

# Highlights from the Region 2019 Annual Report



“We care about our  
mountain, we care  
about our area.”

– Beth Royce, landowner  
(see page 3)



# Places Protected

## Prioritizing the land we all love

**Thanks to you, 2019 was a great year,** with projects focused on conserving clean water, farms, forests, wildlife habitat, and recreation trails — including Westmoreland's Chickering Farm, the region's largest dairy farm, and the purchase of acreage on Cunningham Pond in Peterborough.



Anne McBride

### BEECH HILL WEST

Dublin

The Beech Hill-Dublin Lake Watershed Association bought this 53-acre wooded parcel and then donated a conservation easement on it. Lorna's Trail traverses the property to the hill's ridgeline, where it connects with an old carriage road and more trails. The hill offers beautiful views of the surrounding area, is highly visible, and forms a significant part of Dublin Lake's watershed.

### DEVAN PRESERVE

Marlborough

Cia Devan has donated land to the Conservancy over the years to create this preserve near Meetinghouse Pond in the shadow of Mount Monadnock. The recent addition of 123 acres expands the property to a total of 523 acres. Now the property can be managed for improved habitat and increased biodiversity, and for wildlife to roam freely.



Doug Brown



## WHITCOMB WOODLAND

Keene

Siblings Charlie Domina and Judy Dimock protected 58 acres of the family land to honor their late sister, Emily Stone. The scenic property, along Daniels Hill Road and Route 9, is close to town yet rural in character with woodlands, stone walls, two springs, and a stream.

## WOOD FARM

Walpole

Chip Wood conserved this 28-acre property on the Cold River. The land was originally purchased by Chip's grandfather H.O. Wood in the early 1900s. For decades, the family grew hay and corn on the property to support their dairy operation. Now the land is leased to Putnam Farm, a large dairy in Charlestown, for growing silage corn.

## Sustaining Future Generations

### ROYCE PROPERTY

Jaffrey

William "Billy" Royce's daughter, Beth Royce, knew that her dad would have wanted to protect the 110-acre family property on Mountain Brook Reservoir, even though he didn't get the opportunity to do so in his lifetime. So she led her family in conserving the land in his honor.

"If we couldn't have saved the land, I would have had to leave the area because I couldn't drive by and see it built up. Now I don't have to worry about that," Beth shared.

She has taken on the role of steward, reclaiming her dad's large vegetable garden, planting new apple trees in the orchard, and raising goats and chickens. Beth's efforts reflect a deep commitment to caring for the land so it can sustain future generations.





# Maintaining a Family's 200-Year Farming Legacy

## CHICKERING FARM

Westmoreland

This land has been farmed by the Chickering family for six generations, since 1801, and is the largest remaining dairy farm in the Monadnock region. Jim Chickering, at age 85, has spent his whole life working the land and feels a deep connection to it.

With dairy farming an increasingly difficult business, there was a high risk that the land would be lost to development, but Jim refused to let that happen.

"I couldn't bear to see my fields plowed over for houses," said Jim, in explaining why he voluntarily agreed to a conservation easement on 350 acres. "This land — this rich soil — is meant to be farmed. I'm so glad to know that the land will stay in farming and that future generations can enjoy it as much as I have."



Stacy Cibula

## GRAVES FIELD

Walpole

Peter Graves, a ninth-generation farmer, had already conserved his home farm — an icon of New Hampshire agriculture. The addition of this 60-acre parcel across the road ensures that pasture will be available for grazing cattle and a sugar bush can be expanded to support the farm's maple syrup operation.



Stacy Cibula





## SARGENT HILL FARM

Walpole

Through a conservation easement, Jack Pratt has protected 42 acres within an expanding conservation corridor. The property includes open fields, stone walls, maple trees, forested slopes, a stream, two ponds, and scenic views of the Vermont hills.

## Rallying Around a Pond

### CUNNINGHAM POND

Peterborough

At the eastern gateway to town sits Cunningham Pond, once a public water supply and now home to the town beach.

But, aside from the beach, neither the pond nor its shoreline was protected — until now.

“When people from town came to us and said this is a project that’s important, we knew we had to act,” said the Conservancy’s land protection director, Anne McBride.

The Conservancy purchased the largest remaining property on the pond (104 acres), which includes an unbroken shoreline as viewed from the town beach, a large field used to grow hay, walking trails, scenic frontage on Route 101, and habitat for a variety of wildlife.

This place has secured its spot as a community treasure.



Inset: Judy Blake

William Banister

## Want to conserve your land?

By donating or selling land or a conservation easement to the Monadnock Conservancy, individuals and families make a significant impact on protecting the region’s rural character. **If you’d like to begin the conversation about how to conserve land, please contact Anne McBride, land protection director, at [Anne@MonadnockConservancy.org](mailto:Anne@MonadnockConservancy.org) or 603-357-0600, ext. 102.**



We dedicate this report to you and everyone who says,

**“Yes, I love the Monadnock Region!”**



**You are the inspiration and the reason** for the protection of land and water in this special corner of the world. It started with a handful of founding members in 1989, then add to that dozens of volunteers — land stewards, trail stewards, board members, town representatives, advisors, and office and outreach assistants. Later came staff and interns. Most importantly, all the landowners, neighbors, community leaders, partners, and hundreds of donors through the years. Let's look at some of the ways the past 30 years has made a positive difference in this region — all thanks to your support.

## Land Conservation

The first project, a conservation easement, was on an historic Dublin farm in 1989. Since then, more than 20,000 acres have been protected, and the service area has expanded from only a few towns around Mount Monadnock to all of Cheshire County, western Hillsborough County, and, as of last year, four towns in southern Sullivan County. Now, even more people and communities enjoy the benefits of conserved land in their town (see pages 2–5).

## Stewardship

A job once managed entirely by volunteers, overseeing all of our conservation lands is now the work of a professional staff, yet still supported by dedicated volunteers. Landowners and municipalities have had the chance to learn more about caring for the land through workshops, with topics such as planning for a timber harvest, improving wildlife habitat, and trail maintenance. Staff now includes a fee land manager, who puts those good workshop tips to practice on the land we own. Last year, a trail and a parking lot were put in at the Chamberlain Conservation Area in Fitzwilliam.

## Outreach

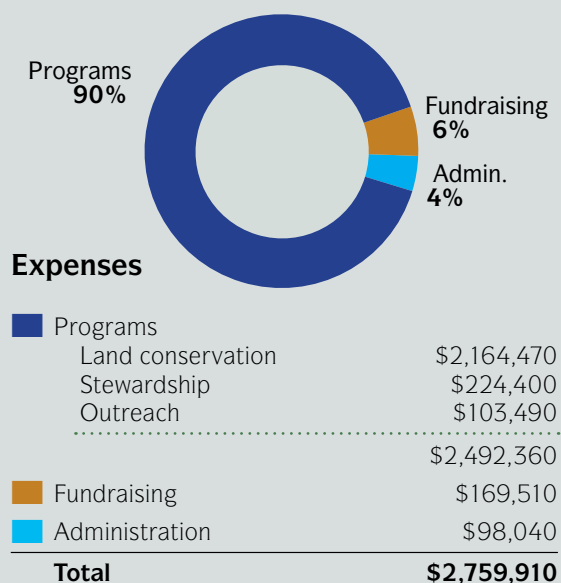
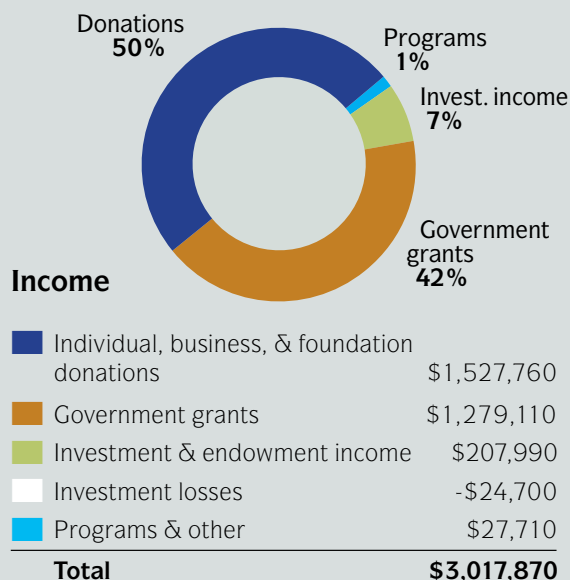
Sharing a love for the land and connecting people to nature and to one another remains our focus. The annual event, once a business meeting, is now a well-attended celebration. Throughout the year, you can join us for a hike or paddle, attend the popular Stories About This Place, or see films on the big screen (a new partnership in 2019 with the Monadnock International Film Festival adds to these showings). Plus, underserved kids in Keene get out on the farm for a healthy snack and safe outdoor playtime through our summer Kids Connect! program.





# Your Support Matters

**Thank you!** Your generosity continues to lead the way in conserving and caring for the fields, forests, and farmland here in the Monadnock region. Below is a summary of our continued good financial health during fiscal year 2019.



The Monadnock Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) organization.

The above numbers reflect the 2019 fiscal year (October 1, 2018, to September 30, 2019) and, at the time of printing, were unaudited. Audited financial statements will be available upon request.

MONADNOCKCONSERVANCY.ORG

# A Farmer at Heart

## Planned giving speaks to her passion

**Antonia Andreoli recalls summer evenings spent picking strawberries** by headlight at a family farm in Western Massachusetts. Her first job was at a tobacco farm. “I grew up with working farms,” says Antonia. When she moved to Walpole in the late 1960s, there were so many farms – over 20, yet now just a few.

“The idea of really good farmland disappearing bothers me,” she says. “It’s important to support whatever the Conservancy can do to protect farmland.”

It’s because of this passion that Antonia has chosen to become a member of the Monadnock Forever Society, naming the Conservancy in her will.



Katrina Farmer

“I can have more of an impact this way because it’s a small community.”

– Antonia Andreoli,  
Monadnock Forever Society member

Thank you to Antonia and all the Monadnock Forever Society members:

Anonymous (3)	John & Connie Kieley, Temple
Joan & Stephen Ames, Marlborough	Bradford & Sharon Malt, Peterborough
Laura Andrews, Keene	Michael & Katherine Nerrie, Walpole
Richard P. & Betsey Church, Nelson	Sandra Orton, Greenfield
Stephen H. & Carol W. Gehlbach, Jaffrey	Diane Schott, Peterborough
Warren D. Hall, Keene	Suzanne Y. & Peter Whittemore, Swanzey
John Harrington, Merrimack	Dorothy S. Zug, Fitzwilliam
Betsey Harris, Peterborough	

Stephen H. Gehlbach

## Would you like to be a part of the future of conservation?

If you are interested in joining the Monadnock Forever Society, please contact Lindsay Taflas, development director, at **Lindsay@MonadnockConservancy.org** or **603-357-0600, ext. 113**. Please also contact her if you have already included the Conservancy in your estate plans so you can be appropriately acknowledged.





Together, protecting forever  
the land we love

PO Box 337 Keene, NH 03431-0337  
603-357-0600  
Info@MonadnockConservancy.org

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 1  
PUTNEY, VT

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



#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Steve Larmon**  
*president, Keene*

**Peter Kenyon**  
*vice president, Dublin*

**Drew Landry**  
*treasurer, Harrisville*

**Hillary Irwin**  
*secretary, Dublin*

**Monica Lehner**  
*immediate past president, Greenfield*

**Karen Fitzgerald**, Frankestown

**Mark Florenz**, Keene

**Rhonda Fowler**, Langdon

**Daniel Prial**, Keene

**Peggy Pschirrer**, Walpole

**Peter Rotch**, Peterborough

**W. Bridges Smith**, Hancock

**Jane F. Taylor**, Keene

**Jeanne Thieme**, Swanzy

#### STAFF

**Ryan Owens**  
*executive director, Walpole*

**Stacy Cibula**  
*deputy director, Keene*

**Anne McBride**  
*land protection director, Nelson*

**Rick Brackett**  
*land manager and GIS specialist,  
Fitzwilliam*

**Richard Pendleton**  
*stewardship coordinator,  
Peterborough*

**Lindsay Tafas**  
*development director, Jaffrey*

**Katrina Farmer**  
*communications and outreach  
manager, Harrisville*

**Nathaniel Stout**  
*office manager, Keene*

“ One of the coolest things going on in the region right now is efforts on the part of the Monadnock Conservancy to conserve farmland. That’s integral to maintaining our rural character. ”

– Paul Miller, former executive editor  
of the Keene Sentinel



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