



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Katrina Farmer
Communications Manager
603-357-0600

400 acres donated to Monadnock Conservancy

Expands number of protected acres around Mount Monadnock, establishes Devan Preserve



Photo caption: Mount Monadnock provides the backdrop to this wetland and surrounding forest on the Devan Preserve in Marlborough. Photo courtesy of the Monadnock Conservancy, © Emily Hague

KEENE, N.H. —Cia Devan gifted three parcels of property outright to the Monadnock Conservancy at the close of 2011.

The donation of a total 399.8 acres means that the property itself has been deeded directly to the Conservancy. The land will collectively be known as the Devan Preserve. The preserve is located at the northwest base of Mount Monadnock in Marlborough and will be open to the public for pedestrian use.

“This creates a great opportunity for us to bring more people out to the land,” said Anne McBride, conservation project manager for the Conservancy.

Earlier in the year, Devan voluntarily donated a 123-acre conservation easement to the Conservancy, and years ago she gave land to New Hampshire Audubon that is now part of the Kensan-Devan Sanctuary near Meetinghouse Pond in Marlborough.

This most recent property transfer is the culmination of Devan's land protection efforts in the area, as these are the last remaining unprotected lands that she owns. "Cia Devan is responsible for the protection of approximately 695 acres in Marlborough either through donations of land and conservation easements or through funding the purchase of land," said McBride.

Devan's decisions to conserve the properties show a commitment to protecting the abundant wildlife, the scenic beauty of the Mount Monadnock area and the places where people enjoy hiking and walking.

Each of the three parcels that make up the Devan Preserve offers unique characteristics and protects key conservation values. The 29.1-acre parcel, nearly a third of which is wetlands, features a small spur trail that leads to the northern edge of a beaver meadow where there is a bench overlooking the wetland and Mount Monadnock. The land strategically connects New Hampshire Audubon land to the west with New Hampshire Audubon land in the east. Less than a quarter mile away is the 52.5-acre parcel that Devan gifted to the Conservancy. This second parcel is entirely landlocked and is mostly forested with wetlands. The town of Marlborough's Open Space Committee designated the protection of this parcel and the third, larger parcel a high priority. The 318.2-acre forested third property lies to the south and abuts the second parcel. Mountain Brook and the numerous wetlands associated with the brook are the highlight of the property. More than two miles of mountain streams are protected by the preserve.

"Waterways are wildlife corridors," said McBride. "The system of wetlands that flow through these parcels and the adjacent protected lands provide significant wildlife habitat that allows wildlife to move along watercourses without human disturbance."

The preserve connects with New Hampshire Audubon's Kensan-Devan Sanctuary (579 acres) and is also near four properties under conservation easement held by the Conservancy: Kensan Devan easement (123 acres), Athena's Wood easement (226.2 acres), Paine easement (38 acres) and Sunnyside easement (69.5 acres), as well as near other conserved lands including the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests' Monadnock Reservation and the Monadnock State Park.

Transaction funding for the project was provided by the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership, a public/private effort to protect the Monadnock Highlands of western New Hampshire and north central Massachusetts. To learn more, visit www.q2cpartnership.org.

The Monadnock Conservancy, founded in 1989, is the only land trust dedicated exclusively to the 35 towns of the Monadnock Region in southwestern New Hampshire. Its mission is to identify, promote and actively seek protection of significant natural, aesthetic and historic resources in the area; and to monitor and enforce the protection of lands in the trust. Based in Keene, N.H., the Conservancy is an accredited land trust that has protected more than 15,000 acres of forest, farmland, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreation trails in the region. For more information, call 603-357-0600 or visit www.MonadnockConservancy.org.

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