



Field Trips to Smith Pond!

December 3rd, 4th and 7th, noon - 3pm
Call Anne Janeway (603) 643-6626 for details and RSVP

Smith Pond Shaker Forest: Habitat Conservation, Forest Stewardship, Recreation

UVLT will purchase 995 acres located off Route 4-A and Smith Pond Road in Enfield. The parcel connects two large parcels owned by New Hampshire Fish & Game to create one contiguous forest block of over 5000 acres, the centerpiece of which is the 63 acre Smith Pond. The property includes 7,578 feet of pond shoreline, along with 114 acres of wetlands and 4.6 miles of stream banks. A scenic waterfall on one stream is a popular destination for people who know the area well. Two rare species tracked by the NH Natural Heritage Bureau, loons and wood turtles, are found here.



This property has been a long standing conservation objective in NH for both public agencies and private conservation groups. The New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan ranks

the site as having some of the highest quality habitat in the state. Although the present owner has harvested all of the marketable timber, the topography, soils, wetland and water resources and location in an unfragmented forest block make this area highly desirable for long-term restoration and forest stewardship. UVLT will own the entire parcel as a preserve. Given the high natural resource values of this property, the primary objective of UVLT's management will be a forest, with its associated pond and wetlands, of very high biodiversity values that complement the surrounding landscape condition.

The property extends from the height of land to almost the level of Mascoma Lake, a 1000 foot change in elevation, including some of the steepest land in Enfield. The property was once part of the Shaker Village in Enfield, and Smith Pond, after dams elevated the water level, served as the water supply for the village. The project will include a partnership with the Shaker Museum to provide interpretive displays of that history. We will create hiking trails to the pond and to the waterfall, which eventually will become parts of more extensive loops and link up with trails on state lands. We envision this as a community forest that is a popular hiking destination.

Smith Pond is located in the Mascoma River Watershed. Its outflow drains to Mascoma Lake which supplies drinking water to the City of Lebanon, the Upper Valley's largest population center. The conservation of this property complements the City's efforts to conserve land in the watershed and increase public awareness of the relationships between land stewardship and drinking water quality.

UVLT acquisition of the Smith Pond Forest provides an opportunity to engage young people and families closer to where they live, demonstrating our commitment to making the benefits of land conservation available to all Upper Valley residents.

Questions? Contact Jeanie McIntyre, President; Jeanie.McIntyre@UVLT.org