



News & Notes

U P P E R V A L L E Y L A N D T R U S T

OUT EAST IN HANOVER

UVLT's Two Newest Conservation Areas

East of Moose Mountain, in Hanover, lies an extraordinarily rich complex of land resources including an important watershed that feeds the Mascoma River and the edge of an unfragmented forest block that extends into Lyme and Canaan to encompass 25,000 acres. UVLT's two newest conservation areas are located here.

In late January, UVLT purchased 201 acres from Tunis Timber, LLC, completing the first of a two phase project involving nearly 540 acres between Moose Mountain and Goose Pond that will be known as the "Tunis District Conservation Area." The land we bought includes more than 5 acres of amphibian-abundant wetlands, two miles of perennial streams including Scales Brook, a headwater stream to the Mascoma River, and habitat used by bear and moose. It lies adjacent to the Appalachian Trail Corridor and hikers on the trail enjoy views of the property from the South Peak of Moose Mountain.

UVLT was able to purchase the land from Tunis Timber, LLC thanks to the foresight, stewardship, and generosity of Tunis owners Barbara Fildes and Keith Quinton. When Barbara and Keith bought the land several years ago, they did so in the midst of a destructive timber harvest in order to protect it from further harm. Last year, they contacted UVLT to seek help protecting the land forever. They discounted the price in what's known as a charitable "bargain sale," to create the permanent Conservation Area. A major grant from the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership Action Fund supplied the



GOOD DEEDS

CONSERVED
October 2018 - February 2019

Lyme Pinnacle Conservation Area
Lyme, 220 acres

Newhall Tattle Street Pasture
Reading, 35 acres

The Dismal at Pressey Brook
Hanover, 238 acres

Tunis District Conservation Area
Hanover, 201 acres

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View across the frozen wetland at The Dismal at Pressey Brook looking toward the north peak of Moose Mountain.

Upper right: Volunteers Jim Nourse and Sarah Shipton helped install boundary marking signs at the new Lyme Pinnacle Conservation Area.



View to the southeast over the Tunis property from the south peak of Moose Mountain with Goose Pond and Mount Cardigan in the distance.



Vice President, Conservation, Peg Merrens, evaluates a Black Ash-Northern Hardwood-Conifer Swamp on the Tunis property for amphibian activity in May 2018.

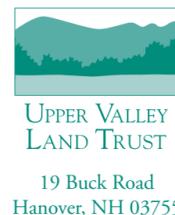
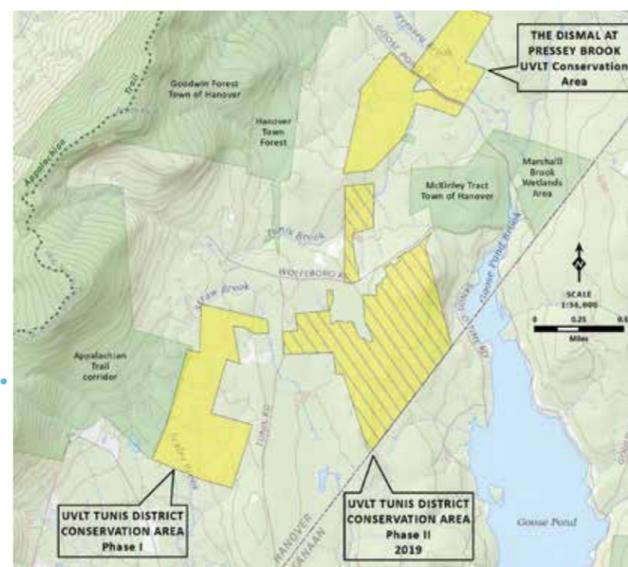
Out East in Hanover *Continued from page 1*

majority of funds for UVLT's purchase. Other contributing partners included the Town of Hanover and the Quabbin-to-Cardigan Partnership.

Less than a mile northeast of the Tunis District Conservation Area, Pressey Brook winds through a series of shrubby wetlands before flowing into Goose Pond. These wetlands, together with the surrounding upland forest complex, provide exceptional habitat for a wide array of species, including potentially the federally listed northern long-eared bat. For more than 40 years, Harte and Ann Crow owned 238 acres of woods and wet meadows there. Harte mowed the meadows and the family welcomed returning grassland birds each summer. They named this place "The Dismal" after the Great Dismal Swamp in Virginia. Last fall, Harte and Ann donated their land to establish "The Dismal at Pressey Brook Conservation Area," a place that UVLT will continue to manage for its wildlife habitat values.

Not all properties lend themselves to UVLT ownership, but these properties have multiple conservation values making them a protection priority for many people and organizations. Though it is less than a 30 minute drive from Hanover's Main Street, town zoning and relative remoteness have kept intact a sustainable core of wildlife habitat ideal for wide-ranging animals which require thousands of acres to roam. A Nature Conservancy study of landscape function and climate change resiliency identified the area as Hanover's most resilient landscape

The Town of Hanover Open Space Plan, written in 1999, notes: "If the area is protected soon, it will be a permanent refuge for use by residents to revive spirit and soul, and to remember an important reason why so many choose to live here. Just as importantly, it will be a permanent, outstanding wildlife habitat, enhancing the biodiversity and quality of life for a large variety of indigenous species." We couldn't agree more!



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Published by: Upper Valley Land Trust, 19 Buck Road, Hanover, NH 03755 • (603) 643-6626 or contactus@uvlt.org

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: SILENT AUCTION



Photo by Calvin Jones Photography

With strong support from area businesses, UVLT held a silent auction fundraiser during White River Junction's "First Friday," a monthly festival and family-friendly celebration of art, music, local food, performance and community. "It was really inspiring to find out how many Upper Valley businesses and residents wanted to be involved," said Community Outreach Coordinator Brie Swenson.

The Village at White River Junction, a new assisted living facility in downtown White River, gave over its beautiful space to UVLT for the benefit auction on February 1st. The donation of the venue was a way for The Village to open its own doors and engage with the wider community. UVLT staff and board gathered with supporters of UVLT and folks out on the town for First Friday to peruse gift baskets and items donated by 40+ businesses and individuals from around the Upper Valley and beyond. UVLT raised just over \$3,000 from the auction and hopes

to make it at least semi-annual in the future. Thank you to our business contributors who made this possible.

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| <i>The Common Man</i> | <i>Lebanon Opera House</i> | <i>Valley Flower</i> |
| <i>Claremont Cycle Depot</i> | <i>Co-op Foodstores</i> | <i>Trail Break</i> |
| <i>Mighty Yoga</i> | <i>Lathem Tavern</i> | <i>Elixer</i> |
| <i>The Skinny Pancake</i> | <i>King Arthur Flour</i> | <i>Piecemeal Pies</i> |
| <i>PINE Restaurant</i> | <i>Montshire Museum</i> | <i>VINS</i> |
| <i>Polyculture Brewing</i> | <i>The Village</i> | <i>Darn Tough</i> |
| <i>Hanover Parks & Rec</i> | <i>Brackett Brook Farm</i> | <i>ECHO</i> |
| <i>Hotel Vermont</i> | <i>Blue Sparrow Kitchen</i> | <i>Siptember Fest</i> |
| <i>Shelburne Museum</i> | <i>Billings Farm</i> | <i>AVA Gallery</i> |
| <i>Outdoor Gear Exchange</i> | <i>We The People Theatre</i> | <i>The Nugget</i> |
| <i>Calvin Jones Photography</i> | <i>Wood Farm & Cider Mill</i> | <i>Cabot Cheese</i> |
| <i>Emily Kuvin Jewelry</i> | <i>The Public House</i> | <i>The Village</i> |

Also with thanks to: David and Goodie Corriveau, Chris Nesbitt, Liz Russell, Anne Bouchard, Alison Marchione

Starting On Tattle Street

A conservation easement protecting 35 acres in Reading on Tattle Street marks the beginning of something huge! We have been working closely with Andy and Christine Hall, owners of Newhall Farm in Reading, VT, and in the final days of December, they permanently protected the first of numerous parcels they wish to conserve.

The easements they intend, when combined with other conserved land in South Reading, will span an east-west distance of nearly 7 miles. These properties encompass large, unfragmented forest blocks which include statewide significant habitat for bear and moose as well as lands used for agriculture, sugaring, and orchards. Much of the land is high elevation forest in an area referred to locally as "the Alps," for its dramatic slopes and outstanding views; other parcels include stream frontage and low lying floodplain that serves to slow and retain storm water and snowmelt.

The Tattle Street parcel consists of both pasture and forestland and is bisected by a tributary of Alder Meadow Brook. The scenic open land provides views from Tattle Street. A young farmer leases the pasture to support his nearby calf operation. The property is located in close proximity to state-owned conservation land and an 85-acre easement donated to UVLT by Kate and Howard Kilguss in 2004. It is a portion of a habitat block identified by the State of Vermont as Priority Connectivity Habitat and is rated as highly threatened by or vulnerable to fragmentation by future development.



"We just donated a permanent conservation easement on this 35-acre pasture and woodland lot to the Upper Valley Land Trust. It's the start of a plan which over time will see conservation easements placed on more than 2,500 acres of our land in this part of Vermont. The easements stop future development of the property and preserve its current use as agricultural land, forest and wildlife habitat. Much of our land is contiguous with State forests and wildlife management areas. Placing these easements on our land will help create a permanently protected wildlife corridor running from the Black River valley to the Calvin Coolidge State Forest."

Photo and text from Andy Hall, December 31, 2018

Vital Statistics

- 7 acres of open land providing views from Tattle Street
- 28 acres of forest
- Over half a mile of stream frontage
- Includes area identified as Highest Priority Wildlife Crossing (VT Agency of Natural Resources)
- Conservation easement donated by Andy and Christine Hall



Edgewater Farm is a family farm located along the alluvial plains of the Connecticut River. The Sprague family grows fruit and vegetables for their CSA farmstand and farm kitchen in Plainfield. They purchased and conserved the historic Putnam Homestead in Cornish in 2016. Throughout the season they invite CSA members to visit the farm. They hold gleanings, pop-up events, and informational briefings. Photo courtesy Edgewater Farm.

Community Supported Agriculture

It's CSA Sign-up Season

Community supported agriculture (CSA) brings the food system local by directly connecting producer and consumers. Consumers support a farmer by subscribing for a share of the farm's production prior to each growing season. The arrangement allows farmers to buy the seeds, transplants, and other inputs they need for the growing season, and pay their farm labor without waiting until harvest to generate revenue. Unlike conventional agriculture, in which farmers bear the risks of weather, pests, and the marketplace alone, in community supported agriculture the entire community shares both bounty and scarcity.

CSAs began to develop on the East Coast of the United States in the mid-1980s. Today, it is estimated that between 30,000 and 50,000 U.S. consumers are CSA members. A CSA addresses the concern that the average distance that food travels from farm to consumer in the United States is approximately 1,300 miles.

In the Upper Valley, consumers have many flourishing CSAs to choose from. CSA subscriptions provide vegetables, fruits, meat, honey, herbs, maple syrup, flowers, prepared foods and more. Seven farms use UVLT-conserved land to grow food for CSA shares.

CSAs Growing on UVLT-Conserved Land

Sunrise Farm, Hartford, VT

Market style organic vegetable CSA

Edgewater Farm, Plainfield, NH

Diverse selection of local fruit and veggies

Sweetland Farm, Norwich, VT

Vegetable CSA with pick-your-own flower and herb garden

Crossroads Farm, Norwich, VT

Purchased credit CSA to be spent at the Crossroads Farmstand

Cedar Circle Farm, Thetford, VT

CSA debit style card to be spent at the Cedar Circle Farmstand

Cedar Mountain Farm, Hartland, VT

CSA includes many options for fruit, veggies, milk and meat products

Hogwash Farm, Norwich, VT

Monthly supply of local, quality meat including pork, chicken, lamb, and beef



Snowshoers at the Northern Rail Trail and Mill Road Trail during our February Wild About Lebanon event. The 2019 Wild About Lebanon calendar is off to a great start! The first three winter activities included a ski/snowshoe at Balestra Farm, a snowshoe on the Rail Trail and Mill Road, and a snowshoe hike up Signal Hill, complete with signal fire.

IN BRIEF

Find us at Flavors! UVLT joins soon-to-be-conserved Beaver Pond Farm at this year's Flavors of the Valley. More than 100 households contributed to help conserve this popular farm and farmstand hub in Newport. Visit us and learn more on April 7th from 11 to 3 in the Hartford High School Gymnasium. Beaver Pond Farm will be giving out maple samples and UVLT is raffling a gift basket.

Join us for our annual Earth Day Starr Hill Hike! We take this time to put our feet on the land and celebrate the life and conservation spirit of Laurel Letter, who worked tirelessly to make sure that Starr Hill was protected forever for the community. 3pm on Monday April 22nd. Meet at The Woodlands parking lot.

Volunteer for Vernal Pools! UVLT will be identifying and mapping vernal pools at the Tunis District Conservation Area and at Smith Pond Shaker Forest this spring. This activity is highly weather dependent. Sign up here: andy.boyce@uvlt.org, if you would like to be notified when UVLT field activities pop up.

What's Up with Chestnuts? Our initiative to identify, map, and "watch" native chestnuts at our Smith Pond Shaker Forest will continue this spring and summer. Why are we watching? To determine which trees are flowering and try to collect their nuts for future planting. You can help. Contact: alison.marchione@uvlt.org

Morey Mountain Clean Up Day With the help of Northwoods Excavating, we'll be removing old buildings and large trash items from our 149-acre Morey Mountain Conservation Area. Once the ground is dry, we'll bring many hands together to finish restoring the site. Sign up here: jason.berard@uvlt.org

Trail opening party and fundraiser at Brookmead Conservation Area. Plan to join us on May 18. There will be a trail run beginning at 4pm followed by a barbeque and music! \$25 entry fee for the race. Hikes and activities for the whole family. Donations accepted.

WARMTH FROM THE (CONSERVED) WOODS

At our Brookmead Conservation Area in Norwich, UVLT staff and volunteers cut down trees to reduce risk of damage to the cabin from blow downs last summer. Then, in late fall, more volunteers helped to cut and split the downed trees into firewood. The wood (5 cords) was donated to the Norwich Wood Fuel Assistance Program, an initiative begun by the Norwich Tree Warden fifteen years ago to assist needy Norwich residents as well as residents of other Upper Valley communities by providing firewood for heating their homes.

UVLT will be making a second contribution to the Wood Fuel Assistance Program this winter as we complete the scheduled timber harvest at our Robert Areson Conservation Area. The harvest is aimed at transitioning the woodland to become an uneven aged forest. By selecting specific small groups of trees to be cut, the harvest will create openings that mimic a natural disturbance pattern and generate early successional habitat to support a full suite of hardwood species.

Proceeds from the sale of saw logs will be placed into the dedicated endowment for the property to provide for stewardship and management going forward. It's a triple win: a healthy forest, funds for future care of the land, and warmer homes for our neighbors.



Above: TomTom employees participating in the company's corporate service program helped to cut, split and buck up firewood at our Brookmead Conservation Area.

Left: Forester Tii McLane and Logger Dylan Kidder led a tour of the logging activities at the Robert Areson Conservation Area in Norwich last month. In addition to saw logs and habitat improvement, the harvest will generate 7 cords of firewood for those in need. Dave Hubbard, who coordinates the Wood Fuel Assistance Program, says they deliver 25 cords of wood to homes in a good year. In addition to Norwich, they deliver to homes in a 25 mile radius, including as far away as Reading, VT.