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**Monadnock Conservancy protects shorelands in Alstead**  
*Recent projects conserve 47 acres on Lake Warren*



**Photo caption:** This picturesque shoreline at the south end of Lake Warren will remain undeveloped thanks to a recent conservation easement agreement. Photo courtesy the Monadnock Conservancy, ©Emily Hague

KEENE, N.H. — As communities recognize the importance of preserving the Monadnock Region’s precious water resources, the Monadnock Conservancy recently completed several land conservation projects that focus on water.

“These projects grew from our Monadnock Community Conservation Partnership planning efforts with the Town of Alstead, which illuminated town residents’ desire to protect open space—in particular Lake Warren. That work inspired lake residents Dan and Joyce Curll to encourage their neighbors to join them in protecting some of the last remaining undeveloped shoreline,” said Ryan Owens, executive director for the Conservancy.

Covering 47.26 acres around Lake Warren in Alstead, three properties were all protected through conservation easements conveyed to the Conservancy in late December. By giving or selling a conservation easement to the Conservancy, a landowner agrees to restrict future development while still retaining ownership of the land. Forestry, agriculture, trails and related activities are usually still allowed. The Conservancy is responsible for watching over the land and enforcing the terms of the agreement forever.

“Lake Warren is one of the gems of the Monadnock Region and an amazing asset for the town of Alstead. Protecting the shoreline and undeveloped uplands not only helps retain scenic qualities as viewed from the lake, but it also protects the lake’s water quality and provides important habitat and access to the lake for wildlife” said Pete Throop, Monadnock Community Conservation Partnership project director for the Conservancy. “Protecting water is an important goal of the town of Alstead, which identified this watershed as a high priority for conservation in the recently completed open space plan.”

The town of Alstead contributed a total \$5,000 from its conservation fund toward transaction costs on these recently closed projects. Following is a summary of the three projects:

Curll conservation easement, 19.87 acres

Dan and Joyce Curll donated a conservation easement on 17.57 acres along Forest Road and the entirety of Pine Island in Lake Warren. This property contains about 677 feet of undeveloped shoreline on the lake's north end as well as about 1,300 feet of undeveloped shoreline on the island. Pine Island is the only island in Lake Warren and has been traditionally and frequently used by the public as a place for swimming, fishing, picnicking and quiet enjoyment.

Jones conservation easement, 7.25 acres

Anita Jones donated a conservation easement on 7.25 acres that protects 470 feet of shoreline on Lake Warren. In conjunction with the abutting Curll conservation easement (see above), there is now nearly one half mile (2,447 feet) of undeveloped shoreline in this northeastern cove, which will maintain scenic views for the public who access the lake from the public boat launch off Forest Road (Route 123).

Fiske conservation easement, 20.14 acres

Edward "Ted" Fiske donated a conservation easement on 20.14 acres known as Spruce Point, a peninsula located at the south end of Lake Warren. The property has over half a mile (3,840 feet) of shoreline on the lake. The forested habitat will help maintain the lake's water quality and provide resources for wildlife such as cover and safe access to water. A trail from Pine Cliff Road on the west side of the property that has traditionally provided snowmobile access to the frozen lake will continue to be open to the public in winter.

**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 and has protected more than 15,000 acres of forest, farmland, shoreline, wetlands, wildlife habitat and recreation trails in the region. For more information, visit [www.MonadnockConservancy.org](http://www.MonadnockConservancy.org).

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