

FALL / WINTER / 2020

Piscataquog News

THE PISCATAQUOG LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

*Celebrating 50 years
of land protection*



TO CONSERVE

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

1969 A handful of concerned citizens begin informal discussions about starting a conservation group dedicated to preserving the Piscataquog River and its watershed. The catalyst is the announcement that a long-dormant Boston & Maine (B&M) Railroad right of way along the Piscataquog River through New Boston is to be sold.



MONEY TO BUY a "green belt" along the Piscataquog River is presented by Rick Spafford, (l), of the N.H. Dept. of Resources and Economic Development to New Boston selectman Roland Sallada, as Martha Brooks of the Conservation Commission looks on. Also present are (from left) Commission member Randy Parker and Piscataquog Watershed Assn. officers Dick Moore and Neal Kork.

1970s

1970 A first meeting of potential charter members is held in April at the old Weare Fire Station (now the site of the Weare Middle School). The group agrees to move forward with establishing a new non-profit organization. The Piscataquog Watershed Association (PWA) comes into being by filing articles of agreement (incorporation) with the N.H. Secretary of State. The new organization's application for tax-exempt status is approved by the IRS in November 1970. Both documents are prepared pro bono by a young attorney from Weare named David Souter.

1973 PWA reaches agreement with the Boston & Maine to buy 64 acres of land including 2.1 miles of the old railbed. The purchase price is \$11,000. Key players in the lengthy negotiations for PWA include Richard Moore, Randy Parker, David Woodbury, and Bob Todd.

1974 After more than a year of fundraising that includes potluck suppers, contra dances, raffles, "selling" old railroad spikes for a donation and applying for grants, PWA raises the funds it needs to purchase the B&M land. PWA acquires additional property from the railroad in 1976, ultimately protecting a total of 3.4 miles of frontage along the Middle Branch of the Piscataquog River.



From Small Beginnings

Welcome to the 50th Anniversary edition of the *Piscataquog News*. In addition to the usual updates on PLC's current activities, this expanded issue includes guest essays and a timeline highlighting the first fifty years of the organization. I hope you enjoy and are inspired by both. This organization began in 1970 when a handful of friends and neighbors came together to see if they could acquire an old railroad bed along the Piscataquog River for a trail. For almost a decade they organized, negotiated, raised money and spread the word about the river and its larger watershed. By the end of the decade their little grassroots organization – the Piscataquog Watershed Association (PWA) – had achieved its goal. Today's New Boston Rail Trail is the legacy of this founding group.

With the trail secured, in the 1980s the PWA rededicated itself to engaging and educating the public about the natural resources of the Piscataquog watershed and the importance of land protection. The group launched educational programs in partnership with local schools, and engaged local people in citizen science projects like stream monitoring and wildlife tracking. All the while, PWA kept protecting land, often using the then-new approach of conservation easements. The emphasis on citizen involvement and education continued throughout the 1990s, as did the steady pace of land protection. PWA also waded into public policy as it led

the outreach and political effort to secure state protected river status for the Piscataquog.

The 2000's saw the organization shift its emphasis to increasing the pace of land protection, and PWA hired its first professional staff. The organization's protected acreage jumped from just under a thousand acres in 1999 to more than 4,700 acres during the decade. Reflecting this new focus the PWA became the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC). The 2010s have been marked by continued growth in PLC's conservation impact and professionalism. Our service area now spans twenty-three towns, and we are nationally accredited. Earlier this year the Bedford Land Trust entrusted its 700 acres of conservation land to PLC. By the end of 2020 our land and easements will pass the 9,000-acre mark.



So what do the next fifty years hold for PLC?

So what do the next fifty years hold for PLC? That is a subject for several future columns, but here are a few thoughts: first, the need to protect land in our region remains urgent. PLC will need to stay focused on protecting ecologically valuable lands for years to come, while simultaneously meeting our growing stewardship responsibilities. One intriguing question for PLC's next decade is whether we can (or should) reinvigorate the educational partnerships and volunteer citizen-science that was such a big part of PWA's mission in the 1980s and 90's. Another is how we can become more active in the two cities in our service area: Manchester and Nashua. Yet another is how PLC might play a useful (even if small) role in helping New Hampshire arrive at its low-carbon future a little sooner.

However we answer these questions, we can look to this organization's future with optimism. After all, the Piscataquog Land Conservancy was founded by a small group of people who thought globally but acted locally, got things done, and had fun while they did it. That has always been the PLC way, and may it always be.

PLC's 50th Annual Meeting Goes Virtual

The Piscataquog Land Conservancy's 50th Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 24th as a virtual online event. As always, our members will have the opportunity to hear about PLC's accomplishments over the past year, review our financial statements, and elect new trustees and officers. The meeting will take place from 5:00-6:30 PM via Zoom teleconference. To help us plan for the event, we ask that you register online at www.plcnh.org. We look forward to seeing you!



PLC Easement Will Protect New Boston Town Forests

The Piscataquog Land Conservancy and the Town of New Boston have joined forces to place a conservation easement on the town's five Town Forests, which together total 470 acres. Once completed later this fall the conservation easement held by PLC will ensure the properties are protected in perpetuity. Two of the parcels – the Colby and Siemeze Forests – are located on Middle Branch Road, just across the Piscataquog River from PLC's Thomas and Houghton sanctuaries. The other three – the Lydia Dodge, Sherburne, and Todd Forests – are located along Old Coach Road and include the town's transfer station and ball fields. About seventeen acres encompassing these areas will be excluded from the conservation easement.

A 2019 study found that 69% of New Hampshire's Town Forests had been permanently protected through conservation easements or other legal restrictions.

Under New Hampshire law, town-owned land can be designated as a Town Forest by the voters at spring town meeting or ballot voting. The designation transfers control of the land from the town's select board or council to a Forestry Committee charged with ensuring the its continued viability as a forest. While Town Forest designation gives town-owned woodlands land a degree of protection from being developed or sold off, it can also be undone at any time by another vote of town residents. For this reason, many municipalities have sought the additional protection of conservation easements held by a third party like a land trust. A 2019 study by UNH Cooperative Extension and the NH Association of Conservation Commissions found that 69% of New Hampshire's Town Forests had been permanently protected through conservation easements or other legal restrictions.

The idea of placing a conservation easement on New Boston's Town Forests had been discussed on and off for the better part of two decades. In late 2019, the town's Conservation Commission and Forestry Committee decided the time had come to make the idea a reality. Laura Bernard, who chairs the New Boston Conservation Commission, says "every December, the Conservation Commission hosts a holiday party, and we invite all the town committees and local organizations that are focused on protecting the New Boston's natural resources. With everybody in the same room, we got to talking about our desire to permanently protect the New Boston Town Forests. By the end of the evening we had a plan."

PLC's land protection specialist Tom Jones first put together the required tasks and budget for completing a conservation easement. The Forestry Committee promptly approved the plan, and the Conservation Commission agreed to cover project expenses from the town's conservation fund. The New Boston Board of Selectmen then agreed to place a warrant article on the March 2020 ballot to see if town residents supported granting the easement to PLC. The article went on to pass overwhelmingly.

PLC has worked through the spring and summer to complete all the due diligence needed to complete the easement including a boundary survey, environmental assessment, title work, easement drafting and baseline documentation. As of this writing, the project is on track to close by the end of 2020.

The New Boston Forestry Committee's Chair Tom Miller says "the Forestry Committee is really pleased to be part of this collaborative effort with the Conservation Commission and PLC to preserve New Boston's five town forests for the benefit of future generations."



1979 The PWA transfers the B&M lands to the town of New Boston Conservation Commission. The trail is later named the New Boston Rail Trail and is still going strong today.

1980s

1980 PWA accepts its first-ever conservation easement from Sam and Martha Brooks on 144 acres of forested land in New Boston. PWA protects additional land throughout the 1980s, including the Mulligan, Belanger, Dow, Marden, Hersey, Baron and Jonathan Brooks properties.



1982 Educator and founding PWA board member Gordon Russell leads 6th graders from the New Boston Central School in an 8-week outdoor environmental education class that includes field trips along the Piscataquog River, local wetlands, and ponds. Other PWA outreach and education efforts spearheaded by Russell during the decade include traveling natural history slideshows and volunteer water quality monitoring.

1989 PWA ends the decade with seventeen protected properties totaling 429 acres.



1990s

1993 Governor Steve Merrill signs legislation designating the Piscataquog as a protected river under the NH Rivers Management and Protection Program. PWA leads the effort to secure the designation through public education, lobbying the legislature and preparing a 250-page application to the state.

1994 PWA expands its student intern program for students from John Stark High School and St. Anselm College. St. Anselm Professor Barry Wicklow and his students survey the biodiversity of the watershed.



1995 PWA's Graham Pendlebury works with the State DOT to install the now-familiar "Protected River" signs at Piscataquog crossings.

1997 Sixteen PWA members travel to Vermont to train as citizen wildlife trackers through the Keeping Track program. PWA volunteers complete a comprehensive shoreline survey of 65 miles of the Piscataquog River's three branches. PWA partners with two local schools on U.S. Fish & Wildlife's "Adopt a Salmon" program.



1998 PWA member Lynn Lombard launches a volunteer group that works to eradicate invasive purple loosestrife from twenty sites around the Piscataquog watershed.



On June 30th, 2020, the Piscataquog Land Conservancy closed on our purchase of 267 acres of forest, streams, and wetlands in Mason. PLC's acquisition helps complete a decades-long effort to protect the headwaters of the Nissitissit River, a main tributary of the Nashua River which was given National Wild and Scenic status in 2018. PLC will manage the land for water quality and wildlife habitat, public recreation, and sustainable forestry.

The property had long been a top priority for local conservationists, and when it came up for sale in early 2019 PLC was able to secure a purchase agreement that gave us a year to raise the necessary funds to buy the land, which ultimately totaled \$639,000. If PLC's fundraising effort to purchase the property had been unsuccessful the land would have gone back on the open market. The project was a huge leap of faith for PLC, the landowner, and for the many funders that came together to make it possible. Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many people, it all came together.

PLC's Land Protection Specialist Tom Jones says the land is "an incredibly important and special place, no project has been more

exciting or motivating for me to be a part of, nor one that has had more widespread support. Every single person and partnering organization involved worked very hard, and all coordinated so well, to make this very large project come together."

The land purchased by PLC directly abuts the town of Mason's Spaulding Brook Conservation Area and Doonan property and builds on the larger protection effort in the area which has to date protected over 1,700 acres of land in Mason and Milford. The project also expands conservation to the north and west towards another 1,800 acres of nearby protected land centered on Russell-Abbott State Forest in Wilton.

The land's protection also helps complete a decades-long effort to protect the headwaters of the Nissitissit River. The Nissitissit is a main tributary of the Nashua River that flows through Brookline and Hollis, and was given National Wild and Scenic River status in 2018. The Piscataquog Land Conservancy has previously worked with the Town of Brookline to conserve key parcels along the river's main stem.

Mason Conservation Commission chair Bob Larochelle says "everyone recognized how important it was to save this exceptional place for people and wildlife to enjoy forever. The PLC, Mason Conservation Commission,

... "everyone recognized how important it was to save this exceptional place for people and wildlife to enjoy forever. The PLC, Mason Conservation Commission, and many others worked tirelessly and overcame many hurdles to bring this project to fruition. It was truly a masterpiece of teamwork and dedication by all involved."

and many others worked tirelessly and overcame many hurdles to bring this project to fruition. It was truly a masterpiece of teamwork and dedication by all involved."

Funding for the Nissitissit Headwaters purchase was anchored by two large state grants: \$300,000 grant from the state's Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) fund, which is

administered by the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, and a \$200,000 grant from the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP). Mason contributed \$80,000 from the town's conservation fund towards the purchase.

Additional grants were awarded to the project the state's Conservation License Plate grants program (\$24,000), the Merrimack Conservation Partnership (\$15,000), and the Davis Conservation Foundation (\$10,000). Almost \$10,000 in private contributions from local residents rounded out the funding mix.

50TH ANNIVERSARY ESSAY



In 1980 my parents, Sam and Martha Brooks, donated the first-ever conservation easement to the Piscataquog Watershed Association, now known as Piscataquog Land Conservancy. They had first purchased the 150 or so acres on Pine Road in New Boston, which came with a log cabin hunting lodge, in 1947. As one of five children I remember vividly how my mother would load us all into her Woody station wagon,

Like our parents Sam and Martha before us, we grew up loving our family's land, and are proud of their decision to pass it on intact to future generations.

driving from our home in Manchester to New Boston. Pine Road then was very narrow, and very muddy in early spring. We were always joyful as we arrived at our beloved cabin in the woods. There was no electricity or running water, which was carried to the cabin from a spring on the property.

As children our days were spent roaming in the surrounding forest and playing in a nearby sandpit. I also have fond memories of fishing in local streams and the Middle Branch of the Piscataquog River, building forts and treehouses, and hiking the trail that my father made from the old logging roads. Our days were punctuated by lunch. Martha would round us up by ringing a large, hanging iron wagon wheel that could be heard from great distances away. *Mmm*, those were the days. In 1964, on the foundation where the cabin and a farmhouse once stood, Martha and Sam built a year-round house, which by then had electricity and running water. Before then we had an ice box for refrigeration and would go to

Weare to collect ice blocks that were stored in a barn, covered with sawdust to keep them frozen.

In 1975, my father Sam retired as Chief Pathologist at the Elliot Hospital, sold the house in Manchester, and moved to New Boston permanently. He became New Boston's health officer and a member of the planning board. Martha joined the town's Conservation Committee and the recently established Piscataquog Watershed Association. Martha, as the second chair of the PWA's board of trustees, helped secure the old Boston and Maine Railroad right of way, which is now a walking and bike trail that runs from New Boston center into Goffstown, and then across the Merrimack River into Manchester. In 1980 Sam and Martha donated the conservation easement to PWA on 144 acres of their land in New Boston (my brothers and sister added four more acres to the easement in 2006).

Meanwhile, I had returned to New Boston in 1970 after four years in California and secured fifteen acres of land adjacent to Martha and Sam's to build a home. With no building codes in place, I was able to build an unusual home inspired by my fine arts educational background. Continuing the family tradition, I donated a conservation easement on my fifteen acres to the PWA in 1989. In the 1990s my second wife, Jami Boyle, and I acquired another twenty acres of land on the north side of Pine Road from Bob Todd, another of New Boston's founding conservationists. Bob honored his father's (Laben Todd) handshake agreement granting us the right of first refusal, and at the original price! PWA's purchase of a conservation easement on the twenty acres in 2000 helped Jami and I afford to secure the property. This brought the Brooks Family's conserved acreage with PWA in New Boston up to 183 acres. My brother Phil and his wife Ginny donated a conservation easement on 79 acres in Lyndeborough in 2007.

Like our parents Sam and Martha before us, we grew up loving our family's land, and are proud of their decision to pass it on intact to future generations. We have sought to honor their example of conservation in our own lives. As the world gets busier and more complicated, conserved land is more and more important. Jami and I welcome the community to use the trails (on foot) on our conserved land. Please come experience the joy and beauty of the woods that my parents, and we, have loved so much.



1999 PWA maintains a steady pace of land conservation throughout the decade and ends the 1990s with a total of 31 protected properties encompassing 982 acres.

2000s

2002 PWA partners with state and federal agencies, St. Anselm College and Trout Unlimited on a stream bank restoration project along an eroded section of the Middle Branch in New Boston. "Citizen science" projects including Keeping Track field surveys, water quality monitoring, salmon fry stocking, and loosestrife eradication projects (including the release of loosestrife-munching beetles) continue.



2003 After serving for five years on PWA's board, Margaret Watkins becomes the organization's first Executive Director. Paula Bellemore joins the PWA staff as a part-time Administrative Director. PLC completes the acquisition of the 193-acre Tuthill Woodlands Preserve in New Boston.



2004 PWA and the Franconstown Land Trust launch the Headwaters Project, a joint effort to prioritize and protect key lands in the Piscataquog watershed's upper reaches. Over the next few years, the Headwaters project will protect more than a thousand acres in the area.

PLC SUPPORTERS HONOR ROLL

Fiscal Year 2020
(July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

Please note that donations received after June 30, 2020 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 were supported by almost 400 individuals, families, foundations and businesses who "act locally" to protect the natural resources of the region they call home. 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 our mission 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.



PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE

\$15,000+

- Mason Conservation Commission 🐾
- John & Anne McCausland 🐾
- Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) 🐾
- Merrimack Conservation Partnership 🐾
- New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
- State of New Hampshire
- Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund (ARM) 🐾

\$10,000+

- Davis Conservation Foundation
- Jane B. Cook 1992 Charitable Trust
- The Nichols Trust 🐾
- Marilyn Jordon Taylor
- Town of Brookline 🐾
- Susan & Bill Tucker

\$5000+

- Helen Grembowicz 🐾
- The McIninch Foundation
- Doug Powers & Doria Harris
- Samuel P. Hunt Foundation
- James & Sara Shirley 🐾
- Ellen Townes-Anderson & Craig Anderson

\$2500+

- Anonymous
- Jed Callen & Carol Hess 🐾
- The French Foundation
- Randy & Gail Parker
- RiverStone Resources LLC
- Joshua & Hollis Young 🐾 🐾



LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

\$1000+

- Anonymous (2)
 - Rosemary & Chris Conroy 🐾 🐾
 - David & Judy Corbit 🐾
 - Kurt Fischer & Sharon Shultz
 - Richard Floreani
 - Shirley French
 - Francois Gauthier
 - Steve & Julie Grandgeorge
 - Judy Gross & Bob Merwin
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 - Summit Computer Services
 - Terry Knowles 🐾
 - Representative Neal & Heleen Kurk
 - Evelyn & Michael Miller
 - John Monson
 - Lora Sabin & Jonathan Hecht
 - Gary & Patty Samuels 🐾
 - Amy Shakow 🐾
 - Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green PA
 - Jeremy & Carolynne Shinn
 - Marianna Vis
- ### \$500+
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 - Christine Anderson
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 - State Conservation Grant Program
 - Bruce & Christine Nelson 🐾
 - Lori & Wayne Parent
 - Michael & Sue Thomas
 - Eugene & Veronica Van Loan
 - Roberta Walmsley 🐾 🐾





CONSERVATIONIST CIRCLE

\$250+

Richard Backus & Sharon Romeyko
 Mrs. Jordan Bailey & Dr. Michael Bailey
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 David Butler 🐶
 Alexander Clark 🐶
 Mike DePetrillo & Kari Lewis
 Robert C. Dewhirst
 Ellen Dokton 🐶
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 Ben & Kate Taylor
 Megan Thomas & Duncan Coakley
 Patricia A. Thompson
 Town of Goffstown
 Erwin & Jean Walker
 Stephen Walker & Diane DeLuca
 Guy Washburn & Laura Reiner
 Chris & Katie Wells 🐶
 Tracey L. Wells
 David & Candy Woodbury

FRIENDS

\$100+

Anonymous (6)
 Sharon Akers
 Brewster & Elizabeth Ames
 Dudley & Jeannette Baker
 Davis Bartlett
 Paula Bellemore 🐶 🐶
 Paul R. Belyea
 Chris Briggs
 Marilyn Brock
 Steven Brooks & Emily Hartnett
 Clayton & Pauline Brown
 Steve Brown, Steve's School Bus Service, Inc.
 Meredith Bunting 🐶
 John Campbell
 Jennifer Carleton
 Thomas & Judith Carr
 Rita Carroll
 Holly Carson
 Thomas Cashell
 Francis & Celeste Catano
 Cheryl Christner & Tim White
 Catherine S. Clark
 Mark & Linda Clark
 Peter & Nancy Clark
 Thomas Clow
 Gail Coffey
 Larry & Brigitte Cook
 Deering Lake Improvement Association
 Brendan Denehy
 Roger Dignard
 Amy Dillon
 Robert & Henry Dodge, Dodge Stores
 Mrs. Stephanie Dubreuil
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 Cara Ferrentino 🐶
 Erik Fey & Kathleen Ruty-Fey
 Lucy Gobin
 Wayne & Laura Goldner
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 Jordan Greenberg
 Don & Patricia Grosso
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 Karina Santos
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 Karen Simmons
 Joan & John Skewes
 Rod Stark
 Marion Stoddart 🐶
 Betty Straw
 Brian & Judy Streefer
 Martha Sunderland 🐶 🐶
 Barbara A. Thomson
 Scott Thornton
 Roy Tilsley & Shannon Kamieneski
 Erik Tolf
 Joe Trudeau
 Susan Tufts-Moore & Richard Moore
 Denise Vaillancourt
 Rick Van de Poll
 Ecosystem Management Consultants of NE 🐶
 Margaret Watkins
 Barry & Lois Wicklow 🐶
 Jonathan & Jessica Willard
 William Penn Foundation 🐶
 Andrea & Thomas Wing
 Carol Wolf 🐶
 Linda & Chip Young
 Julie Zebuhr & John Apostolos



2005 PWA celebrates its 35th anniversary. PWA Board Member John McCausland launches the "Walk in the Woods" public outing program. PWA's volunteer water quality monitoring continues in partnership with the NH DES Volunteer River Assessment Program. PWA's watershed photo contest attracts 37 entries. PWA completes three land projects during the year including the 170-acre Sunderland easement in Henniker.



2006 PWA launches the Legacy Society, recognizing PWA members who make gifts of land or make bequests through their estate plans. Volunteer-led invasive species and wildlife tracking efforts continue to be a high priority. PWA completes nine land protection projects including the Rice and Rose Mountain Foothills Preserves in Lyndeborough.



2007 PWA completes a record eleven land protection projects during the year, conserving a total of 998 acres, including an easement on the town of Weare's 611-acre Eastman conservation area.

2008 Reflecting its growing focus on land protection, PWA changes its name to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy (PLC). After ten years of service Margret Watkins steps down as Executive Director and is succeeded by Eric Masterson. PLC completes another ten conservation projects during the year, including the Shirley and Welch easements that protect 178 acres in Goffstown. PLC's land and easement holdings pass the 4,000-acre mark.

MEMBERS

\$50+

Anonymous (6)
 John Barnett
 Charles & Martine Bohnsack
 Dan Boschen
 Pete & Lex Bundschuh
 Denise Buzzell
 Dennis Card & Maureen McCarty
 Jim Carmody
 Arlon Chaffee
 Justin Clark
 Tyler Clements
 Raymond Cloutier
 William Coder
 Andrew Cohen
 Stephen & Suzanne Covino
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 Robert Hughes
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 Dr. Katie Kachavos 🐾
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 Sean Kellerson
 Peter Kelley
 Dave & Ruby Kent 🐾
 Grant Killian
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 Steven King
 Douglas Kwan
 David Lafferty
 J. Marcel LaFlamme & Carol Swiech
 Barbara Lagana
 Randy Larrison
 Curtis Lavoie
 Jon & Kaela Law
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 Robert & Lee Le Comte
 Andrea Lemieux
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 Shannon Surdam
 Roger Swain
 Elizabeth Sweetman
 Joan & Ed Tiffany
 Jarett Tighe
 VMware Foundation
 Craig Webb
 Heather Welch
 Cynthia Wilson
 Paul & Sharon Yergeau



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Up to \$49

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 Roland Berube
 Violet Blake
 H. Robert & Mary Frances Carey 🐾
 Don & Sarah Chapman
 Fred & Neila Daggett
 Peter & Christine Dallas
 Heidi Dawidoff
 Helga DeGrandpre
 David & Anita-Marie Deifik
 George Goodloe
 Cheryl & Joseph Hannaford
 Rochelle Hebert 🐾
 Jean Heinemann
 Kathleen Hoey
 David & Carol Hulick
 Joseph & Patricia Kayal
 Konopka
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 Daniel Murphy
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 Patricia Myers & Carolyn Sheehan 🐾
 John Pavoll
 PayPal Giving Fund
 Joanne & Walter Read
 Juliana Rowland
 Shaw's Supermarket
 Giving Tag Program
 April Teshima
 Joseph & Cora Trimbur
 Jeannine & Patrick Tucker
 Pam Ward & Peter Payne

LAND PROJECTS

Hobart-Fessenden Woods CE, Brookline (FY20 donations only)

Cara Ferrentino
The Nichols Trust
Town of Brookline
William Penn Foundation
Matching Gift Program

Nissitissit River Headwaters, Mason

Gail Coffey
Katherine & Dennis Duchesne
Linda Gould
Glynn & Anthony Graham
Helen Grembowicz
Judy Gross & Bob Merwin
Rochelle Hebert
Elizabeth Hunter
John Kerrick
Land and Community Heritage
Investment Program (LCHIP)
John Lewicke
Mason Conservation Commission
Harold Melcher
Merrimack Conservation Partnership
Bruce & Christine Nelson
David & Marcia Potter
Georgia Stone Industries, Inc
Amy Shakow
State of New Hampshire
Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund (ARM)
Marion Stoddart
Davis Conservation Foundation
Rick Van de Poll
Ecosystem Management Consultants of NE
Carol Wolf


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Mark Dunn Law Office
Monadnock Tent & Event
New Boston Bookkeeping & Payroll
Northeast Café
PayPal Giving Fund
RiverStone Resources LLC
Shaw's Supermarket - Giving Tag Program
Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green PA
Steve's School Bus Service, Inc.
Summit Computer Services
Weber Stave Design, LLC


*Special thanks to Summit Computer Services
for their incredible IT and Website support!*


SPECIAL GIFTS

Christine Anderson
Ansell & Anderson, P.A.
In memory of Ruth Tolf Ansell
Clayton & Pauline Brown
In memory of Earl A Bullard, Jr.
Gail Coffey
In honor of my son, Nicholas Coffey
(Nissitissit River Headwaters Project)
Judy Gross & Bob Merwin
In memory of Gaius Merwin
Paul Hider & Regina Conrad
In honor of Veronica F. Conrad
Dr. Richard Hockman
In memory of Linda Moore Hockman
(Founding member of Bedford Land Trust)
Elizabeth Hunter
In honor of Barbara DeVore
(Nissitissit River Headwaters Land Project)
Marilyn Magee
In honor of John Magee with love
from Dad and Meg
Nolan & Jaime Margo
In memory of Craig Rochefort, who
found peace in the Clark easements
when visiting our home
Pat Pine
In memory of Tom Pine
Georgia Stone Industries, Inc
In memory of Randy Smith
(Nissitissit River Headwaters project)
Joanne & Walter Read
In memory of my sister Janice
Gary & Patty Samuels
In honor of Arthur Walmsley
Dorothy & Ralph Sidore
In honor of Jimmy Shirley
Patricia A. Thompson
In memory of Bill Thompson
Ellen Townes-Anderson & Craig Anderson
In memory of Charles and Frances Townes

 **SUSTAINING SUPPORTER**
(Has a monthly contribution
with automatic payment)

 **LIFETIME PLC MEMBER**
(Donated a conservation
easement to PLC)

 **PISCATAQUOG LEGACY
SOCIETY MEMBER**
(Has donated land to PLC
or included PLC in their
estate plans)

 **DONATED TO LAND PROJECTS**



2009 PLC holds its first Lobster by the River fundraising dinner at Parker's Mill in New Boston. The riverside lobster bake is the brainchild of PLC board member Bill "Tuck" Tucker. The event becomes an annual tradition for the next decade (and counting). PLC ends the first decade of the twenty-first century with 85 conservation properties totaling 4,734 acres.

2010s

2010 PLC celebrates its 40th anniversary. Paula Bellemore succeeds Eric Masterson as executive director. PLC completes three land projects during the year including the Grant Family Farm easement in Weare.

2011 PLC closes its 90th land project, the 129-acre Blackbriar Woods Preserve in Goffstown.

2012 PLC hires Allison Gillum as the organization's first land protection specialist. PLC protects three new properties, including the Craney Pond and Colby Little Brook easements in Henniker and Chevy Hill Forest in Weare.



2013 At PLC's 43rd annual meeting, Carol Hess is recognized for a cumulative thirty years of service on PWA/PLC board. Jed Callen receives PLC's volunteer of the year award for more than twenty years of service as a member, board member, and pro bono legal counsel. PLC completes five new land protection projects during the year, and the Walk in the Woods program leads a dozen public walks attended by more than 200 people. Donna Seidel joins PLC as its administrative coordinator.



2014 Continuing its longtime partnership with the Frankestown Land Trust, PLC protects its 100th property, the Brennan Falls Preserve. The project brings PLC land and easement holdings to 6,002 acres. After more than a decade with PLC, Paula Bellemore leaves for a new position with the state's LCHIP program, and Chris Wells is hired as PLC's Executive Director. Tom Jones also arrives as PLC's new Land Protection Specialist, and Chris Borg as PLC's first permanent part-time Stewardship Coordinator. PLC completes a new strategic conservation plan with expert help from Dan Sundquist.

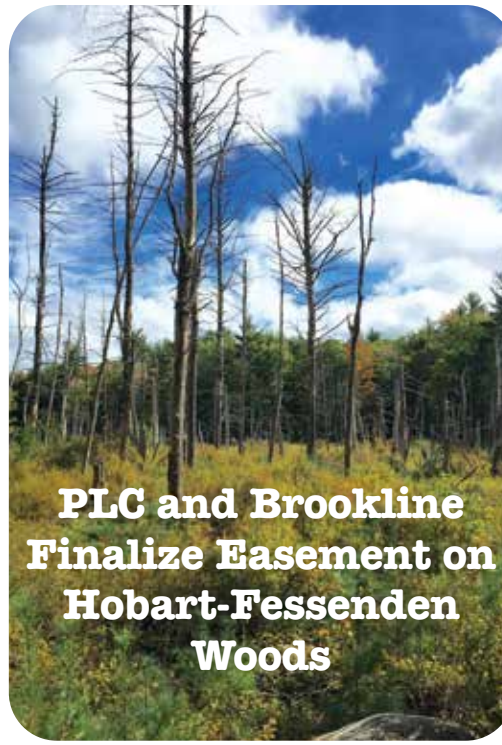
2015 PLC expands its service area to eleven additional towns in the Souhegan and Nashua River watersheds. After two simultaneous fundraising campaigns, PLC purchases the 189-acre Rose Mountain Preserve in Lyndeborough, and the 101-acre Black Brook Preserve in Goffstown. PLC holds the first Rose Mountain Rumble cycling event in Lyndeborough. PLC's program of volunteer-led public outings expands.



2016 PLC completes the Finke easement in Goffstown and Rand Brook Floodplain easement in Frankestown. PLC teams up with New Hampshire Fish & Game for a stream habitat improvement project at the Rose Mountain Foothills and Rice Preserves in Lyndeborough.



2017 PLC takes ownership of the 332-acre Florence Tarr Wildlife Sanctuary in Bedford and Goffstown. PLC purchases the 106-acre Proctor preserve in Lyndeborough and completes the 88-acre Nissitissit River easement in Brookline, its first partnership with an "expansion" town. Capping more than a year of intense effort, PLC is awarded national Land Trust Accreditation. Jordan Bailey starts as the Stewardship Coordinator. Just before



Culminating two years of effort, in early June the Town of Brookline donated a conservation easement on 439 acres of town-owned conservation land to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. Known to local residents as Hobart-Fessenden Woods, the land had been acquired by Brookline piece by piece over a period of years, at a total cost of

\$1.5 million. Until now the land was not subject to any easement or other outside restriction that guaranteed its permanent protection. The conservation easement held by PLC ensures the public's investment is protected in perpetuity, and that a future town vote cannot change the land's open space status.

Drew Kellner, a Brookline Selectman and longtime Conservation Commission member, says "we are delighted to close our third project with PLC and after a catching our breath I'm sure we'll be looking towards the next one. Now more than ever people are appreciating the need for conserved open spaces to get away from the stress that life often throws at them. It is our duty to ensure that those open spaces will be available now and for generations to come."

Hobart-Fessenden Woods features gently rolling forest, over two and half miles of streams, and more than fifty acres of wetlands. Public recreation is encouraged via an extensive trail system used for hiking, trail running, bicycling, and snowmobiling. When combined with abutting lands held by the Beaver Brook Association, Hobart-Fessenden Woods is part of a thousand-acre area in Brookline and Hollis that is unbroken by roads or development.



PLC OFFICE

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Chris Wells
- LAND PROTECTION SPECIALIST**
Tom Jones
- DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR**
Donna Seidel
- STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR**
Hailey Nase
- NEWSLETTER EDITOR**
Chris Wells
- NEWSLETTER DESIGN**
Weber Stave Design

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Doug Powers
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Eugene Van Loan

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Gordon Russell
Robert Todd
Margaret Watkins
- LEGAL COUNSEL**
BCM Environmental & Land Law

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Carrie Finke
Steve Walker

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.



A Reminiscence About a River

Anonymous

In the year 1938, a lad of nine years had his eyes, ears, and impressionable mind frightened and humbled by a river that was raging just outside his home. That storm of wind and water would earn a permanent place in New England weather records: The Hurricane and Flood of 1938. With both dangers increasing outside, his parents were getting ready to move. Who could have known that the river would play a major role in their son's life for the next eighty-plus years?

The North Branch of the Piscataquog River became dangerously angry in September of that year. An equally ominous and powerful hurricane co-partnered with the roiling waters. In the late afternoon melee, about 6:00 o'clock, a giant elm tree crashed into a shed, killing his pet pig. Electricity had long been severed. His father said, "Go to bed." A couple of sleepless hours later, the rising river waters had filled the cellar. From his bed, the boy could feel the earth under his house shake as the powerful river rolled great boulders downstream that thumped against bedrock. With the screaming winds and flooding water, deep impressions of Nature's powers were fused in the frightened lad's body. During that historic storm, the name Piscataquog River found a permanent place for itself in a young boy's impressionable mind.

High school days found the teenager engrossed in being a brook explorer, his curious mind intrigued by old mill foundations; what stories were they hiding? Who built them? Exactly where did the brook begin? Often landowners would be met,

and stories would be listened to, many remembered. Unknown at those times, the wildness of the watershed found a home within the boy, along with unforgettable encounters of its wildlife, high hills, and low mountains.

A day came in 1969 when a few New Boston residents wanted to meet to discuss ways to protect land along the river's South Branch. Thirty-one years had elapsed since the '38 Flood washed away parts of a railroad bed, where Boston and Maine Co. trains served New Boston. That rail bed bordered a picturesque few mile of highway along the river between New Boston and Goffstown, and the corridor of land there was under threat of development.

From that invitation, the man joined other caring folks who knew how important it was to keep the beauty and integrity of the river intact. An official group was formed, thus the Piscataquog Watershed Association came to be in 1970, only the 2nd such group in NH. As a PWA member and teacher in local schools, the watershed played a major role in what he shared with students in his 'nature' classrooms. Atlantic Salmon eggs were hatched, their life-story learned, living fry were released into the river. A touching connection to three stories

From his bed, the boy could feel the earth under his house shake as the powerful river rolled great boulders downstream that thumped against bedrock... During that historic storm, the name Piscataquog River found a permanent place for itself in a young boy's impressionable mind.

– a clean river, a tiny fish, (albeit one with a doubtful future), and the hearts of the youth who nurtured them with love and innocent hope.

After retiring from teaching in 1978, much time, as measured in years, was given to working on behalf of the PWA's mission. Protecting watershed land became the priority. Working with landowners, knowing the watershed's areas of rich biodiversity became a sense of responsibility.

Now an old man, the wonders and endless experiences, and fellowships felt as a contributing watershed member, can only be described in terms of a life well given, with much gifted.



the first snow of the season, twelve hardy volunteers and a semi-retired draft horse named Fannie Mae install long-promised gates at the Rose Mountain Preserve.

2018 PLC begins its first-ever timber harvest at the Tuthill Woodlands Preserve in New Boston. The Board of Trustees adopt a new 5-year strategic plan for the organization. Volunteers plant native plants along Cold Brook at PLC's Proctor Preserve. PLC launches an ambitious fundraising campaign to purchase a 205-acre working woodland in Weare.



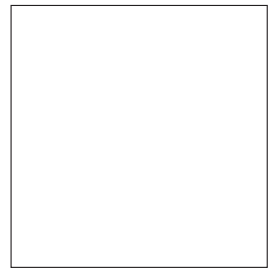
2019 PLC successfully completes the fundraising to acquire the property in Weare, which becomes the Bob French Woodlands Preserve. The organization also completes the Jennings easement in Goffstown and Houghton acquisition in New Boston. The NH Charitable Foundation makes multi-year operating grant to PLC. Hailey Nase joins PLC as Stewardship Coordinator, and goes full-time in January 2020.

2020 So far...at midnight on January 1st, the Bedford Land Trust merges into PLC, adding fourteen properties totaling 704 acres to PLC's stewardship. In March, Covid-19 pandemic causes PLC staff to begin working from home. In June PLC completes the 439-acre Hobart-Fessenden conservation easement with the town of Brookline and purchases the 267-acre Nissitissit Headwaters Preserve in Mason. At the 50-year mark PLC owns or holds conservation easements on 128 properties totaling 8,717 acres.



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Address Service Requested



Upcoming Outings & Events

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, PLC has not yet scheduled any public outings for the fall of 2020. Depending on how state health data and guidance evolves, we may still schedule outings on a month to month basis, so watch our e-newsletter and website for updates. To subscribe to our e-news. Just click the "join our mailing list" button at the bottom of our website www.plcnh.org.

October 24 | PLC's 50th Annual Meeting

The meeting will take place from **5:00-6:30 PM** via Zoom teleconference. Register online at www.plcnh.org.



THE PISCATAQUOG LAND CONSERVANCY NEWSLETTER

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TO CONSERVE
the natural and scenic landscapes of the Piscataquog,
Souhegan, and Nashua River watersheds of New Hampshire. **PLC**