

# A HILL FARM LOOKS FORWARD

Brackett Brook Farm, off of Route 25-A in East Orford, is one of the last family hill farms in the area. Since 1866 five generations of the Pease family have worked the fields and forests of the 103-acre farm. Harry Pease inherited the farm from his grandmother Theda in 2008. It's precisely this history that got Harry and his wife Linda planning for the future.

What once was a small dairy farm with fields of potatoes is today dominated by lush hayfields, pasture, and a productive sugar bush. With its good soil and well-managed forest, there are many possibilities for future agricultural use, and Harry is confident that it will remain productive for years ahead – if it is not developed or fragmented. That's why he worked with

UVLT to arrange for the sale of a conservation easement that will protect the land for agriculture and forestry uses.

With strong support from the Orford Conservation Commission, grants from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership Action Fund, a commitment from UVLT's Fund for Conservation Action, a successful local campaign that brought gifts from 36 area residents, UVLT has raised the funds needed to conserve Brackett Brook Farm and expects to complete the transaction this month.



The fields of Brackett Brook Farm, looking north toward Piermont Mountain. The fields and forests of Brackett Brook Farm make up much of the iconic viewshed from Mount Cube, just to the west.

## Gifts from the Land continued from front:

seven cords of wood from UVLT's Robert Areson Conservation Area that went into the Norwich Woodshed to provide fuel assistance this winter are examples of that management.

Those are tangible, physical gifts from the land. But the land offers other gifts too: the young boy who learned about milkweed, monarch butterfly eggs and caterpillars with his grandmother at Up On the Hill Conservation Area in Claremont this summer; a perfect night sky drawing people together for an evening of stargazing at Mountain View Farm in Orford; the happy voices and laughter of neighbors convening at the summit of Lyme Pinnacle to celebrate a summer's work of trail-building and stewardship.

The land nourishes and feeds us. It keeps us whole and healthy. It renews our bodies and spirits. It fills us with unending joy and wonder. That too, is a gift from the land.



## SOLSTICE HIKE AT LYME PINNACLE December 21st, 2019 • 3pm • Highbridge Road, Lyme, NH

Celebrate the returning of daylight and the coming of the new year with us! This year our annual solstice hike will be held at Lyme Pinnacle. Join us at the parking lot off Highbridge Road at 3pm for a snowshoe (or walk, depending on conditions) up to the top where we will have a winter bonfire and watch the sunset. Bring headlamps – we'll come down in the dark.



UPPER VALLEY  
LAND TRUST

19 Buck Road  
Hanover, NH 03755



The FSC certification logo indicates that this product meets the social and environmental standards of the Forest Stewardship Council. Learn more about Forest Stewardship Council certification at [www.fsc.org/paper](http://www.fsc.org/paper)

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

# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ADIMAB

The Upper Valley Land Trust has a Corporate Volunteer Program that matches area employers and their employees with UVLT volunteer projects. In Late May, Sarat Pudi of Adimab, a Lebanon based BioTech company, contacted UVLT looking for a volunteer project for his group. At the time, UVLT needed volunteers to get the Brookmead Food Pantry Garden in Norwich up and running. In late June, five employees from Adimab joined UVLT staff to get the garden off the ground. What UVLT didn't expect was that these volunteers would come back again and again throughout the summer to help make the garden happen. Sarat, a Bioprocess Engineer, joined UVLT for almost every weekly workday for the entire summer and fall. Other volunteers from Adimab came when they could throughout the growing season.

Without their dedication and efforts to help make the garden happen, it would have been much more difficult to have a successful first year of harvest! With the help of our friends at Adimab we harvested over 600 lbs of potatoes and 90 lbs of kale to help feed our neighbors in need!



Adimab volunteers at their first Brookmead Garden work day (Irine Burnsue, Mel Sinclair, Sarat Pudi, Lina Heinrichs. Not pictured are Shu Lin and Cody Williams)

Non Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Whit Riv Jct, VT  
Permit No. 73

December 2019



UPPER VALLEY  
LAND TRUST

# News & Notes

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

## Gifts from the Land

By Alison Marchione

The day of the potato harvest was sunny and breezy. The week before, with a few volunteers, we had cut back the green parts of the plants leaving nothing to show that there was anything growing in the quarter acre of tilled ground off the side of Turnpike Road in Norwich. Weeks before that we had checked a few of the roots to see what was underneath and found clumps of potatoes that still looked small. We hoped they had grown large in these final weeks.

Soon, our volunteers began to arrive, one by one, trickling in and joining the group as we dug up the clumps of earth and plucked the vegetables from the soil. That day we dug over 600 pounds of potatoes from our food pantry garden, all destined for Willing Hands and our neighbors with food insecurities who need our help.

Managing our conservation areas for the good of the whole community is a fundamental commitment of the Upper Valley Land Trust. The Brookmead Food Pantry Garden and the

*continued on inside*



## GOOD DEEDS



## CONSERVED August–December 2019\*

**McGreevy Property**  
Sharon, 92 acres

**Parker Meadow**  
Norwich, 8 acres

**Randles Addition**  
Pomfret, 17 acres

**Brackett Brook Farm**  
Orford, 103 acres

**Tunis District Conservation Area, Phase 2**  
Hanover, 352 acres

**Azar II Property**  
Pomfret, 12 acres

**Risley Farmhouse Property**  
Canaan, 203 acres

\*Includes conservation transactions scheduled to be completed by December 31, 2019



# A Gift for All Seasons, Forever

Annie McGreevy purchased 6 acres with a small camp and pond in Sharon in 1982 because it was adjacent to a good friend's camp. Now more than 35 years later, that purchase has led to the conservation of 88 acres that Annie has come to know and love.

Even after moving from Newton, MA to Sonoita, AZ, Annie continued to return to Vermont every summer to spend a couple months with friends and family. In 2011, when property adjacent to her camp was going up for sale, she bought it to keep it from being developed.

Annie's land is on the west side of Clifford Farm Road, north of the intersection with Fay Brook Road. Most of the parcel is forest that has grown up on abandoned pasture starting over 50 years ago. The southern end of the property contains a more mature forest that has been growing for over 80 years. There are old town and woods roads, stone walls, apple trees, cellar holes and foundations marking sites of abandoned homesteads. But it's the 12 acres of high, open land that put the property most at risk.

Rising to 1350 feet, the meadows in the north and west ends of the property are remnants of old hayfields which once supported a local dairy farm but now provide habitat for birds and pollinators. This land is mowed every other year, late in the season, to maintain the grasses and milkweed. Annie and her husband counted more than 1,000 monarch butterflies there last year which was a significant increase from past years when the counts were closer to 20.

From the height of land in the southern most meadow, views to the southern and central Green Mountains are expansive, spectacular, breathtaking.

So, as Annie arranged her estate planning, she gave to this place generous protection that will last forever. Working with UVLT, she donated a conservation easement that will allow a future owner to enjoy the camp and nearby pond, and will prevent development of the forest and meadows, including the top of the hill.

Annie's land is located in an area prioritized for conservation by the Alliance for VT Communities. She hopes that her decision about what's right for her land encourages more conservation in the area. Regardless of what comes next, she is comforted to know that this place that has given her so much will be permanently protected.

## VITAL STATISTICS

- 78 ACRES of productive forest land

- 12 ACRES of open land maintained for grassland nesting birds and pollinators

- 1,050 FEET of stream frontage draining into Fay Brook

- Located in an area prioritized for conservation by the Alliance for Vermont Communities

- Conservation easement donated by Annie McGreevy

# Thank You! Gifts for Conservation Campaigns

## Beaver Pond Farm • Newport, NH

Bill & Heidi Bartlett  
Reva Bascom  
Dean Bascom  
Kesiah Bascom  
Richard Bascom  
Kate & Dave Benson  
Nancy Berry  
Biron's Flooring, Inc.  
Robert Bishop  
Milton & Sandra Blackington  
Igor Blake  
Norman Blouin  
Kathryn Boutin  
Thomas Brennan  
Diane Callum  
Carroll Family  
Alan & Sally Carruth  
Sara Cavin  
Tina & Dan Chasse  
Don & Cindy Clifford  
Cora Collins-Kangas  
Lauren Cosulich  
Larry & Jackie Cote  
Courtney Crowell  
Patricia DiPadova  
Constance Dockler  
Arnold Dodge

Frederick Driend  
Liselle & Kenneth Dufort  
Donald & Barbara Dupont  
Margot Estabrook  
First Congregational Church of Croydon  
Lois Fitts  
Bardon & Linda Flanders  
Richard Gasset  
Estelle Goding  
Maxine Guimond  
Linda Haselton  
Joan Hastings  
Valerie Hemingway  
Cori Hirai  
Beatrice & Leon Hobbs, Jr.  
John & Jayna Hooper  
Ross Hudon  
Bryan & Fran Huot  
Lawrence & Nancy Huot  
Florence Hutchins  
Peter & Biddy Irwin  
Nancy Jachim & Linda Billingsley  
Michael Johnson  
Jolyon Johnson  
Jeanne Kennedy  
Laura & Jeff Kessler

John & Hazel King  
Barbara Kresse  
Mary LaRock  
LaValley Building Supply  
Helen Lawrence  
Marty Lovely  
Lynn & Gerry Lynch  
Bill & Sharon MacDonald  
Alexandra Matthews  
David & Lauri McCrillis  
Katharine McCrillis  
John & Gloria McDonough  
Keith & Sylvia McElreavy  
Theresa McHugh  
Frankie McLaughlin  
Peter & Kelley Merritt  
Nancy Miville  
Gary Morris  
Willow Moryan  
Rebecca & Bennie Nelson  
Newport Historical Society  
Carol Parssinen  
Nancy Jachim & Linda Billingsley  
Clifford Richer  
Rochford Richardson Family  
Edward & Dianne Rochford  
Jeanine Ruhsam

Walter & Laura Ryan  
David & Judith Rzucidlo  
Pauline Salinardi  
Don & Margie Schagen  
Mary & Larry Schissel  
Sielewicz Family  
Connie Stevens  
Sugar River Bank  
Andrea Thorpe  
Melinda Thorpe  
Bill & Calista Thurlow  
Michael & Joanne Truell  
United Construction Corporation  
Robert & Charen Urban  
Melvin Wadleigh  
Dana Waterman  
Patricia Wells  
Katie & Doug Wheeler  
Patryc Wiggins  
Marie Wiggins  
Liz Willis  
Seth Wilner  
Hal & Judy Wilson  
Frieda Winter  
Stephen & Sharon Wood  
Robert Zetlin

## Brackett Brook Farm • Orford, NH

Anonymous (1)  
Katherine Baker  
Mark & Katherine Blanchard  
Fred & Linda Brownson  
Camp Pemigewasset Inc.  
Libby & John Chapin  
Ray & Tina Clark  
Edmond & Anne Cooley -  
*In Memory of Gerald Pease*  
Joanne Davis

Martha & Peter Diebold  
Mark Drabick  
Todd & Doreen Gelfand  
Patricia Hammond  
Sam & Jane Hanford  
Bob & Christie Hedges  
Paul & Kristine Hodlin -  
*In Memory of Theda Pease*  
April Hoisington  
Chris Hoyt

Jeffrey MacQueen  
Christie Manning  
John & Bethany Miller  
David & Sharon Mousette  
Orford Conservation Commission  
Lucille Palifka  
Jude Parker  
William & Sylvia Paxton  
Abigale Pelletier

## Morey Mountain • Fairlee, VT

The Aloha Foundation  
Patty Armstrong & Fred Perkins  
Ray & Tina Clark  
Lake Morey Foundation  
Steve & Lucy Swartz

## Smith Pond Shaker Forest • Enfield, NH

Marilyn & Bryant Denk  
David J. Jorgensen  
Steve Liggett  
Robert F. Martin  
David & Ruth Michael -  
*In Honor of The Potter Clan*

Nathan & Janice Mulherin -  
*In Memory of John & Dorothy Mulherin*  
Kim & Tom Potter  
Sandra Sharp

Craig & Sarah Putnam  
John & Cicely Richardson  
Melinda Ricker  
David & Barbara Roby  
Steven & Jennifer Sargent  
Carl W. Schmidt  
Bruce & Sarah Schwaegler  
Edward Turpin  
Don & Robin Weisburger

Keith A. Thomas - *In Memory of Margene Thomas*  
Bernie & Mary Waugh  
Ruth Ann Wheeler

## Lyme Pinnacle • Lyme, NH

Nancy & Blake Allison  
Hoyt & Marianne Alverson  
Judith Barker -  
*In Honor of Spike Fulton*  
The Barthold Family  
Christine & Roger Berger  
Brian & Molly Betournay  
Emily Blanchard & Eric Furstenberg  
James Bliska & Janice Valmassoi  
Mark Bolinger & Ursula Slate  
Frank & Mardi Bowles  
Dan Brand  
Dan Breton  
Harvey & Judy Brotman  
Matt Brown  
Seth Carpenter  
Simon Carr & Lynn Adams  
Ray & Tina Clark  
Andrew Coleman -  
*In honor of Alan Hewitt*  
Elaine Culver  
Darion Foundation  
Jay Davis  
Dennis Donahue  
Mary Elder  
Scottie Eliassen  
Eliassen/Oswald Family  
Henry & Bridget Flickinger

Adrienne Flower & Ryan Halter  
John Fowler & Brooke McMurray  
Thomas Frawley  
Dan Freihofer  
Diane Fuchs  
Carol Grumman  
Paul & Ronnie Guyre  
Charles & Elaine Hallett  
Bruce & Megan Hammond  
Kate & Phil Harrison  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hedges, Jr  
Karen Henry & Dave Cole  
Susan Hewitt -  
*In Memory of Alan Hewitt*  
Lynne Higbie  
Melanie Isett  
Holly Jacobson -  
*In Memory of Alan Hewitt*  
Karen Keane  
James & Liz Kelsey  
Paul & Joyce Killebrew  
Paul & Marya Klee  
Michael Kokko  
David Kotz & Pam Jenkins  
Kathy & Lee Larson  
Carola Lea  
Samuel Levey  
Katherine Little  
Robin & Steve Lornitzo

## Tunis District Conservation Area • Hanover, NH

John & Suzanne Adams  
James & Bethany Ames  
Patty Armstrong & Fred Perkins  
Dwight & Gayle Aspinwall  
James & Jane Barrett  
John & Jessica Bell  
Jim Burnett  
Peter Burrage  
Michael Choukas, Jr.  
Dave & Ann Cioffi  
Elena & Jere Daniell

J Edward Eliades  
Lisa Ferneau  
Andrew R. Forauer  
Goose Pond Lake Association  
Janice M. Grant  
Barbara Haak  
Anne Hartmann  
Charles & Judy Herr  
Kimberley Hillier  
Deanna Howard  
Toni LaMonica & Larry Young

The Lyme Conservation Commission  
Margot Maddock  
William Malcolm  
Allen Malcolm & Jackie Doucette-Malcolm  
Jim & Dayle Mason  
Sarah & John McBride  
Jeanie McIntyre -  
*In Honor of Gary Pike*  
Ross McIntyre & Helen Whyte  
Meg McLean  
Adair Mulligan  
Charles & Karen Nearburg  
Jane Neill  
Barbara Newton  
Dan & Julie O'Hara  
Ardis Olson  
Alta Oswald  
Piper Oswald  
Alison Panzer  
Lynne Parshall & David Bromley  
Mr. & Mrs. Adam Patridge  
Donald & Abbie Penfield  
Anne Peyton  
Michael & Jeanne Prince  
Wayne & Faith Pushee  
John Quimby & Michael O'Donnell

Wallace Ragan  
Rich Agency LLC  
James Ricker  
David Roby  
Scott Rodi & Emily Dentzer  
Manning Rountree - *In Honor of Richard & Janet Hoyt*  
Robert Rufsvold - *In Memory of Elizabeth Kilmarx*  
John Rush  
John & Karen Sanders  
Mark & Jennifer Schiffman  
Kurt Schleicher  
Sarah Shipton & Jim Nourse  
Susanne Simon  
Helen Skelly  
Vicki Smith  
Mike & Jean Smith  
Brian Spence & Kirsten Glass  
John & Nomi Stadler  
Matthew Stevens  
Elijah Stommel & Jasmin Bihler  
Kathy & Walt Swift  
Jack & Christine Taylor  
Katrin Tchana & Mary Bentley  
Peter Tenney & Alix Howell  
Roy & Emily Van Vleck  
Bill & Kathy Waste  
Walter & Celeste Wetherell  
Tom & Sallie Yurkosky

Roger H. Soderberg  
Peter & Peregrine Spiegel  
Ivan Tomek  
Frank Torti  
John Trummel  
Jay & Claudia Weed  
Joel Wood  
William Young  
Robert Zwolak