



# THE LEGACY

FOR ALL THOSE WHO LOVE THE LAKES REGION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

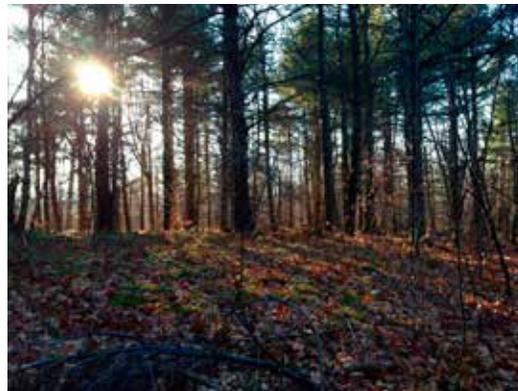
## LRCT REGISTERS CARBON OFFSET PROJECT

In 2013 California launched the carbon offset program as part of a larger initiative to reduce the state's greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 1990 emissions. Under this initiative, California established emission limits for regulated entities, these limits decrease each year. If a regulated entity emits more than it is allowed, it can offset up to 8% of its allowed carbon dioxide by purchasing carbon offsets from LRCT and other landowners.

This spring, LRCT will work with a project developer to register 8,000 acres of its owned conserved properties in a forest carbon project with California. LRCT's properties contain more carbon than the surrounding forests as established by the U.S. Forest Service, and this additional carbon can be sold as carbon offsets in the State of California's Carbon Offset program. The additional stored carbon of LRCT's forests is equivalent to the annual carbon footprint of 80,000 automobiles. Once registered, LRCT may not harvest the amount of carbon that was issued as carbon offsets, however, LRCT may harvest the growth of the forest each year if it chooses to do so.

LRCT will use its carbon offset revenue to install solar panels on LRCT's headquarters, support long-term stewardship and management needs, protect water, plant, and animal resources, provide recreational opportunities, and capture carbon dioxide in its growing forests. To ensure that carbon storage is permanent, the LRCT must manage its project forests sustainably and inventory their carbon content periodically for 100 years.

The LRCT joins other New England conservation groups, including the Appalachian Mountain Club and New England Forestry Foundation in participating in the California Carbon Offset program to support forest conservation and to help protect the planet.



## ENSURING CARBON CONTENT

Two key steps in the registration process for a forest carbon project are the forest inventory and its verification steps. You may notice signs of the inventory work when visiting LRCT properties, so that you'll understand what you're seeing, we want to tell you a little about the process.

During the inventory, the forest carbon project developer (in LRCT's case, Finite Carbon), establishes a set of permanent circular plot sites, evenly spaced throughout the project site. Each plot site has a radius of 37.2 feet, and the plots are centered on a metal rod secured into the ground. There are 192 plot sites a quarter mile apart from one another on the LRCT-owned lands that are part of the forest carbon project.

Within each plot, foresters measure the height and diameter of all living and standing dead trees larger than five inches at breast height. These trees are numbered and marked with paint and in some cases, with a metal tag. Inventory of three plots requires a day's work by a skilled forester. After the measurements have been completed, Finite Carbon uses the measurements to calculate the

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## IT'S OFFICIAL—WE'RE ACCREDITED!

We are excited to announce that LRCT has achieved national recognition as an accredited land trust, joining 389 land trusts across the nation holding this distinction. Land Trust Accreditation is a program promoting the highest national standards for ensuring permanence in the conservation of land, and accreditation indicates that LRCT has demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship of the lands that we protect.

The accreditation process entailed submission of extensive documentation that was subject to a comprehensive review by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, and LRCT is a stronger organization for having gone through this rigorous process. LRCT's strength helps to ensure that our special places will be protected forever, making the Lakes Region an even greater place for us and future generations.

You can learn more about land trust accreditation on the Land Trust Alliance's website: [www.landtrustalliance.org/topics/accreditation](http://www.landtrustalliance.org/topics/accreditation).



## REFLECTIONS

As 2017 draws to a close, we look back on a momentous year. LRCT's first land project of the year brought the total of our conserved lands to over 25,000 acres. Later in the year, LRCT became an accredited land trust, and we've taken major steps on a forest carbon project through the California Compliance Offset Program. All of this is in addition to the ongoing work of exploring and pursuing land conservation opportunities, monitoring and stewarding LRCT's owned properties and conservation easements, and sharing and appreciating these special places with our supporters and communities.



Looking to 2018, we are planning significant new land conservation projects, expanded capacity to steward conserved properties, and further progress on building LRCT's long-term organizational strength and financial sustainability.

As LRCT's activities and responsibilities grow, our headquarters needs to grow too. Those of you who pass by on Route 25B already know that we are well underway with a project to expand our office and work space, perform needed maintenance, and reduce our carbon footprint with solar panels, heating system improvements, and energy conservation measures. This project will result in a more functional, efficient, and welcoming facility for staff, volunteers, and visitors, and we look forward to sharing the "new" headquarters with you in the spring.

Your generosity and commitment make LRCT's growth and accomplishments possible and are essential to ensuring that LRCT can continue to fulfill our mission of protecting the natural heritage of our beautiful region. We are tremendously grateful for your dedication and support as volunteers and donors. Thank you, and all good wishes to you and your family during the New Year.

Sincerely,

Donald S. 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 147 properties totaling over 25,000 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

Russell J. Wilder, Chair (Alton)  
Philip Preston, Vice Chair (Ashland)  
Rhys V. Bowen, Secretary (Moultonborough)  
Thomas R. Crane, Jr., Treasurer (Meredith)  
Donald S. Berry, President (Tuftonboro)  
Richard H. Beyer (Hebron)  
John F. Buckley (Moultonborough)  
Woolsey S. Conover (Holderness)  
Jonathan D. Halsey (Center Harbor)  
Lisa M. Scott (Sandwich)  
Cynthia K. Stanton (Moultonborough)  
Kathleen A. Starke (Sandwich)  
David F. White (Sandwich)

## STAFF

Donald S. Berry, President (Tuftonboro)  
Ashley E. Clark, Development Associate (Campton)  
David R. Mallard, Land and Stewardship  
Director (Sandwich)  
Erin C. Mastine, Communications and  
Administrative Coordinator (Gilford)  
Lisetta J. Silvestri, Operations Director (Holderness)

## IN MEMORIAM

With great friendship and sadness, we mark the passing of former LRCT Trustee Rachel F. Armstrong of Falmouth, Maine and Sandwich, New Hampshire. Rachel served on the LRCT Board from 1992 to 1996. She and her husband Tom (who also served on the LRCT Board) have long been leaders in working with the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Squam Lakes Conservation Society on land conservation and stewardship in the Squam Watershed. It has been our pleasure and honor to work with them both. We extend our deep sympathy to Tom and the Armstrong family and our profound gratitude for Rachel's commitment and contributions to our organization and to conservation in the Lakes Region.

*Ensuring Carbon Content, continued from page 1*

carbon content of each plot and then uses a statistical process to determine the carbon content of the entire project area.

After the inventory process is complete, the information is validated by a third party verifier licensed by the State of California to serve in this role. During the verification process, a random sampling of plots is re-measured by the verifier. Each of the plots and its trees will be monitored and re-measured periodically for at least 100 years to ensure continuing compliance with the carbon offset program requirements.



## REPRESENTING LRCT AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Lisetta Silvestri

In late October I had the pleasure of joining a panel of speakers at the Land Trust Alliance's Rally 2017: The National Land Conservation Conference in Denver, to present on carbon offset projects. The train ride from the airport to downtown Denver, through grasslands with high mountains in the distance, reminded me of the different landscapes within which our country's community of land trusts work. The diversity of their experiences and accomplishments is inspiring.

The presentation was well attended, and it was clear that land conservation organizations are very interested in how the carbon offset program could assist with the funding of increased land conservation. My fellow panelists shared their projects and experiences, leaving a nice buzz in the room as attendees considered how they could use this program to support their organizations' goals and missions.

The Land Trust Alliance adds ribbons to the name badges of Rally attendees as a way of recognizing the credentials and achievements of those wearing them. As a presenter at the conference, I wore a badge with ribbons for Faculty, TerraFirma, and Accredited. Prior to leaving the conference, I snapped a photo of the ribbons on my name badge and sent it to my co-workers so that we could all share in the pride of LRCT's accomplishments.



Lisetta proudly wearing her name badge

## EXCITING NEWS FOR CROSS-COUNTRY SKIERS

Grooming of cross-country ski trails at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area has been a goal for LRCT since 2002, when we purchased the property and engaged the Appalachian Mountain Club to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the property's trails and carriage roads. This winter, thanks to the availability of a groomer and snowmobile from the Squam Lakes Association and the services of committed and experienced volunteers, this goal will be achieved.

Justin Chapman, who runs the Red Hill Ski Club, and Jeff Hussmann, who runs the Nordic Ski Program at Moultonborough Academy, approached LRCT earlier this year to volunteer to take on the trail grooming and help us bring this program to life. LRCT's Land and Stewardship Director, in consultation with the staff at the Castle in the Clouds, will determine which trails should be groomed. As of this printing, it appears that the grooming will extend from the Hiker Parking Lot at the top of Ossipee Park Rd. and follow the Settlement Trail, the lower portion of the Turtleback Trail, and a loop along the field near Shannon Pond.

Enhancing the experience of skiers and visitors to the property during the winter, the Castle's Clouds Carriage House will now be open on winter weekends. The Carriage House will provide a warm place to gather with friends for food and drink after enjoying an invigorating day on this beautiful property. Look for further information on LRCT's website, and let's all hope for a snowy winter!



## STAY CONNECTED

Would you like stay in touch with LRCT to keep informed of progress on land conservation and stewardship projects and to learn about upcoming events, such as volunteer workdays, guided excursions, and other programs? If so, please sign up for LRCT e-blasts on our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## OPERATING EXPENSES



Income (2015)	
Annual Fund (Unrestricted) Contributions	\$426,813
Land Protection and Stewardship Project Contributions	\$776,100
Grants	\$15,198
Land and Conservation Easement Donations	\$55,502
Investment Earnings	\$92,581
Other Income	\$50,172
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,416,366</b>

Assets	
Unrestricted Funds	\$231,820
Land Protection and Stewardship Funds	\$760,989
Grants Receivable/Pledges	\$84,236
Investments-General	\$1,679,291
Investments-Stewardship	\$431,820
Investments-Land Protection	\$266,964
Investments-Special Projects	\$110,596
Conservation Land and Conservation Easements	\$25,128,953
Other Property and Equipment	\$830,454
Other Assets	\$6,803
(Liabilities)	(\$210,527)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$29,321,399</b>

# THE LAKES REGION CONSERVATION TRUST

## *Conserving the Natural Heritage of New Hampshire's Lakes Region*

### 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

Time and again we hear that LRCT is like family. We certainly feel that way, and it's a nice reminder to hear it from our volunteers and supporters as well. At LRCT we are proud to play a role in making New Hampshire's Lakes Region a wonderful place to live, work, vacation, and raise a family. We are humbled and grateful for your strong support. The many important ways in which you contribute to LRCT's accomplishments and successes is inspiring. We are honored to share with you this report of your investment in LRCT and we hope that you will continue to help us in spreading the word of the benefits of land conservation and stewardship for all of us today and for generations to come. Thank you!

#### **HERE ARE SOME OF LRCT'S 2016 HIGHLIGHTS, ALL ACCOMPLISHED WITH ESSENTIAL SUPPORT FROM VOLUNTEERS AND DONORS:**

- 🌲 Conservation of another eight properties, totaling 1,011 acres in five towns.
- 🌲 Development or updating of 53 Management Plans covering all of LRCT's owned properties.
- 🌲 Organization of fourteen volunteer work events that involved the contribution of over 520 volunteer hours.
- 🌲 Hosting of a Trail Improvement Training Workshop as well a large work day with 50 New Hampton School student volunteers to complete several priority trail projects at the Sugarloaf Ridge–Goose Pond Conservation Area in Alexandria.
- 🌲 Facilitation of two Eagle Scout projects—one at the Red Hill River Conservation Area, completion of the Jocelyn F. Gutchess Trail and creation of a trail map for the kiosk and brochures; and the other at the Red Hill Conservation Area, establishment of a new viewpoint with bench off the Sheridan Woods trail.
- 🌲 Hosted a guided tour of the Oak Ridge Interpretive Trail at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area with Moultonborough Central School students and a guided Lee Settlement quest with Moultonborough Academy students for Earth Day.
- 🌲 Hosted nine guided excursions and educational presentations at LRCT-conserved properties throughout the region.
- 🌲 Appointment of the first ever Island Steward at the Ragged Island Conservation Area.
- 🌲 Organization of the first annual Family Fun Day at the Castle in the Clouds Conservation Area in partnership with the Castle in the Clouds and the Town of Moultonborough,



Lakes Region Conservation Trust  
156 Dane Road (Route 25B)  
PO Box 766  
Center Harbor, NH 03226-0766



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603-253-3301  
www.lrct.org  
lrct@lrct.org



WINTER 2017-18

### SPECIAL THANKS TO ...

- Sharon Cundy for providing LRCT with 40 hours of service through her employer's volunteer match program.
- Matt Ertso for coming back to LRCT for a second time through his employer's volunteer match program.
- Our Kiosk Improvement Subcommittee members—Cindy Stanton, Ron Lawler, Brenda Griffin, Ken Hill, and Phil Preston—for their dedicated service.
- Tony Halsey for coordinating and overseeing the LRCT headquarters improvement project.
- Brad Wolff for assisting with the installation of the new panoramic signs on the Red Hill Fire Tower.

CONSERVE

ENJOY

EXPLORE

CONNECT

JOIN

View of the Sandwich Range from  
Squam Lake – Jack Barry Photo