



Together, protecting forever
the land we love

Newsletter

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

Anne McBride

Scouting a New Future

Conservancy buys former wilderness camp property

If you have ever hiked the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway between Dublin and Harrisville, New Hampshire, then you have walked through these woods of maple, beech, birch, pine, and spruce. From the power line corridor crossing the property, you may have caught a glimpse of Howe Reservoir.

Over the years, hundreds of people have enjoyed this place and the sense of getting away from it all that it brings. About 80 years ago, the land was gifted to a scouting group, which for many years used the 132-acre property on Howe Reservoir for summer wilderness camping.

The property faded into disuse, and today the Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains no longer had a need for the area. And, because continued ownership had become impractical, the organization decided to sell the property and use the proceeds to further their mission in other ways.

But how could they do so in a way that maintained the public benefit of the property as open space? And what about maintaining the land's undeveloped wild character, consistent with the abutting state forest and other protected lands?

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Conserving Farmland, Heritage

Current projects highlight key values

The Monadnock Conservancy is currently working with two farm families to strengthen their farm businesses while protecting prime agricultural land. John and Teresa Janiszyn of Pete's Stand in Walpole and Bruce and Jenny Wooster of Picadilly Farm in Winchester share many things in common, and at the top of that list is their desire to preserve their families' farming heritage. These projects will protect forever fertile fields, water resources, and wildlife habitat.

Why Your Support Matters

In the coming years, your support will be critical to helping local farmers. Farmland protection projects are complex, expensive, and often span multiple years. Your donations allow us to help farmers by tapping into important state and federal grant opportunities. With such funding, more land stays viable now and in the future.

As a community-based land trust, we can't conserve places like Pete's Stand and Picadilly Farm without you. Thank you for continuing to prioritize local farms and farmers.

We are still raising funds for both projects. If you'd like to support either or make a donation directly to our Farmland Fund, please contact Ryan Owens, executive director, at Ryan@MonadnockConservancy.org or call him at 603-357-0600, ext. 103. Thank you!

Pete's Stand

John and Teresa Janiszyn own and operate Pete's Stand in Walpole, which sells in-season herbs and vegetables from May to November. After three generations of John's family exclusively farming land leased from others, 7 acres recently purchased between Route 12 and the Connecticut River is the first parcel the couple can call their own, and the forthcoming sale of a conservation easement to the Conservancy will provide income to help recoup their initial investment in buying the land. In the new acreage, they'll also gain a central place to store equipment, and, secure in their new ownership, they are excited to invest in improving the health of the soil.

“When we started farming, we were ready for sweat equity and hard work to grow high-quality food. What we didn't expect, was to learn how much a community-based farm can grow a strong and vibrant community.”

— Jenny Wooster,
Picadilly Farm

Picadilly Farm, Winchester

Farms Are Part of the Climate Solution

Farms are an important part of slowing climate change and mitigating its effects. According to experts from the American Farmland Trust and UNH Cooperative Extension, farmland can make a positive difference in that:

- Cover crops — plants that cover the soil but are not harvested — increase soil resilience to extreme weather, absorb more water, and reduce carbon dioxide released from bare soil.
- Riparian buffers — the land along streams and rivers that is left permanently vegetated — reduce erosion and mitigate flooding.
- Farmland that stays farmland contributes fewer greenhouse gases than developed acreage.

The Monadnock Conservancy is committed to securing a future for the region that lessens the impacts of climate change, supports economic viability, and preserves agricultural heritage.

Picadilly Farm

Picadilly Farm is a 71-acre certified organic vegetable operation on South Parrish Road in Winchester. Bruce and Jenny Wooster own and operate it as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm, providing shares of the harvest to 1,000 households in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Vermont. They also sell their vegetables at their farm store and at other local retailers, including the Monadnock Co-op in Keene. Bruce and Jenny purchased the property 15 years ago from a couple who ran it as a dairy farm and who had previously sold a conservation easement on 46 of the acres to the State of New Hampshire. The Conservancy's purchase of a conservation easement on the remaining acres will complete the protection of the entire property and allow Bruce and Jenny to pay down debt and reinvest in the business.



Alex Metzger, stewardship director, provides scale to one of the large cottonwood trees on land owned by Pete's Stand.

The Girl Scouts found their answer in the Monadnock Conservancy as the next owner and steward of the property, which will now be known as the Gertrude Russell Forest.

The land, entirely in Dublin, doesn't have frontage along Route 101, but it is best accessed from that road. It extends north to the Harrisville town line, with Leighton State Forest to the west, narrow frontage on Howe Reservoir to the east, and Eliza Adams Gorge, which is on property protected by a Conservancy conservation easement, to the north. The purchase of the entire Girl Scouts parcel ensures that the land and waterfront will remain undeveloped and that the public will have permanent access to the Greenway hiking trail.

Furthermore, protection of the land meets the Town of Dublin's goals; the town's Open Space Plan of 2008 identifies seven priority areas for protection, with this property falling squarely within one of them ("The Monadnock-Sunapee Trail and related unfragmented space in western Dublin").

As for the future of the property, the Conservancy will continue to prioritize recreation, working with partners at the Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway Trail Club to keep

this section of trail permanently open and maintained. Water quality for Howe Reservoir, Wight Pond, and the associated streams that run through the property is also of importance. Land management will encourage wildlife habitat, of which there is a nice diversity for such a small area: from shoreline to hilltop, with the powerline corridor providing permanent "early successional," or shrubby, conditions favored by many bird and mammal species. The variety means you can find everything from red-backed salamanders and Eastern milk snakes to woodcock, Eastern cottontail rabbits, fox, and moose.

You are invited to get out there — imagine hearing the laughter of decades of girls and young women who enjoyed this place. Now that laughter will carry on into the future as new generations of girls and boys, and women and men, explore these woods and walk the trail.

Thank You

Thanks to many local individual supporters as well as corporate supporter C&S Wholesale Grocers for making this project a reality.



Anne McBride

Keeping Track of Oneself in the Woods (With Tech)

Map applications downloaded to your mobile phone can help you discover new trails to explore, show and record your location, and track total miles walked along with data such as elevation gain and speed.

Maybe you already know the app AllTrails, or, if this is your first time using a map app, it might be a good one to try first. It's great for finding new trails based on your interests ("family friendly", "views", etc.), and you can read others' reviews. The app is also free and doesn't require an account to use (click the "Skip" button).

Here at the Monadnock Conservancy, our main app of choice is called Gaia. It's easy to

upload the boundaries of our property to aid in navigation, record our tracks and key locations encountered along the way, and then share the data with our Geographic Information Systems back in the office. One downside of Gaia is that you have to create an account, but there is a free option.

Finally, remember to put the phone down! Connection with your hiking companions and the healing power of being outdoors can be negated by the distraction of technology. Also, be sure to bring along non-electronic navigation aids (map, compass, and the skills to use them), as phone batteries can fail.



Richard Pendleton, stewardship coordinator, enjoys the woods while using the Gaia GPS navigation app.

Volunteer Opportunities This Summer

Your help is wanted for three different activities between June and September. First, for DIYers, join our team by taking on an at-home building project. Volunteers are wanted to build benches, a picnic table, little libraries, and wood duck boxes. We can help with building plans and materials; donations of supplies are also welcome. Second, for a couple of community science days, we'll need a small group willing to go off-trail in varied terrain and through thick understory to count trees; we'll

provide training. Since the work is so weather dependent, it would be best to get your name on the call list and/or watch our Facebook page for announcements a day or two in advance. Finally, contact us now to be added to the list for one or two trail workdays (pick up branches, rake, collect trash, etc.) that have yet to be scheduled. To sign up, or to ask any questions, please contact Katrina Farmer, communications and outreach manager, at Katrina@MonadnockConservancy.org or 603-357-0600, ext. 111.



A bench like this provides a welcome spot to sit for rest or to take in the view.

More Stories Like These...

You can have it all — delivered right to your inbox each month. Sign up for our e-newsletter at MonadnockConservancy.org. You'll find out about current conservation projects, family-friendly hikes, natural history fun facts, and upcoming events.

Welcome Lacy

We are pleased to announce the addition of Lacy Gillotti as deputy director. Stacy Cibula, former deputy director and conservation project manager, took a job with the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Lacy joins the team from NEADS, a Massachusetts-based nonprofit organization that trains service dogs, where she was the director

of canine operations. As deputy director, she will be responsible for the Conservancy's day-to-day operations and management. When she's not in the office, Lacy is most likely in the outdoors with her wife, daughter, and two dogs hiking, mountain biking, skiing, and doing just about anything that combines fresh air and the wilderness.

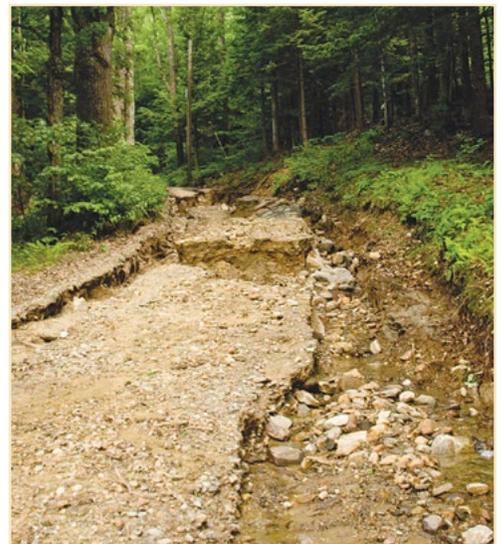


Lacy Gillotti is the new deputy director.

Taking Action for Climate Change

Land conservation offers a double benefit for the climate — it prevents significant carbon emissions that would result from development, and it keeps intact woodlands and open fields that help absorb greenhouse gases. What other ways can a land trust combat climate change? This is a key question we ask ourselves. To help answer it, we have formed an ad hoc committee of trustees and staff to deepen our

understanding of climate change and seek opportunities to make more of an impact. What steps would you recommend? What climate change-related issues are important to you? Please share your ideas and thoughts with us by writing, emailing, or calling Ryan Owens, executive director, at Ryan@MonadnockConservancy.org or 603-357-0600, ext. 103.



Road washout damage from a heavy spring storm is an effect of climate change.

Watch! Stories About This Place



Our popular annual storytelling event was held virtually this year, with four speakers sharing from the heart about their connections to the land. Ken Goebel of Swanzey, Puja Thapa of Keene State College, Tori McCagg of Jaffrey, and Richard Popovic of Nelson entertained with photos, anecdotes, and songs. Since it all happened via Zoom, it was easy to create a video of their wonderful presentations. If you missed the event, want to share it with a friend, or loved it so much that you'd like to listen to the stories again, you can now watch the recording online: [YouTube.com/MonadnockConservancy](https://www.youtube.com/MonadnockConservancy)

Become a Monadnock Trailblazer

Monthly donors go the distance for their favorite places

Monthly donors blaze a path forward for land protection in our region by providing a regular, ongoing stream of revenue that is vital to conserving special places. You can join these dedicated conservationists by becoming a member of the Monadnock Trailblazers giving circle with a monthly gift of as little as \$5.

Steve and Karla Palmer of Stoddard are monthly supporters because “along with the struggle for social justice, the preservation of our natural world is one of the pillars of a better future for all of us. We know the Monadnock

Conservancy is all about this goal, and we are proud to support it.”

Will you join Steve and Karla? Setting up a recurring monthly gift is safe and easy. You can join this growing group by visiting MonadnockConservancy.org/donate or by contacting Lindsay Taflas, development director, at Lindsay@MonadnockConservancy.org or 603-357-0600, ext. 113. Monthly gifts can be set up through a direct debit from your bank account, credit card, or debit card.

Thank you to our current Monadnock Trailblazers for their sustaining support!

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Antonia Andreoli, Walpole
Laura Andrews, Keene
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Rick Brackett & Rebeckah Bullock, Fitzwilliam
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Peter Throop, Keene
Gill Truslow, Keene
Wendy Ward, Keene
Terry & Barbara Watkins, Harrisville
Daniel & Jamie White, Keene



View of Mount Monadnock, looking south over Howe Reservoir, Dublin



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Founded in 1989, the Monadnock Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust working with you and your neighbors in 39 towns throughout the Monadnock region to protect the land and water of southwestern New Hampshire.



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Save the Date!

32nd Annual Celebration

Saturday, September 18, 2021



*Mountain Brook Reservoir
Conservation Area, Jaffrey*



We need volunteers to make more benches!
Read more on page 5.

*Printed on 100% post-consumer
recycled paper using soy-based inks*

Lindsay Tafas