

Piscataquog News

THE PISCATAQUOG LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

Protecting a Hidden Jewel in Weare

Photo by Tom Jones

The Piscataquog Land Conservancy is pleased to announce that we have signed a purchase and sale agreement to acquire 205 acres of ecologically-rich forest and pristine wetlands bordering our Ferrin Pond Preserve in Weare. The land is currently owned by Meadowsend Timberlands (MTL), a New Hampshire-based company that owns and manages working forestland throughout the state and New England.

Regular readers of this newsletter will recall that consulting foresters from MTL planned and supervised timber harvests at PLC's Ferrin Pond and Tuthill Preserves last winter. This working relationship led to discussions this spring about the company's property in Weare, which is a top priority in PLC's strategic conservation plan for the Piscataquog watershed. Once PLC established that Meadowsend was willing to entertain an offer on the property, we negotiated an agreement that gives us until June 2019 to raise the needed funds and close the purchase.

Located almost a mile into the woods from the nearest paved road, the land is a hidden gem. It contains almost 23 acres of wetlands, or 11% of the total tract, comprised of a string of beaver-impounded wetlands that run north-south down the center of the property, and at least eleven vernal pools scattered across

the remainder of the tract. The largest of these pools is a half-acre basin swamp that includes black gum trees approximately 400 years in age. The property also features 4,700 feet of frontage on Bartlett Brook, which flows north through the property's beaver ponds and meadows towards the main branch of the Piscataquog River.

The property's wetlands are home to waterfowl, otter, mink, and beaver, and likely support rare turtle species. Its upland forests are roamed by moose, black bear and bobcat. NH Fish & Game's Wildlife Action Plan designates 43% of the property as best-in-state habitat, and another 36% as the best in the southern NH biological region. If successful, the project will also link 473 acres of existing conservation land owned by PLC and the Town of Weare. The existing walking trail system on PLC's abutting Ferrin Pond Preserve could be extended into the target property if it is successfully protected, and at least one club-maintained snowmobile trail bisects the land.

"We are grateful to be working with a landowner who also understands and appreciates the property's ecological value, and shares our goal of permanently conserving open land in New Hampshire."

PLC has between now and June 30, 2019 to raise \$299,000 and complete the purchase of the property from Meadowsend. We have already submitted major funding proposals to the state's Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) grants program, which focuses on the conservation and restoration of wetlands, and the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). We will hear back on both later this fall. If these large grants are secured, we will

work to raise the balance of funding from private sources in the first half of 2019.

PLC Land Protection Specialist Tom Jones says "this is another example of how PLC actively goes after land that we have identified as 'best of the best.' We are grateful to be working with a landowner who also understands and appreciates the property's ecological value, and shares our goal of permanently conserving open land in New Hampshire."



TO CONSERVE

the natural and scenic landscapes of the Piscataquog, Souhegan, and Nashua River watersheds of New Hampshire.

PLC

Piscataquog Land Conservancy 2018 Annual Report

The PLC completed its 2018 Fiscal year on June 30, and we are happy to report that it was another very productive year for our local land trust. Here's a summary of what we accomplished together:

Land Protection

We conserved four new properties totaling 133 acres during the year, including:

Proctor Preserve, Lyndeborough – thanks to the generosity of many people, PLC successfully purchased two properties totaling 112 acres in Lyndeborough owned by the Proctor family. The first to close was a 41-acre parcel located next to our Rice Preserve that features dramatic glacial eskers and supports a wild brook trout population. PLC later purchased a nearby 71-acre tract with half a mile of frontage on Cold Brook. The property had been listed for sale before PLC stepped in to acquire the land.

Nissitissit River CE, Brookline – PLC and the Town of Brookline completed the second phase of our joint conservation project along the Nissitissit River. The Town of Brookline conveyed a conservation easement to PLC on 14 forested acres (in five parcels!) that protect another third of a mile of frontage on the Nissitissit River, and almost a mile of a popular rail trail. Brookline and PLC had previously protected two properties totaling 75 acres along the Nissitissit in June 2017.

Brennan Confluence CE, Frankestown – our long-time partners the Frankestown Land Trust (FLT) conveyed a conservation easement to PLC on a small but strategic parcel located at the confluence of the South Branch of the Piscataquog River and Brennan Brook in Frankestown. FLT had purchased the 7.5 acre property earlier in 2017, and the PLC easement reinforces its permanent protection.

With these latest additions PLC has protected 108 properties totaling 6,995 acres.

Land Stewardship

On the stewardship front, dedicated PLC volunteers and staff monitored every one of our conservation properties, built trails, marked boundaries, and installed gates and property signs. We fielded numerous issues and inquiries on our lands and easements, but once again had no major violations requiring enforcement action. In a first for PLC, we ran timber harvests on our Ferrin Pond and Tuthill Preserves, which generated income to the organization

and provided an opportunity to educate our members and the public on sustainable forestry practices.

Outreach and Education

PLC ran eighteen public walks, paddles and rides attended by about 330 people. We also launched a completely revamped website in the fall of 2017, and moved more of our communications in 2018 online (e.g. fewer print newsletters and more frequent and timely e-newsletters).

Organizational Development

Culminating two years of work, PLC was awarded national Land Trust Accreditation in August 2017. The accreditation program independently verifies that land trusts are operating in accordance with national standards and practices set by the Land Trust Alliance (LTA). PLC also once again balanced our operating budget, and continued to grow our long-term funds for land and easement stewardship and legal defense.

Everything the Piscataquog Land Conservancy achieves, we achieve together – whether as volunteer or professional staff, lifelong member or enthusiastic newcomer, hiker, hunter, biker or bird-watcher, modest contributor or major donor. PLC is a community, and for all our diversity we know we share common ground. These days that is something to celebrate. We hope you will come enjoy the company of your friends and fellow PLC members at PLC's 48th Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 3rd at the Community Church of New Boston! Our featured speaker will be state and national conservation leader and longtime PLC trustee Paul Doscher, who will give a talk on the history of land conservation in the United States.

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Wealth
Management

Thank you to Jennifer Carleton and RBC Wealth Management for your generous sponsorship of PLC's Lobster by the River event for the past decade!



PLC Easement Will Protect Paige Hill Marsh in Goffstown

By David Nieman

Photos by Tom Jones

The geology of northwestern Goffstown is defined by glacial drumlins – rounded hills made up of rocky debris left behind after the last ice age – that are covered with mixed hardwood forests, hayfields, meadows and orchards. The drumlins also act as natural dams, forming streams and wetlands between the hills. PLC and the Town of Goffstown have been working together to protect this special landscape since it was first prioritized in the town’s Open Space Conservation Plan, starting with the Porritt/Hi-E-Nuf Farm easement in 2006. Now we have the opportunity to extend protection eastward to protect the entire area surrounding a drumlin-encircled prime wetland, Paige Hill Marsh. The marsh is a rich composite of five different wetland communities, constrained by subtle variations in topography. To the north and east, hills of sediments rise abruptly from the marsh, while ledge and scattered glacial erratics define the flat southern and western shore. Wildlife is diverse and abundant throughout.

PLC and the Town of Goffstown are now working to purchase a conservation easement that will conserve 52 acres of field, forest, stream and wetland, including ten acres of prime wetland in Paige Hill Marsh. Located along Paige Hill Road, the land is owned by Fred and Sylvia Jennings, who have farmed and lived on the historic property for decades. The land also features 1,400 feet of riparian frontage on Harry Brook and a tributary stream that flows through Paige Hill Marsh.



Fred and Sylvia Jennings

The PLC easement will cover the eastern portion of Paige Hill Marsh, and the Town of Goffstown is currently under contract to purchase the fifty-acre tract to the west of the Jennings property. The town has already purchased the ten acre tract to the west of that, connecting

Jennings with PLC’s Porritt easement. Taken together, conserving these properties will nearly complete the protection of the Paige Hill Marsh prime wetland. PLC and town hope to fund the easement purchase with a combination of town conservation dollars and a grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services’ Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund, which funds wetland protection and restoration projects.

David Nieman is a member of the Goffstown Conservation Commission and Chairs its Open Space Committee.



A Decade of Lobster by the River

Photo by Jordan Bailey

On Labor Day, more than one hundred PLC members and friends gathered for our 10th annual Lobster by the River fundraiser at Parker Mill in New Boston. Huge thanks to former PLC Trustee and head lobster cook Bill “Tuck” Tucker for procuring and preparing the feast for a tenth year! Big thanks also to Gail and Randy Parker for hosting us these many years on their beautiful riverfront property. Thank you to our business underwriter, Jennifer Carleton at RBC Wealth Management in Concord, for a decade of incredibly generous sponsorship of the event. Finally, thanks to PLC’s Donna Seidel for her impeccable organization, and to “Lobster Czarina” Betsy Holmes, Kelly and Kevin Kennerson, and everybody who came together on the day to make the event a success.



The Rose Mountain Rumble Rides Again

Photo by Gabriella Nissen

On August 25th one hundred fifty cyclists from our region and around New England rode in PLC’s fourth-annual Rose Mountain Rumble benefit ride. This was the first year we capped the number of riders, and we hit our limit! To everyone who came out to ride, in many cases for the second or third time, THANK YOU! Huge thanks to the RMR event team Kris Henry, Doria Harris and Doug Powers, and all of you who volunteered on ride day. Thank you Airmar Technologies of Milford for your loyal and generous sponsorship of the event, and Wilton/Lyndeborough Women’s Club for putting on another incredible lunch! Thanks also to everyone at the Town of Lyndeborough for letting us use the town’s historic Center Hall as home base for the event.

PLC Supporters Honor Roll Fiscal Year 2018

(July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018) Please note that donations received after June 30, 2018, will appear in next year's honor roll.

Did you know, nearly all of PLC's operating income comes from the annual contributions of people like you, one gift at a time. Last year we received donations from almost 400 individuals, families, foundations and businesses who want to "act locally" to protect the natural resources of our region. We work hard to keep our fundraising requests to a minimum - we write our members just twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring as we approach the end of our fiscal year. This allows us to spend our time, and your money, on land protection instead of fundraising mailings - and that's the way we all like it! To learn more about how you can financially support PLC, including monthly "sustainer" gifts, gifts of stock, and making PLC part of your estate plan, contact Chris Wells at 487-3331 or cwells@plcnh.org.

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(Donated a conservation easement to PLC)

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(Has donated land to PLC or included PLC in their estate plans)

🐾 **DONATED TO THE PROCTOR PROJECT**

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In honor of all who enjoy
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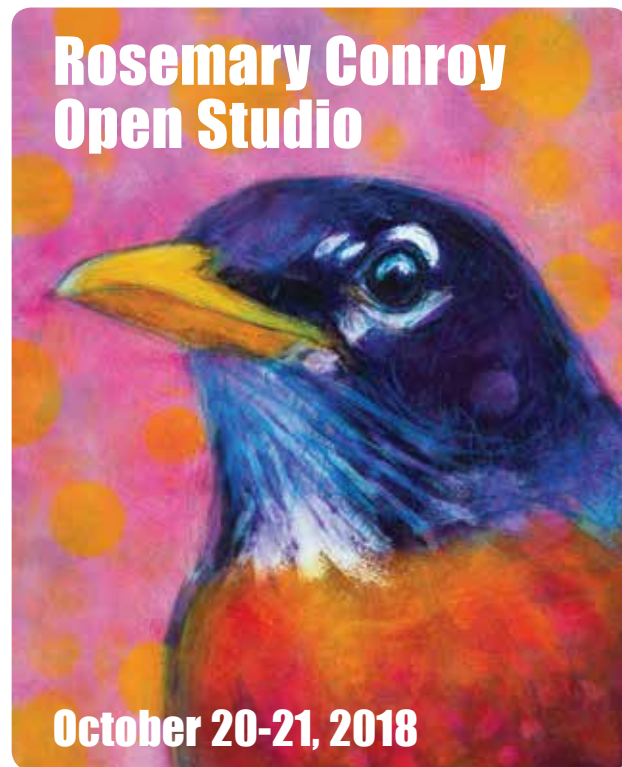
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Local artist and naturalist Rosemary Conroy will be hosting her 13th annual open studio in Weare on Saturday – Sunday, October 20 – 21 from noon to 4pm each day. Rosemary, a long-time member as well as a former trustee, will be donating a percentage of her proceeds to the PLC as she has done for many years. Her colorful paintings feature many local birds and animals, as well as recent forays into “charismatic megafauna” from the sea. In addition to original works of art, Rosemary will have on hand affordable reproductions and notecards. For more information and directions to her Poor Farm Road studio in Weare, please visit her website at www.rosemaryconroyart.com or call her at 603-315-9060.



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The Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC) is a 501(c)(3) registered in the State of New Hampshire. Our federal tax ID number is 23-7085677. Information regarding the PLC, including our recent financial reports and tax filings, is readily available upon request.

Florence Tarr's

Legacy



Florence & Family 1957 Horse 'Debbin'



Florence Tarr Home 1994

By Dave Butler

Photos courtesy of J. Tarr

Since PLC acquired the Florence M. Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary in the summer of 2017, a dedicated group of volunteers have been working with PLC staff to transform the property's unofficial network of mountain bike trails into a marked trail system for walkers, bikers, trail runners and the occasional horseback rider. The final round of trail improvements and re-routes were completed in August, and a trail dedication is planned for later this fall.

The "Lo-Flo" trail, one of the two trails on the property, is a 1.7-mile loop which can be walked in about an hour. Anyone familiar with the trail probably assumes that the name "Lo Flo" is based on the fact that the trail is characterized by gently flowing curves and is on the lower-elevation portion of the property. While this is all true, the trail is also named Lo Flo in honor of Florence Tarr, who bequeathed the hundreds acres of undeveloped land that today form the Tarr Sanctuary.

Florence Tarr was a private person, but we've managed to piece together some of her story through Bedford town histories, discussions with Bedford residents, and documents related to the Florence Tarr Trust. The story of the Florence Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary starts around the time of the Civil War. Florence's great-grandfather, a sea captain, became disabled in a seafaring accident and settled in Bedford on 120 acres of farmland and "wild land" that he purchased in 1861. By 1900 the land was owned by Florence's grandfather, and her father also resided at the family homestead located on the property. Florence was born in 1907 and was raised in Bedford. As an adult, she worked as a school teacher in Goffstown, Portsmouth, and Nashua.

Later in life, Florence's main focus became the protection of wildlife. The way to accomplish this, in her view, was to purchase and put aside open land as a refuge where animals would be protected from hunting and other pressures of human civilization. Over a period of years she

acquired property adjacent, and in close to proximity to, the Tarr family homestead. By the time she passed away, Florence had accumulated many hundreds of acres of property in northern Bedford and southern Goffstown. Upon Florence's death in 1993, all of the land came under the jurisdiction of a newly-formed Florence M. Tarr Trust, which was charged with managing the land in keeping with Florence's wishes. Florence stated in her will that "I have long had as one of my principal aims and purposes the maintenance, preservation and enhancement of all lands which I may own at the date of my death as natural sanctuaries for wildlife, in which there shall be no maiming or killing of animals, no hunting or trapping, no target practicing, no free running of dogs, and no dumping of toxic chemicals."

The Tarr Trust was legally dissolved in the summer of 2017, and PLC took ownership of the 332-acre preserve. As the new steward of the Tarr Sanctuary, PLC is required to carry on Florence's mandate that the land be preserved as a sanctuary for wildlife. PLC asks that all users abide by the guidelines posted at the entrances, including keeping dogs on leashes. Next time you're out enjoying the Lo Flo trail, take a moment to remember Florence Tarr and appreciate the efforts she made to protect so much land in this crowded corner of our state.

Dave Butler is PLC's volunteer property monitor for the Florence M. Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary, and was named PLC's Volunteer of the Year in 2017.



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NEW BOSTON, NH
PERMIT NO.10

Address Service Requested

Upcoming Walks & Events

- Oct 20 / Explore the Meadowsend Property, Weare
- Oct 20-21 / Rosemary Conroy Open Studio, Weare
- Oct 27 / Black Brook Preserve Trail Dedication and Walk, Goffstown
- Nov 3 / PLC's 48th Annual Meeting, New Boston
- Nov 10 / Tarr Sanctuary Trail Dedication and Walk, Goffstown

For the latest on PLC outings, subscribe to our e-news.
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Piscataquog News

THE PISCATAQUOG LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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Local artist and naturalist Rosemary Conroy will be hosting her 13th annual open studio in Weare on Saturday - Sunday, October 20 - 21 from noon to 4 pm each day. Rosemary, a long-time member and former trustee, will once again donate a percentage of her sales to PLC. For details, see story on page 6.