

# THE LEGACY

FOR ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THE  
LAKES REGION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



## EXPANSION OF RED HILL RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

In 2015 LRCT completed the acquisition of 44 acres of land that expands our Red Hill River Conservation Area in Sandwich to 416 acres. The newly conserved land includes a large wetland with rich wildlife habitat as well as forested upland and a small area of open field.

The 44-acre parcel was owned by the family of the late David Leach. The land had been in the family for at least 200 years, and they agreed to sell the land to LRCT so that it could be conserved in perpetuity. We feel fortunate, once again, to have had the opportunity to work with landowners so committed to conservation.

Longtime LRCT Trustee and Sandwich community leader Jocelyn Fleming Gutchess, who lived nearby, worked with LRCT on this conservation project before her passing in 2014 and inspired us throughout the project. We are honoring her memory and her commitment to conservation and her town with the establishment of the Jocelyn Fleming Gutchess Trail on the property, so that all can enjoy this special area that Jocelyn so loved. We are receiving valuable assistance in this effort from Boy Scout Troop #69 in Laconia, as well as support for a trailhead kiosk and map through a grant from the NH Fish and Game Department Wildlife Recreation Access Program.

The Red Hill River Conservation Area not only provides a scenic woodland and wetland complex for public recreation, but also contributes significantly to the area's wildlife and water quality. The Red Hill River and its tributaries flow from Red Hill Pond, and Red Hill, and though Garland

Pond, where significant land has been conserved by the Town of Sandwich, LRCT, and The Nature Conservancy. LRCT's newly acquired parcel is an important addition to these conserved lands. It provides habitat for bear, bobcat, beaver, fox, moose, and many other animals and plants and helps to maintain water quality in the Red Hill River watershed for the benefit of Sandwich and nearby towns.



Masthead—Winter wonderland at Red Hill River Conservation Area—Brenda Griffin Photo, Above—A wildlife tracking walk at the Leach property

We are proud to announce that the project brought LRCT to over 24,000 acres of land conserved throughout the Lakes Region in our 37-year history. We want to thank everyone who supported the project—our wonderful project team of Frances Strayer, Susan Gutchess, and Peggy Merritt, as well as the Sandwich Conservation Commission, the Trustees of the Alfred Quimby Fund, the NH Charitable Foundation, and many

people from Sandwich and nearby towns whose generous financial contributions ensured the project's success.

## REFLECTIONS

This year the Lakes Region Conservation Trust will apply to join the ranks of land trusts accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The accreditation program strengthens land conservation by helping land trusts attain stringent national standards and providing the public with the assurance that accredited land trusts are meeting these standards. In June we will submit our pre-application, and in September we will submit our full application.



Mill Brook, Tamworth — Brenda Griffin Photo

Seeking accreditation is a huge step for LRCT, and it has taken three years of preparation. From enhancing the documentation of how land projects fulfill our conservation criteria, to digitizing slides and photos of our earliest projects, to improving property management plans and baseline documentation, to updating policies and upgrading document storage systems, we are taking the steps necessary to earn this important badge of honor. Making

these changes while continuing our usual slate of land conservation projects, land stewardship tasks, guided excursions, and fundraising activities is, as one former LRCT Trustee put it, “like trying to change the oil of a car while it’s still running.”

It hasn’t been easy, but we already feel the benefits of the changes we have made. Our updated land project documentation system helps us track projects more effectively; our new land database is of tremendous benefit in carrying out annual management and stewardship responsibilities; and it’s very satisfying to know that records compiled over decades are in order.

As important, preparation for the accreditation process has been a true team effort. Everyone—LRCT staff, trustees, committee members, and volunteers—has played a role. We can’t imagine completing the process without the tireless help and enthusiasm of these dedicated people. Thank you to everyone who is helping to prepare us for this important step forward.

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 over 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.

### TRUSTEES

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Donald S. Berry, *President* (Tuftonboro)  
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)

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## ACCREDITATION NOTICE

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Lakes Region Conservation Trust is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant’s policies and programs.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Lakes Region Conservation Trust complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 112 Spring Street, Suite 204, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Lakes Region Conservation Trust’s application will be most useful by November 11, 2016.

## LRCT OFFERS STUDENTS A LEARNING OPPORTUNITY WITH HELP FROM THE BURNETT FUND

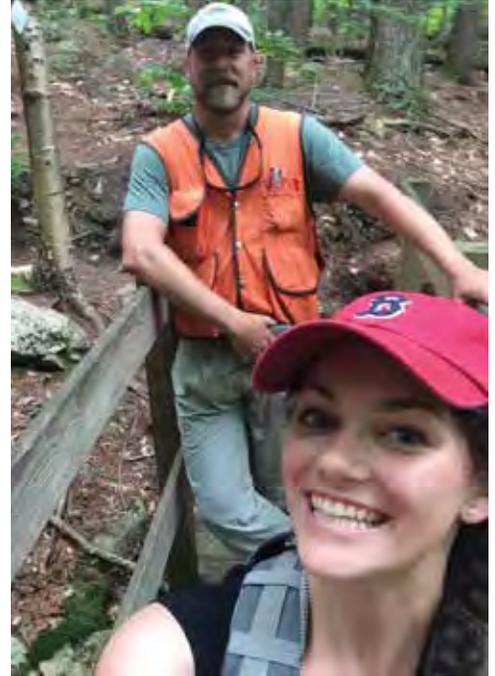
When I began college at Plymouth State University, my professors always told me “make sure you have an internship.” It wasn’t until my senior year that I finally had the opportunity and began my first day at LRCT. Dave Mallard, LRCT’s Land and Stewardship Director, taught me the essentials of land conservation, from fee-owned land to conservation easements. It all sounded a bit like gibberish to me at the time, but who knew that months from that day I would be standing on the LRCT headquarters porch on a sunny fall morning admiring Red Hill and quietly thinking to myself “I can’t believe I work here now!”

From January to May, I immersed myself in LRCT’s many conserved land files. Part of my internship involved reviewing LRCT’s paper files and populating LRCT’s new land database with property information. The database allows LRCT to easily track conservation lands and to compile standard documents, such as baseline documentation reports for conservation easements. Another part of my internship involved using GIS (geographic information systems) software to create maps for all of LRCT’s conserved properties. As my internship came to an end in the late summer, it became possible for me to continue on at LRCT, and the responsibilities of my internship turned into my duties as a staff member. LRCT always has land conservation projects in the works, which require maps, management plans, and baseline reports. Our master map is always changing with the addition of newly conserved lands.

Beginning last spring when the trees started showing their green for summer, Dave and I visited countless properties to conduct field work. Most of our work included creating photo reports for baseline documentation reports and current condition reports, then post-processing for our reports in the office. I hummock-hopped in the marshy bogs near the Stearns Conservation Easement in Sandwich, canoed the Cockermouth River at the Grey Rocks Conservation Easement in Hebron, and hugged hemlocks in the forest at the soon-to-be Moscovitch-Thompson Conservation Easement in Albany. I’ve been able to experience beautiful parts

of the Lakes Region that many others might never have the chance to see. Over the past year I discovered a true passion for land conservation within myself, and can safely say I’ll be a conservationist forever. I am so grateful to LRCT and the Burnett Trust Fund for this experience.

Ashley Clark

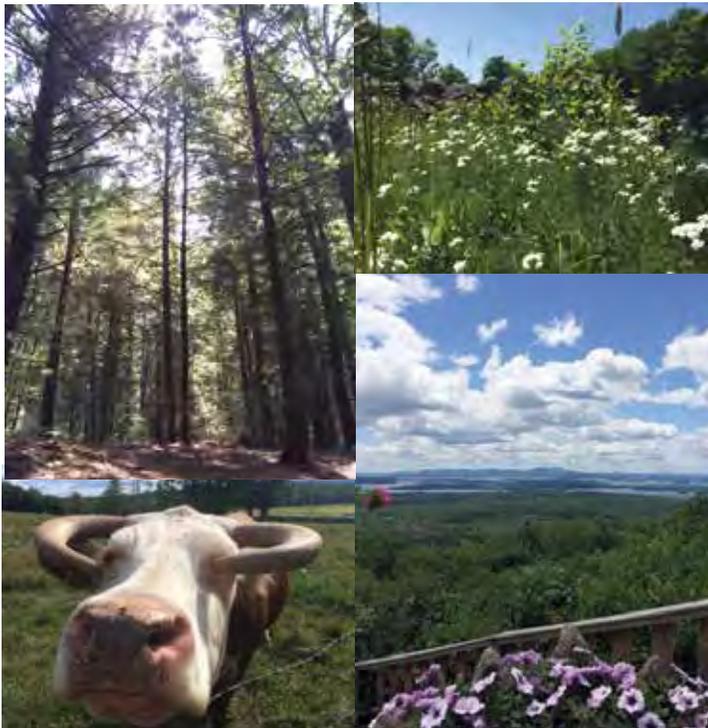


Dave and Ashley out monitoring

This past year LRCT hosted two student interns, Ashley Clark and Alan Spadafora. This internship program was made possible by support from LRCT’s Burnett Trust Fund, established through the extraordinary generosity of H. Weston Burnett, Jr. and his family. Ashley and Alan received stipends and gained hands-on experience creating land conservation documents, reports, and GIS property maps. They provided LRCT with invaluable assistance in preparing for land trust accreditation. Both Alan and Ashley graduated from Plymouth State University at the end of the summer of 2015. Alan went on to work with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Ashley agreed to continue working with LRCT for another five months before finding a permanent position at New Hampton School. We are so thankful to both Ashley and Alan for their hard work and wish them the best in their future careers!

“Working with Ashley and Alan has been a truly terrific experience. Their hard work, dedication, and enthusiasm has been an enormous asset to LRCT as we work toward accreditation.”

Dave Mallard, Land and Stewardship Director



Photos taken by Ashley while preparing baseline documentation reports

## MEMORIES OF CAMP KEHONKA LIVE ON AT STONEDAM ISLAND WITH THE HELP OF THE MEREDITH ROTARY CLUB

During the summer and fall of 2015, the Meredith Rotary Club and LRCT worked together to restore the unique and historic cabin at LRCT's Stonedam Island Conservation Area in Lake Winnepesaukee. This project not only preserves an important asset for LRCT but helps to maintain the legacy of Camp Kehonka, one of the first girls' camps in the country, which operated on Lake Wentworth and then on Lake Winnepesaukee in Alton from 1902 to 1985. (For more about Camp Kehonka, see <https://kehonka.wordpress.com>.)



Cabin on Stonedam Island with new roof and support posts

The cabin's construction and history are unusual. It was constructed on the Camp Kehonka property south of Wolfeboro in 1925, its hand-hewn timbers having come from an East Alton farmhouse and barn built in the 1860s. When the timbers were rejoined in 1925, dove-tailed joints were painstakingly cut to create tightly fitted corners for the cabin. Granite slabs from a local quarry were made into a simple but beautiful fireplace. The cabin became a summer residence for Laura Mattoon, Kehonka's founder and a pioneer in the field of camping.

After Camp Kehonka closed in 1985, Camp Director Althea Ballentine generously donated this unique structure to LRCT, allowing the spirit of Kehonka to live on. The cabin was disassembled and barged 13 miles up the lake to Stonedam Island, where it was reconstructed in October 1986. A skilled crew carried out the rebuilding process; having kept the floor of the cabin intact, they hoisted it acrobatically through the trees of Stonedam Island to place it on the new site. Financing for the relocation was provided primarily by a fund established in memory of Althea's late husband, A. Cooper "Bally" Ballentine, who had also served as Camp Director and was one of the founders of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen.

Now almost 30 years later, the cabin still stands on Stonedam. However, weathering had taken a toll, and significant repairs were needed to keep the structure sound. The Meredith Rotary Club's Major Projects Committee offered to take on the project and committed to replace the cabin's wooden support posts as well as to completely replace the roof, including installing a skylight to let in natural light.

The project was finished in October, and we are very grateful to the members of the Rotary Club for their generosity, talent, hard work, and dedication

to this project. The cabin looks wonderful, and it is now ready to serve LRCT for many years to come.



Members of the Meredith Rotary Club hard at work replacing the cabin roof

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

What does the Lakes Region mean to you? Paddling on Winnepesaukee, Squam, or Newfound; being surrounded by expansive conserved land on Red Hill, in the Ossipees, in the Squam Range, or on Sugarloaf; hiking the spectacular Mt. Roberts Trail or Brook Walk at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area; cross-country skiing on the trails at the Sewall Woods Conservation Area; exploring Stonedam and Ragged Islands ... living, working, and raising a family in a region with the spectacular natural beauty and recreational opportunities provided by lands conserved by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Through your support for LRCT, you are among a dedicated community of donors who have helped to conserve over 24,000 acres, for future generations to appreciate and enjoy. We look forward to, and will be grateful for, your continuing help in 2016 in one or more of these ways:

### DONATE

Please visit us online at [www.lrct.org](http://www.lrct.org) to make a donation and to learn more about LRCT's mission and our conserved lands. Each gift is vital and greatly appreciated. Here are examples of how your gift makes a difference:

- ☛ \$25 trail blazes for any of the 85 miles of trails on LRCT conserved land
- ☛ \$50 a gift of a family membership for someone who has everything
- ☛ \$75 paint for the upkeep of our kiosks
- ☛ \$100 a kiosk map at one of our newly acquired properties
- ☛ \$500 a chainsaw for trail maintenance at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area
- ☛ \$750 GPS units for baseline documentation needed for each new conservation easement
- ☛ \$1,000 toward creating a new trailhead parking area at the Fogg Hill Conservation Area

### VOLUNTEER

LRCT has a variety of volunteer opportunities, and important work is accomplished each year through the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

- ☛ Trail Volunteers help build, maintain, and mark trails.
- ☛ Trail and Property Adopters volunteer to monitor a specific trail or property.
- ☛ Conservation Easement Monitors help LRCT confirm that the terms of our conservation easements are being satisfied.
- ☛ Office Volunteers assist with large mailings and review and organize records for accreditation.
- ☛ Event Volunteers represent LRCT at community gatherings.



Lisetta's son Edu playing with Maverick at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area

### PLANNED GIVING

You can help sustain LRCT's future by planning your support now. If you would like to make a permanent investment in our land conservation work, there are many ways you can leave a legacy, including the following:

- ☛ Bequest in your will
- ☛ Gift of retirement assets
- ☛ Gift of securities
- ☛ Gift of real estate

If you have questions about planned giving please contact Christine Luke, Development Director, at 603-253-3301.

### VISIT US

We'd love to have you visit our Center Harbor office, to give you an inside look at what your support has helped make possible. We also have a beautiful view of our conserved lands on Red Hill and in the Ossipees. Please call us at 603-253-3301.

## 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).

## WONALANCET – THREE NEWLY CONSERVED PROPERTIES

Situated at the intersection of four towns — Sandwich, Tamworth, Albany, and Waterville Valley—Wonalancet is a special place, cherished by all who live and visit here. In the words of Wonalancet resident and LRCT volunteer Martha Chandler, “There is always this moment driving to Wonalancet, when I get to that place on the road where the sky opens up and I say ‘wow’.”

Wonalancet is known for the iconic view across open fields to the Wonalancet Union Chapel with the Sandwich Range rising behind it, a scene unchanged for decades. It is also known for many hiking trails leading into the White Mountains, from the Ferncroft Trailhead and other points around the village. For more than 100 years, since the establishment of the Wonalancet Out Door Club (WODC) and the first efforts to preserve the Bowl (between Mounts Whiteface and Passaconaway), trail stewardship and conservation of natural resources and scenic beauty have been community priorities in Wonalancet.

During the past year, LRCT has been proud to work closely with WODC and the Wonalancet Preservation Association (WPA) to conserve three key parcels of land, adding to the protection of Wonalancet’s natural heritage and the trails enjoyed for so long by so many. All three properties are contiguous to the White Mountain National Forest or other conserved land. They contain important forest habitat for a wide variety of plants, birds, and mammals, including moose, bear, deer, and coyote, and protect surface and ground water resources. They include parts of key trails maintained by WODC, ensuring that people will be able to enjoy these trails for walking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and nature observation and education for generations to come.

**Ainsworth** — Last spring, LRCT purchased a 57-acre parcel in Albany, including parts of the Gordon Path and the Ainsworth Trail, from Lee Ainsworth Riggs and Linda Ainsworth. The acquisition included pedestrian use of the right of way from the Chinook Trail (Route 113A) to access these trails and the National Forest. The parcel had been owned and stewarded by the Ainsworth family since 1943. It had previously been owned by

Katherine Sleeper Walden, an early community and conservation leader, and Arthur Treadwell Walden, famed participant in Admiral Byrd’s first Antarctic Expedition and developer of the Chinook sled dog breed.



View of Mt. Wonalancet from the Stearns Conservation Easement

**Stearns** — This past fall, Nancy Stearns donated a conservation easement on 57 acres of land in Sandwich and Albany. Nancy has deep roots in Wonalancet and currently lives here full-time. She decided to conserve her property so that it remains as it is now—forever. The conserved land contains pristine woodlands and a beautiful field, and is edged by the Wonalancet River. The property includes portions of two popular hiking trails—the Pasture Path, providing access from Ferncroft

Road to the summit of Mt. Katherine, and the Red Path, running from the site of the former Wonalancet Post Office to Tilton Spring.

**Moscovitch and Thompson** — Recently Ruth Moscovitch and Vinton Thompson donated a conservation easement on 34 acres of land in Albany. The wooded property encompasses part of Spring Brook, which runs for more than 1,000 feet through the parcel and is a tributary to the Wonalancet River. The land includes portions of two popular hiking trails which have provided access from Ferncroft Road into the Sandwich Range for generations—the Wonalancet Range Trail and the historic Old Mast Road. The property also includes fascinating remnants of aqueducts used in connection with the old Ferncroft Inn.

LRCT thanks all who contributed generously to these projects, which total 150 acres of land, including the WPA which made a significant contribution to the Ainsworth Project, and especially Nancy Stearns and Ruth Moscovitch and Vinton Thompson for their extraordinarily generous conservation easement gifts. The success of these projects was made possible by LRCT’s partnerships with WODC and WPA and the help of volunteers Jack Waldron, Doug McVicar, Nancy Stearns, Chele Miller, Martha Chandler, and LRCT Trustee David White. We look forward to working together again on future land conservation successes.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGES!

Last spring we placed notebooks at each of LRCT’s trailhead kiosks so that visitors could record their observations, thoughts, and ideas. We had no idea how popular this project would become—and how interesting the comments would be! Here are just a few examples of the messages we received this year.



Jack Barry on LRCT’s Rattlesnake Island Preserve

### From Rattlesnake Island on Lake Winnepesaukee in Alton:

*“This is my favorite hiking trail for me my dad and my dog.”  
Aidan, age 9*

### From the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area in Moultonborough:

*“My wife and I came here to celebrate our 52nd wedding anniversary. While we no longer can maintain strenuous trail hiking, we still enjoy nature’s bounty and beauty. And, there is much of both here!”  
Michael and Debra*

### From Sewall Woods in Wolfeboro:

*“We saw cute squirrels and deer’s footprints 🐾 🐾 This place is made special by the sunlight coming though the leaves. It’s close to home & it feels safe.” Sam, Jess, & Delilah*

### From Ragged Island on Lake Winnepesaukee in Tufonboro:

*“Best day EVER! Water 78°, Air temp 85°. Thank you!”*

Bill, Nancy, Peg, Bob, Bulger 🐾 , Finnigan 🐾

*“I love to come to Ragged Island to explore and swim. In winter I always can’t wait to come back to Ragged Island.” Sincerely Lark Johnson*

### From Red Hill in Moultonborough:

*“Today was the best day of my life. The view was awesome. At the fire tower it was pretty!” Emma*

These messages provide an important reminder to all of us that these trails and summits, fields and forests, islands and beaches bear witness to many of our happiest moments and proudest accomplishments. Thank you to everyone who left comments and notes—and please keep them coming next spring! They are fresh in our minds as we gear up for another busy year protecting and stewarding the places we love.



Guided Excursion participants on their way to Ragged Island

## IN MEMORIAM

With great friendship and gratitude, we mark the passing last October of former LRCT Trustee Douglas H. Cady of Wolfeboro. Doug served on the LRCT Board from 1987 to 1994 and then as an LRCT Advisor, a remarkable commitment of nearly three decades to LRCT and to conservation in the Lakes Region. Doug was dedicated to the beauty of our natural resources and played a key role in such LRCT land conservation projects as Knights Pond, Rattlesnake Island, and Sewall Woods. He was also well-known for his many contributions to his community of Wolfeboro. Doug leaves an incredible legacy in Wolfeboro and beyond, and we at LRCT feel very fortunate to have known and worked with Doug. It’s an honor to recognize him and express our affection for him and our appreciation for what he meant to LRCT.

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**Special Thanks to ...**

**Rhys Bowen, Moe Criasia, Karen Fortin, Donna Jurka, and Ron Lawler, for putting in countless hours of work in the office to help with the accreditation process.**

**Marcia and Phil Steckler and Everett and Sally Schenk for hosting a beautiful LRCT “friendraising” event at their family’s 1896 lakeside cottage on Langdon Cove.**

**The Meredith Garden Club for volunteering their time to help get our garden beds at the office in great shape for the summer season.**

**Maureen Smith and her colleagues at Orr and Reno for generously providing us with legal assistance on a land conservation matter.**

**The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests for lending us their slide scanner.**

**Jack Barry, Tony and Pam Halsey, Ron Lawler, Peggy Merritt, John Oliver, Zac Penn, Phil Preston, Cindy Stanton, and David White for representing LRCT at informational display tables at community events throughout the region.**

Brenda Griffin Photo