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**Temple-to-Crotched Conservation Corridor expands;  
new conservation easement protects another 168.9 acres**



**Photo caption:** The Monadnock Conservancy lands committee (Richard Pendleton, Sheldon Pennoyer, Karen Bennett, Rocci Aguirre and Rick Church) review a map of the 168.9-acre Marshall property before setting out on a hike around the land. Photo courtesy the Monadnock Conservancy, © Anne McBride.

KEENE, N.H. — The Temple-to-Crotched Conservation Corridor reaches from Temple Mountain in the south to Crotched Mountain in the north, encompassing thousands of acres of conserved land, the 21-mile Wapack Trail and the Wapack National Wildlife Refuge. One of the first protected areas within this corridor was the 1,672-acre wildlife refuge in Peterborough, N.H. It was established through a donation to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in 1972 by Laurence and Lorna Marshall.

Last week, the Marshalls' daughter-in-law expanded the number of protected areas in the Temple-to-Crotched Conservation Corridor by voluntarily giving a conservation easement to the Monadnock Conservancy on her 168.9-acre property in Peterborough, N.H. By donating a conservation easement, Alexandra Marshall has agreed to restrict future development while still retaining ownership of the land. Forestry, agriculture, trails and related activities will still be allowed. The Conservancy is responsible for watching over the land and enforcing the terms of the agreement forever.

“The Marshall property fills perfectly a gap in conservation land on the western slope of the Wapack Range,” said Ryan Owens, executive director of the Monadnock Conservancy. “Its protection for multiple uses complements the diverse values of the surrounding landscape, from scenic views and managed forests and fields to deep-woods habitats and rugged trails.”

Alexandra Marshall's decision honors her deceased husband; John Marshall, a renowned visual anthropologist and documentary filmmaker, inherited the property from his father.

"It's what he [John] would have wanted," said Alexandra Marshall.

The John Kennedy Marshall Memorial Conservation Easement is directly adjacent to the refuge and other conservation easements, and is part of a 7,465-acre contiguous block of previously protected lands including Miller State Park and the Temple Mountain State Reservation.

The newly protected property includes approximately 164 acres of forest, a 5-acre scrub-shrub wetland and frontage along Varnum's Brook. Signs of moose, deer, porcupine, beaver, woodpecker and broad-winged hawk have been recently observed.

The public will benefit from the protection of scenic views along nearly one mile of undeveloped frontage on Sand Hill Road and scenic views of the property from the publicly accessible Wapack Trail along the Wapack Range; the protection of diverse habitats; the protection of important soils for forestry and agriculture; and the protection of a property consistent with the conservation goals of the 2003 Peterborough Master Plan.

The Russell Piscataquog River Watershed Foundation awarded a grant toward land surveying and legal costs of the project. Additional transaction funding 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.q2cpartnerships.org](http://www.q2cpartnerships.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 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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