lake, most prominently the Ledges that tower above West Shore Road. This land includes unspoiled rugged and diverse habitat and encompasses about 80% (3,000 feet) of the shoreline of Goose Pond, the remainder of which is part of Wellington State Park. The property also contains approximately six miles of hiking and snowmobile trails, including two miles of the historic and popular Elwell Trail, a key link in the route from Newfound Lake to Mt. Cardigan.

LRCT President Don Berry and NLRA Executive Director Boyd Smith said that conservation of this property has long been a Newfound vision and priority, and that it was accomplished because of the extraordinary generosity of two exceptional donors, Chris Keppelman and Andy McLane, both of Bridgewater, who made it possible to acquire the property for conservation.

Andy McLane noted that “conservation of this remarkable parcel of land ensures that the property, and its scenic beauty, natural wildlife habitat, and trails will be forever preserved for public enjoyment and for traditional low-impact public recreational uses.” Chris Keppelman further explained that the property had been on the market for some time and that its historical uses would likely have been lost to

private development had this conservation transaction not been completed.

In addition to the two donors, we want to highlight the roles played by the Newfound Land Conservation Partnership and the John Gemmill Newfound Fund in this project and in other land conservation work in the Newfound watershed.

The Newfound Land Conservation Partnership is a collaboration of LRCT, NLRA, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, along with camps, other conservation organizations, and interested individuals, formed in 2009 to promote land conservation in the Newfound watershed.



Above and Masthead — Views of Newfound Lake from Little Sugarloaf — NLRA Photos

The John Gemmill Newfound 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.

This project is the second land conservation partnership between LRCT and NLRA in the past several years. The two organizations also work together on the Grey Rocks Conservation Area along the Cockermouth

River at the head of Newfound Lake in Hebron, which is owned by NLRA with a conservation easement held by LRCT. LRCT and NLRA look forward to continuing our work together and with local volunteers in stewarding the remarkable Sugarloaf Ridge–Goose Pond Conservation Area for generations to come.

## REFLECTIONS

The conservation of the magnificent Sugarloaf Ridge–Goose Pond property overlooking Newfound Lake has us thinking about all of the conserved summits and ridgelines in the Lakes Region and their essential place in the landscapes that we cherish. Our region is of course widely known for beautiful lakes and ponds, but the region wouldn't be the same without the uplands that frame these waters. The hills and mountains are critical to the character of landscape that has made the Lakes Region a special place in the hearts of residents and seasonal visitors for generations.

Conserving key upland parcels has long been one of LRCT's highest priorities. Permanent protection of these lands ensures that wildlife habitat is preserved, water resources remain pristine, trails stay open for everyone's enjoyment, and views continue to be inspiring.

We are honored to have played a role in protecting thousands of acres of critical uplands throughout the region — in the northern Ossipee Mountains, around the Castle in the Clouds, in the Belknaps, on Cople Crown, on Red Hill, in the Squam Range ... and now on the iconic Sugarloaf Ridge. We are fortunate and grateful to have had the support and collaboration of extraordinarily generous donors and committed conservation partners in all of these efforts.

What a privilege it is to add the Sugarloaf Ridge–Goose Pond property and its trails and vantage points to the list of protected properties. There really is nothing quite like looking down from a summit to a lake that you love. We hope you will have an opportunity to do so this summer.



View of the Ossipees from the Geneva Point Center — Lisetta Sivestri Photo

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 opportunities for people of all ages.

Together with our dedicated community of supporters, we have conserved more than 130 properties totaling nearly 24,000 acres. These conserved lands encompass many of the special places that define our 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 future generations.

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

## JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW ARRIVALS!

The Lakes Region Conservation Trust welcomes Christine Luke, our new Development Director. Christine is a native of Rhode Island, attended Syracuse University, and has spent 23 years in senior management roles successfully fundraising for both start-up and established non-profits. She most recently served as Director of Major and Planned Giving at Crossroads Rhode Island and prior to that worked at the Rhode Island Zoological Society/Roger Williams Park Zoo and the Community Preparatory School. While Christine is new to Laconia and the Lakes Region, she is not unfamiliar with New Hampshire. She and her husband were second home owners in Lincoln for the past 18 years. Christine enjoys skiing, cycling, hiking with her dog Lily, and playing pickleball.



Christine Luke and her dog Lily on Red Hill — Jack Barry Photo



Stella Mastine — Alexis Jackson Photo

My husband and I welcomed our first child and future conservationist, Stella, in February. We both grew up in the Lakes Region and are very happy to be raising our family here. I'm so fortunate to work at LRCT; the efforts of all those involved with the organization will ensure that these lands will be here for my daughter to enjoy in the future.

— Erin Mastine

## GET OUTDOORS WITH LRCT'S GUIDED EXCURSION PROGRAM!

LRCT's guided excursions provide a great opportunity to explore LRCT's conserved lands — new places or places you know well — with others dedicated to the conservation of the natural heritage of the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. The program began in 2009, and we are continuing it this year with some exciting and new programs as well as some old favorites.

The program features hikes, walks, paddles, and educational presentations at LRCT properties throughout the region. Each event allows participants to learn about and connect with conserved lands with knowledgeable and experienced guides.

We want to recognize and thank the LRCT excursion leaders and assistants who do an exceptional job of guiding our excursions. These people have devoted time to training for leading hikes and paddles, as well as associated skills such as first aid and emergency response. These great opportunities to explore LRCT conserved lands would not be possible without our team of talented and terrific guides.

To learn about upcoming guided excursions, please visit LRCT's website ([lrct.org](http://lrct.org)) or sign up to receive LRCT's e-blasts (*see bottom of this page for e-blast details*). As an LRCT member, you will receive advance notice of our guided excursion schedule and the opportunity to sign up ahead of time. If you are not already a member of LRCT, we hope you will become a member today!

**INTERESTED IN  
BECOMING A GUIDE?**  
Visit  
**[www.lrct.org/volunteer/opportunities](http://www.lrct.org/volunteer/opportunities)**  
to fill out a Volunteer Information Form



My first guided excursion as a new employee at LRCT was at the 595-acre Homestead Forest Conservation Area in Ashland and Holderness last summer. I had hiked on this property on my own during the previous winter but was really looking forward to exploring it again with LRCT Trustee Phil Preston, who donated this incredible property to LRCT in 1999 and served as lead guide for the event. I was not disappointed. I and the other participants learned about the old homesteads once present on the property and saw the massive stones used for barn foundations and rock walls, as well as geological features like the Devil's Den Caves. We also learned about the oak apple gall (see photo above), the strange looking plant formation that one of the participants was able to identify as the result of wasp larva on the oak tree.

– Erin Mastine

## CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS HIKER ACHIEVEMENT PATCH PROGRAM

LRCT's Hiker Achievement Patch Program was established in 2009 to encourage hikers to reach the goal of ascending 5 major summits and hiking 19 designated trails totaling 30 miles at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area. LRCT volunteers Gerry DeGeorge, Pat Greenberg, Janet Millay, and Donna Solod proposed the idea of a patch program after earning their AMC patches for climbing the White Mountain Four Thousand Footers. They recognized an opportunity for a similar program at a place close to their hearts.

Since the program's inception, more than 100 hikers (and several dogs) have earned a patch. While there is no time limit for completing the hikes, some people have earned a patch in just 2 days!

This all-season, family-friendly program allows you to hike, snowshoe, or cross-country ski your way towards completion. If you are interested in participating in the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area Hiker Achievement Patch Program, please visit LRCT's website ([lrct.org](http://lrct.org) — Explore/Learn tab) for more information as well as an application form or contact us at 603-253-3301 or [lrct@lrct.org](mailto:lrct@lrct.org). See you on the trails!



L to R Janet Millay, Donna Solod, Lynne Slocum, Barbara O'Hearn, Geraldine DeGeorge, Pat Blundo, Pat Greenberg

## 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 LRCT activities? If you wish to be added to our list, please sign up at [www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org).

## LRCT Places to See and Visit This Summer

LRCT's conserved properties provide some of the Lakes Region's favorite scenic landmarks and places to walk, climb, and paddle, and we hope you will have a chance to enjoy some of these places this summer. Please visit LRCT's website (lrct.org — Explore/Learn tab) for information on obtaining maps and to learn more about LRCT's conservation of these and other properties, the extraordinarily generous landowners and donors who made these conservation projects possible, and the dedicated conservation partners with whom we have worked to conserve and steward these lands.

### CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS

The **Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area** in the Ossipee Mountains in **Moultonborough** and **Tuftonboro** is the largest property conserved and stewarded by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. It consists of 5,246 acres owned by LRCT and 135 acres encompassing the Castle buildings and grounds on which LRCT holds a conservation easement. This property provides extraordinary walking and hiking opportunities for people of all ages and abilities on over 30 miles of trails and carriage roads, including the following:



View of the Castle from the Oak Ridge Trail —  
Brenda Griffin Photo



Guided Excursion at Mt. Shaw —  
Jim Nupp Photo

**Mt. Shaw** is the highest point in the Lakes Region and is visible from all over Lake Winnepesaukee and beyond. It has been a favorite climb for Lakes Region hikers for generations. Mt. Shaw can be ascended via a series of trails and carriage roads from LRCT's trailhead parking area at the upper end of Ossipee Park Road. The summit provides spectacular mountain views north to the White Mountains and east across the Ossipee Ring Dike. A side trail leads to Black Snout, with its spectacular views west across Lake Winnepesaukee.

The **Oak Ridge Trail Loop** is an Interpretive Trail that is great for families and visitors of all ages. It begins at the kiosk near Shannon Pond. Interpretive Trail Guides can be purchased from LRCT.



Shannon Pond — Brenda Griffin Photo



Bald Knob — LRCT Photo

**Bald Knob** is another favorite climb for families, affording excellent views of Lake Winnepesaukee and beyond. Bald Knob is accessible via a series of trails from LRCT's trailhead parking area on Route 171.

**Mt. Roberts** is considered by many to be the finest "undiscovered" hike in the Lakes Region. It can be ascended from LRCT's trailhead parking area at the upper end of Ossipee Park Road, via a trail that runs through woods and along Roberts Ridge, where open ledgy spots provide grand views across Lake Winnepesaukee. From the summit, there are spectacular views to the Sandwich and Presidential Ranges and other points north.

## SQUAM RANGE

The **Squam Range–Burleigh Land Conservation Easement** held by LRCT protects 2,471 acres of summits and slopes of the Squam Range in **Holderness** and **Campton** and abuts other significant conserved Squam Range acreage. These lands contain numerous hiking trails and destinations, including the following:

**Mt. Morgan** and **Mt. Percival** are among the most popular hiking destinations in the Lakes Region, affording spectacular views of natural landmarks in all directions, including Squam Lake, Red Hill, the Ossipees, the Sandwich Range, and the White Mountains. Substantial portions of the Mt. Morgan and Mt. Percival Trails, as well as their trailheads on Route 113 a short distance west of the Holderness-Sandwich town line, are within LRCT's conservation easement. Many people enjoy hiking a loop from one trailhead, up over both mountains via the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail, and back down to the other trailhead.

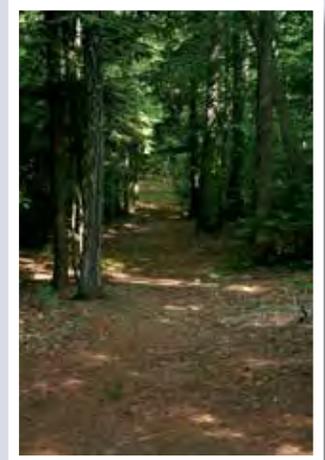


View of the Squam Range from Eagle Cliff — Phil Preston Photo

**Cotton Mountain** and **Mt. Livermore** are popular hikes at the western end of the Squam Range, affording excellent views of Squam Lake, Little Squam Lake, Red Hill, and points beyond. The summits and slopes of the mountains, the trailhead of the Cotton Mountain Trail, and substantial portions of the trails on these mountains are within the LRCT conservation easement. The Cotton Mountain Trail is accessed from Route 113, about a mile north of Route 3. Hikers can continue on from Cotton Mountain via the Crawford-Ridgepole Trail to the summit of Mt. Livermore.

## SEWALL WOODS

LRCT's **Sewall Woods Conservation Area** is a 179-acre woodland located just a short distance from Main Street in the center of **Wolfeboro**. It consists of four parcels of land providing scenic forest and wildlife habitat. The property's extensive trail system provides opportunities for low-impact recreational activities and nature observation and connects with the Town's Abenaki trail network. The Sewall Woods parking area is located at the end of Clow Road off Pleasant Street.



Sewall Woods — Don Berry Photo



Knights Pond — Brenda Griffin Photo

## KNIGHTS POND

The **Knights Pond Conservation Area** in **Alton** is a pristine 31-acre body of water surrounded by 307 acres of conserved land, located close to Wolfeboro. The property consists of two parcels owned by LRCT, a parcel protected by a conservation easement held by LRCT, and two parcels protected by conservation easements held by the State of New Hampshire. A trail encircles the pond and provides opportunities for peaceful walking and nature observation. The parking area is off Rines Road near the Alton-Wolfeboro town line.

## COPPLE CROWN

LRCT's 732-acre **Copple Crown Conservation Area** in **Brookfield** encompasses the summit and slopes of Copple Crown Mountain, a major landmark south of Lake Winnepesaukee. The trail follows abandoned town roads and more recent logging roads through hardwood forests, then climbs a steeper slope covered with patches of spruce. Copple Crown provides excellent views north and west across Lakes Winnepesaukee and Wentworth to the Belknaps, Ossipees, Sandwich Range, and beyond, and views south toward the New Hampshire Seacoast. Trailhead parking is accessed from Moose Mountain Road off Governor's Road.



View of Merrymeeting Lake from Copple Crown — Art Slocum Photo



Red Hill Fire Tower — John Oliver Photo

### RED HILL

LRCT's **Red Hill Conservation Area** encompasses 2,565 acres in **Moultonborough** and protects the summit and slopes of Red Hill. Red Hill has long been noted for its panoramic views of Winnepesaukee, Squam, and the White Mountains, and the climb to the summit and its firetower via the Red Hill Trail is one of the most popular family hikes in the Lakes Region. The trail leaves the Red Hill Road trailhead and climbs through the woods up the west side of the mountain. Red Hill can also be climbed from the east from Sheridan Road, via a trail which ascends to the ridge with its views of Sandwich Dome and Mt. Israel.

### EAGLE CLIFF

The **Eagle Cliff Conservation Easement** held by LRCT encompasses 102 acres on a northern spur of Red Hill in **Sandwich**. Eagle Cliff can be ascended via the Eagle Cliff Trail and affords excellent views north and west across Squam Lake and to the Squam Range. The trailhead is located on Squam Lake Road in Sandwich, a short distance north of the Moultonborough-Sandwich town line.

### SUGARLOAF RIDGE-GOOSE POND

LRCT's **Sugarloaf Ridge-Goose Pond Conservation Area** in **Alexandria** (see page 1) can be accessed via the Elwell Trail, which begins at a parking area off West Shore Road north of the entrance to Wellington State Park. The trail is named for Colonel Alcott Farrar Elwell, long-time director of Camp Mowglis in Hebron. The Elwell Trail and side trails provide routes to the Sugarloaf ridgeline, with spectacular views of Newfound Lake and the landscape to the north and east, and around Goose Pond.



View of Newfound Lake from Sugarloaf — Boyd Smith Photo



View Across Center Harbor Woods — Don Berry Photo

### CENTER HARBOR WOODS

LRCT's **Center Harbor Woods** is a 224-acre forested property off Center Harbor Neck Road in **Center Harbor** and High Haith Road in **Moultonborough**, lying equidistant from Lake Winnepesaukee and Squam Lake in the heart of the Lakes Region. The property encompasses significant wildlife habitat and trails for four-season use and enjoyment, and it provides a place where people of all ages can explore, appreciate, and learn from the natural world.

### PINE HILL

LRCT's **Pine Hill Conservation Area** is a 121-acre wooded parcel off High Haith Road and Bean Road in **Moultonborough**. The property has a wonderful system of trails for quiet walks, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing, and it shares a trailhead on High Haith Road with nearby Center Harbor Woods.

### HOMESTEAD FOREST

LRCT's 595-acre **Homestead Forest Conservation Area** in **Ashland** contains miles of stonewalls and cellar holes and foundations that bear witness to a tradition of homestead agriculture in rural New Hampshire in the 1800s and to the transition from fields back to forestland after these farms were abandoned. The trailhead is located on Lambert Road, and a network of trails passes old foundations, swamps, viewpoints, and caves.



Guided Excursion at Homestead Forest — Lisetta Silvestri Photo

## WINNIPESAUKEE ISLANDS

Lake Winnepesaukee is the dominant geographic feature of central New Hampshire and has long been the most popular lake in all of New England. Since its earliest days, LRCT has worked to preserve Winnepesaukee's natural beauty and heritage by conserving important lands near and on the lake. Among LRCT's most noted conserved lands are these Winnepesaukee island properties:

The **Stonedam Island Conservation Area** off Meredith Neck encompasses 2.7 miles of undeveloped shoreline and 112 acres of this 126-acre island. Stonedam is a perfect place for a peaceful walk on a network of trails leading to points of interest all over the island. Docking for power boats is available at a new dock on the northeast shore of the island. The island can also be accessed by paddle craft.



Guided Excursion to Stonedam Island — Beth Fox Photo



Nick Tansey Paddling to Five Mile Island — Joe Tansey Photo

The **Five Mile Island Conservation Area**, near the northwestern end of the Broads, offers nearly ten acres of forest and 3,300 feet of rocky shoreline for exploration. There is no dock, so power boat operators should anchor and wade ashore. The best landing site for paddle craft is a small coarsely pebbled beach on the southeast side. A well-marked perimeter trail provides a comfortable hiking route around the island and reveals an interesting variety of vegetation, including a small wetland.

The **Ragged Island Conservation Area**, located near the geographic center of the lake, has nearly one mile of pristine shoreline and two sandy beaches for landing by paddle craft. Two docks for power boat landing are located near the southern end of the island. A nature trail follows the island's perimeter, and circumnavigation of the island by water passes numerous shallows and rock reefs and provides pleasant paddling past small coves with overhanging high bush blueberries in season.



View of Winnepesaukee from Ragged Island — Jack Barry Photo



Blanchard Island — Jennifer Williams Photo

The **Blanchard Island Conservation Area** encompasses this 2-acre island located outside Green's Basin at the northern end of Winnepesaukee. The island has two small beaches, as well as a dock for visiting boaters. Views from the island include Red Hill, the Ossipee Mountains, and the Sandwich Range.

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Trask Swamp in Alton — Brenda Griffin Photo



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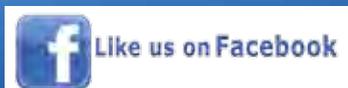
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ENJOY

EXPLORE

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JOIN



Goose Pond at the Sugarloaf Ridge — Goose Pond Conservation Area — Boyd Smith Photo