



## The Newsletter of the Francestown Land Trust, Inc.

Spring 2025

# Benefits of Long-Term Partnership

**SINCE 1986**, the Francestown Land Trust (FLT) has worked with, and been guided by, the community in our mission to preserve open space—not only to protect habitat and enrich the quality of life for current and future generations, but to contribute to Francestown's financial health.

One of the benefits of our long-term community partnership has been to leverage resources. Over a ten-year period, FLT has been able to conserve one acre of land for every \$185 donated to funding its operations.

### This open space:

- Enables landowners to protect the land they love
- Drives economic activity
- Promotes smart growth and helps to maintain fiscal balance

## Partnering with Landowners

The FLT helps landowners conserve the land they love for the benefit of future generations. We do this by reviewing, holding and monitoring conservation easements.

The decision to establish conservation easements rests with individual landowners, who may reserve specific conditions for land use, such as the right to keep a garden or maintain recreational or educational trails. Once a conservation easement is established, the FLT assumes responsibility for monitoring its legally binding terms. As such, each potential easement is carefully evaluated to ensure it aligns with long-term community benefits and possesses significant conservation merits. Currently, FLT holds conservation easements on 35 privately owned properties, protecting more than 1,800 acres. The landowner continues to pay property taxes on these lands.

In addition to holding conservation easements, the FLT directly owns conserved land, including the *Rand Brook Forest* and *Schott Brennan Falls Reserve*. These properties, which are of significant environmental importance, have been acquired through community fundraisers, environmental grants, and donations from generous landowners. Currently, the organization owns properties totaling 1,259 acres. All FLT land is unposted and open to the public. FLT pays property taxes on all of the properties it owns.

**Over a ten-year period, FLT has been able to conserve one acre of land for every \$185 donated to funding its operations**

## Economic Activity

As a rural community, in a largely rural state, our town's diversified economy benefits from construction, forestry, clean water, outdoor sports, and recreation. Open space attracts new residents for an appealing quality of life. New residents often stimulate demand for construction by purchasing new houses or renovating existing ones. Hunters, hikers, bikers, and skiers patronize our community store and café.

## Smart Growth and Fiscal Balance

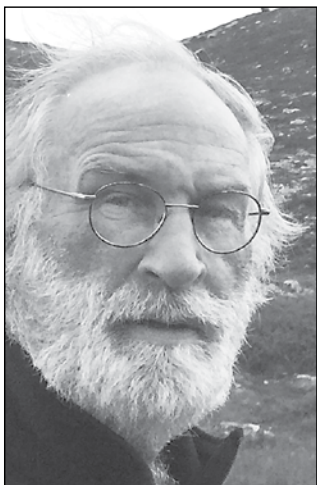
Open space can serve to maintain our town's rural character. According to a 2024 report by the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute, New Hampshire's population growth has been greatest in the White Mountains and Lakes Region, but our town will grow over time and development will undoubtedly come our way. Francestown's reasonable proximity to the region's economic hubs, together with improved internet access for remote work and our authentic New Hampshire character, are key economic advantages. For nearby employers, Francestown offers their employees a desirable and healthy outdoor lifestyle, living close to the land, which the FLT helps to preserve.

**Benefits of Long-Term Partnership** *Continued on page 4*



photo by Greg Neilley

# A Letter from the Chair



## Spring 2025

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In New England we know how to be patient—especially when it comes to the advent of Spring.

We've learned to ignore *Fool's Spring*; to hunker down for *Second Winter*; to not be fooled by the *Spring of Deception*; to tolerate *Third Winter*; to sneeze our way through *The Pollening*—until, finally, we get to... Actual Spring.

As I said, it takes patience.

The same might be said for land projects. This year a number of our projects—some that have been in progress for years—appear to be coming to fruition. There are many steps along the way, involving landowners, lawyers, surveyors, natural resource management professionals, and title companies. The final step

in any land project, whether it be a Conservation Easement or an acquisition of a parcel of land, is the closing.

While we anticipate closing on more than a few projects this year, we are, at the same time, just taking the first steps on new ones. In particular, we are very excited about designating part of the *Rand Brook Forest* as an "Old-Growth Forest." This designation defines how we will manage this section of forest to allow it to grow to its full ecological potential.

At 6:30PM on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>, the Francestown Land Trust will hold its Annual Meeting. After gathering for refreshments and conversation at 6:00PM, and following a brief business meeting, Sarah RobbGrieco, the Northeast Regional Manager of the Old-Growth Forest Network, will present a program on *Old-Growth Forests*. (You'll have to be just a little bit patient during the business portion of our meeting before getting to the fun part!)

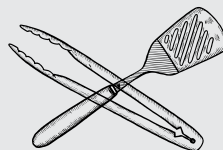
Speaking of conducting business, accompanying this newsletter is our membership drive envelope. Our annual membership fee is \$25 and confers voting rights for two adults per household, as well as invitations to special members-only events.

Membership fees cover most of our annual operating costs, which, as an all-volunteer organization, we do our best to keep at a minimum. These costs include producing newsletters, hosting events, and active stewardship of our holdings.

Protecting the agricultural, recreational, and conservation value of land in Francestown and surrounding towns involves a lot of behind-the-scenes work. We appreciate your support and donations of all kinds.

As the seasons seem to speed by more quickly with each passing year, perhaps less and less patience will be required to welcome True Spring? We hope you are able to enjoy the fullness of each season as they come and the opportunities they present.

Larry Ames, Chair  
Francestown Land Trust



**More than 80 people** enjoyed scrumptious lasagna, salad, bread, fruit and dessert prepared by FLT board members at the Francestown Community Supper in February.

## Francestown Land Trust, Inc. Board of Directors

### Larry Ames, Chair

lsames@worldpath.net  
603-547-8809

### Betsy Hardwick, Vice Chair

betsy03043@gmail.com  
603-620-5724

### Greg Neilley, Treasurer

neilley@comcast.net  
603-547-2856

### Dennis Rodier, Secretary

dennisrodier@gmail.com  
603-547-6417

### Barry Wicklow, Director

bwicklow@anselm.edu  
603-547-9904

### Ben Haubrich, Director

bph03043@gmail.com  
603-547-2075

### Ted Graham, Director

graham.ted@gmail.com  
301-325-5807

### Paul Lawrence, Director

janeandpaul@gmail.com  
603-547-2138

### Hannah Proctor, Director

hqproctor@gmail.com  
603-547-2816

### Marsha Dixon, Director

marshadixon1720@gmail.com  
603-831-1586

### Tim Coffin, Director

tcoffin@comcast.net  
978-502-9722



Francestown Land Trust, Inc.  
PO Box 132  
Francestown NH 03043  
francestownlandtrust.org  
info@francestownlandtrust.org

To be notified of upcoming events, contact Hannah Proctor at hqproctor@gmail.com to be added to the email list.



# Old-Growth Forests:

## What They Are and Why They Matter

**OLD-GROWTH FORESTS** show us everything a forest can be.

When left to grow over many generations, they are the best carbon-capture technology our planet has to offer, contain rich biodiversity, support rare species, and filter water and air.

Because old-growth forests have been standing for hundreds, or even thousands of years, walking through them can strengthen our connection to the past, to each other, and to our bountiful natural world. These forests are some of the most beautiful and awe-inspiring natural environments on Earth.

When we look at a forest, it might seem that very little changes from year to year, but it does. Forests, like humans, can be classified as young, mature, or old. All stages have an important ecological role to play. But the amount of old-growth forest on this continent has been declining every year since the original forests were first cut by European settlers. Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that only 1% of virgin forest in the east and 5% in the west remain.

What does an old-growth forest look like? According to the *Old-Growth Forest Network*,<sup>1</sup> features include:

- **Individual old trees:** surviving remnant large trees (>20" diameter)
- **Abundant large dead trees:** quantity indicating that enough time has passed for large trees to develop, mature, and die
- **Buttress roots:** surface-level roots that strengthen trees against wind-throw
- **Nurse logs:** decomposing fallen trees that provide space, nutrients, and water for young tree seedlings to become established
- **Ghost logs:** nurse logs that have decomposed, leaving trees and roots elevated and growing in a line
- **Elevated root structures:** potential den sites created by the roots of trees grown on nurse logs
- **Undulating forest floor:** wavy appearance of the forest floor due to disturbance by uprooted, wind-thrown trees
- **Trees with spiked tops:** die-back of dominant stems associated with older conifers
- **Micro-habitats and understory plant communities:** small scale habitats providing for insects, reptiles, and amphibians
- **Trees and logs in multiple stages of decomposition:** advanced decay indicating enough time has passed for these processes to take place, making old-growth forests one of the few land-uses where topsoil is created instead of destroyed
- **Large cavities:** holes associated with decay that may serve as shelter and nesting places for birds and mammals
- **A spectrum of moisture gradients:** moisture retained within an old-growth forests benefits lichen, mosses, and fungi, and the species that live among them
- **Pre-forest openings:** temporary opening in the forest canopy created by a disturbance which is dominated by grasses and shrubs prior to tree seedling establishment



There is renewed focus on restoring these characteristics to our current forests to help with biodiversity conservation, carbon sequester, and resilience to climate change.<sup>2</sup>

### Biodiversity and Forest Resiliency

Old-growth forests offer habitat niches for an enormous array of plants and animals. Plants, such as wild sarsaparilla, dwarf ginseng, cucumber root, squirrel corn, lungwort lichen, and feather moss, are more abundant.

Birds, such as woodpeckers, warblers, thrushes, and mammals, including the fisher, reach higher densities in forests with old-growth characteristics.

Greater diversity expands options—and the more uncertain the future, the more critical having more options becomes. With average increases in temperatures, larger scale natural disasters, and the spread of invasive diseases, conservationists worldwide are working to understand how forests function and evolve to encourage diversity in the face of changing conditions.<sup>3</sup>

Here in New Hampshire, Jeff Lougee, Director of Land Management for The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire, has been watching the forest in Green Hills Preserve near the New Hampshire/Maine border, lose what little species diversity it had. An onslaught of invasive spongy moth populations was devastating, and now beech bark and leaf diseases threaten. Experiments are underway to see if opening forest canopy will encourage a greater diversity of shade-tolerant species. The

**Old-Growth Forest** Continued on page 5



## Full Moon Hike

**FRANCESTOWN OFFERS** a wide range of community activities, from coffee houses, to tennis tournaments, Labor Day celebrations, speaker series, and much more. The FLT contributes to the Town's events calendar with year-round, conservation-aligned educational and recreational options.

In January, we co-hosted a winter full moon hike with the Frankestown Conservation Commission. Two dozen or so adventurous souls gathered at West End Farm on Farrington Road. With a fresh few inches of snow falling throughout the day, the clouds cleared just in time for the moon to break through and brightly reflect off the snow. The group made its way through Crotched Mountain woods on a winding foot path around to the Joselin Trail and then circled back to Farrington Road via Bullard Hill. Back at West End Farm, the hikers warmed up around a blazing fire, enjoying each other's company and a potluck-loaded table of refreshments.

Our trails and recreational and educational programs are open to everyone. For more information, and to register for alerts about upcoming events, please visit the *News and Programs* tab on our website: [FrankestownLandTrust.org](http://FrankestownLandTrust.org)

We hope to see you out there!



## Benefits of Long-Term Partnership *Continued from page 1*

In addition to promoting economic activity, conserved land helps support fiscal balance by easing the need for capital intensive infrastructure and municipal services. A 2014 study, compiled by the Trust for Public Lands, found that open space, working farms, and forests in New Hampshire require an average of only \$0.56 in services for every \$1 paid in taxes.<sup>1</sup>

As such, open space both supports smart growth in Frankestown and is a prudent investment toward a more sustainable community.

Land conservation can also provide real tangible economic benefits that are often ignored due to a short-term focus. For example, conserved forests and waterways can fortify our town's resilience to a changing climate and save money for future taxpayers by reducing the need for, and cost of, emergency response. Forest trees protect air quality and provide canopy from heat. Wetlands can both offset drought vulnerability and mitigate the kind of extreme flooding and erosion experienced last Fall in Asheville, North Carolina.

## Join the Partnership

As the FLT approaches its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Frankestown, we are encouraged by the community's ongoing support. And we invite new volunteers who are inspired to join us.

<sup>1</sup> [tpl.org/nh-roi-report](http://tpl.org/nh-roi-report)

*Tim Coffin*

## Please Join Us!

**CONSERVING AND** enjoying our Special Places is part of a long-term plan to protect our community's rural character and quality of life. With the coming of Spring, we're hoping you'll join us as we explore more Special Places!

If you enjoyed our hikes last year or are new to the trails and would like company during your rambling, come join us on one of our **Exploring our Trails – Beyond our Borders** hikes, featuring trails that cross into our neighboring towns: Bennington, Deering, Greenfield, and Weare. We're also offering more **Slow and Steady** hikes.

Our educational outdoor series, **Lessons in the Forest**, is underway with plans for seasonal programs, including looking for Spring wildflowers, identifying trees, and exploring the cellar holes in "Lost Village."

For more information, be on the lookout for flyers posted at Frankestown's Post Office, Town Office, Kiosk, and Library, as well as notices in *The Frankestown News*. Or simply sign up to get our Program Participant emails by contacting Hannah Proctor ([hqproctor@gmail.com](mailto:hqproctor@gmail.com) or 603-547-2816).





planting of tree species collected from the South is also underway. The intent is to try and help forests become more resilient by establishing a greater diversity of species that can be “a source of seeds” in the future.

## Forest Carbon

Old-growth forests act as climate buffers by accumulating and storing vast quantities of carbon, as well as by providing water storage and local cooling.<sup>3</sup> Although young forests absorb atmospheric carbon at faster rates, old-growth forests store the greatest amount of carbon, because their trees accumulate carbon over their entire lifespan. Over time, mycorrhiza soil networks become more connected between trees, enabling trees to share, and take up even more carbon as forest succession progresses.<sup>4</sup> A global study determined that the oldest trees in a forest are the most important for carbon retention, with as 1% of the oldest trees accounting for more than 50% of the total carbon containing biomass. As such, managing forests in a way that conserves large diameter trees and trees with the potential to become large and conserving unmanaged, wild forests is a strategy for reducing atmospheric carbon.

Old-growth forests, with species evolving over thousands of years, once covered 90% of New England. Today, old-growth forests are rare, occupying only 1% of the region.<sup>3</sup> While returning to the pre-settlement forest is not possible, given the

scale of forests and environmental change, we can work to support essential elements of a maturing landscape, including coarse organic matter and structural complexity.<sup>5</sup>

## Old-Growth Forest Network

Founded by Nancy Maloof in 2007, and based in Maryland, the *Old-Growth Forest Network* is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit whose mission is to create a national network of protected old-growth forests in the U.S.

The Network adds their voice and offers technical advice to community-based advocates, as well as private landowners, to realize their old-growth forest preservation goals. As of March 2025, the *Old-Growth Forest Network* had registered 276 forests in 39 states. New Hampshire currently has two registered forests, one in Coos county and one in Carroll county.

Old-growth forests offer a landscape for scientific investigation, research and educational activities for the purposes of inventorying, observing, and understanding the complex interactions of the plant and animal organisms over time. Restoring old-growth or conserving existing old-growth requires guardianship, which can be accomplished through passive or active management. Passive management is a hands-off approach that allows old-growth to develop on its own, letting nature take its course. Active management can be tailored to the goals and objectives of the forest owner and may include the removal

of invasive species, thinning to create larger trees, or introducing certain trees to increase the age-class diversity of the forest and accelerate the succession to old-growth forest characteristics. This flexibility in management also allows landowners to address unforeseen future impacts to the forest.<sup>2</sup>

Although we can't bring back old-growth forests, we can restore old-growth characteristics to portions of our forests. The FLT has designated a 125-acre section of hemlock-oak-pine forest along Rand Brook in the *Rand Brook Forest* to be allowed to develop as an old-growth forest. It already has trees that are more than 170 years old.

To learn more about old-growth forests, come hear Sarah RobbGrieco, Northeast Regional Manager of the *Old-Growth Forest Network* speak at the FLT Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 12, at 6:30PM.

<sup>1</sup> Old-Growth Forest Network. [www.oldgrowthforest.net](http://www.oldgrowthforest.net)

<sup>2</sup> D'Amato A. and Catanzaro P. 2022. Restoring old-growth characteristics in New England and New York forests. University of Vermont Land Trust publication 34 pp.

<sup>3</sup> Barnett-Fischels, Kelsey 2025. The Future Forest. Nature Issue 1: 2025.

<sup>4</sup> Morire et al 2017. Soil Networks Become more Connected and Take Up More Carbon as Nature Restoration Progresses. Nature Communications 8: 14349.

<sup>5</sup> Reconstructing the Past: Maine Forests Then and Now, Barton, Andrew, Alan White, Charles Cogbill. Northern Woodlands, 2013 summer.

Hannah Proctor

## New Conservation Easement on Brennan Brook

**THE FLT IS PROUD** to announce the completion of a conservation easement project along Brennan Brook in Franconstown. The project was made possible through the generosity of Linda and Jim Roche, who said they donated the easement “because Brennan Brook flows through our property and the Piscataquog River sits right nearby, we were more than happy to help protect what we are fortunate to have here.”

Protected portions of the property include 520 feet of Brennan Brook; the remains of the old Dunklee Mill Pond; and riparian habitat that the *NH Wildlife Action Plan* classifies as among the *Highest Ranked Habitat in NH*. The parcel also serves as a connector to more than 800-acres of adjacent conservation land along the Piscataquog River.

Brennan Brook was recognized by the 2004 *Headwaters Project* as one of the most pristine streams in the Piscataquog River system. The FLT will now assume responsibility for helping to protect this valuable resource.





**A BIG THANK YOU** to the numerous people who work behind the scenes to make the twice-a-year *Joan Hanchett Nature Series (JHNS)* happen! In addition to the Frankestown Land Trust, the series is sponsored by the Frankestown Conservation Commission, the George Holmes Bixby Memorial Library, and *The Frankestown News*.

## Spring JHNS presentation: Dragons & Damsels

**ON A STILL CHILLY** Friday March 28<sup>th</sup> evening, 42 attendees were treated to a super lecture on dragonflies and damselflies, by Pamela Hunt of NH Audubon.

It was a delight to learn more about the winged insects we see patrolling low over wetlands, taking over the air space above lawns or meadows on a warm summer day, or landing on our kayaks when out paddling.

We were dazzled by their descriptive common names. For dragonflies, these included: *skimmers*, *dashers*, *darners*, *saddlebags*, *gliders*, *emeralds*, *cruisers* and *club-tails*. For damselflies, they included: *dancers*, *wisps*, *damsels*, *narrow-wings*, *jewel-wings*, and *spread-wings*. (And just so you are in-the-know, a group of the flying insects is called a “flight.”)

Known for their acrobatic antics, especially during mating, dragonflies and damselflies are a very ancient group of four-winged insects, with ancestors flying 320 million years ago!

Larger and more robust, dragonflies hold both pairs of wings wide open when resting. Damselflies are considered dainty, and when resting, the wings are usually held closed above their body.

Both dragonflies and damselflies belong to the order of insects called *Odonata*, meaning ‘toothed jaws.’ With their extendable jaws, they are voracious predators on all things smaller than themselves—and sometimes larger!

The insects’ earliest life stage is aquatic, as a larva or “nymph.” When ready to transform into an adult, the nymph shifts itself to the edge of the water, learns to breathe air, and finally, pushes itself out of its shell, emerging as an adult. It dries its wings and takes to the air.

Among the great slides and video, we were treated to a time-lapse video of a nymph emerging out of its case, over the actual period of about half an hour.

In addition to lectures, Pam coordinates the *NH Dragonfly Survey*, with the goal of establishing a thorough index on the status of dragonflies and damselflies in New Hampshire and tracking changes in their populations. The most recent survey, a database compiled from observations by enthusiastic volunteers, recorded 157 species in NH!

The survey has found one species that is moving north, adapting to different habitats. It has also discovered that some species, which have been rarely seen in the past, are more common than previously thought. Only one dragonfly, the *Ringed Boghaunter* is the on NH’s threatened and endangered species list.

The informative presentation sparked interactive crowd participation and left us all wanting to know more!

### Fun Fact:

**Q:** Why does Concord, NH have more dragonfly species on record than the state of California?

**A:** Water. (Wow!)

## Fall JHNS Presentation: Brilliant Beaver

**IT WAS A BALMY** November evening, under the brilliance of the Beaver Moon,\* when 64 attendees were treated to Willa Coroka’s lecture on the *Brilliant Beaver*.

Willa Coroka, of The Magpie’s Apprentice, provided a superb presentation on the beaver, that fascinating mammal with the large reputation.

Four young people from the audience gamely volunteered to get dressed in odd attire to illustrate the specialized features that enable beaver to be impressive engineers and flourish in and out of the water. They donned thick pelts that protect beaver from the wet and cold; earmuffs to symbolize the skin valves that beaver have to block the water out of their ears when underwater; goggles to represent the clear membrane that slides down over the beaver’s eyes when swimming, and big showy lips to note the amazing fact that

beavers have not just one, but two sets of lips! The second set of lips closes behind the teeth to allow them to carry sticks when swimming.

We learned that iron makes the beaver’s big ever-growing teeth orange, self-sharpening, and able to chop wood; how webbed beaver feet provide underwater propulsion; and how a big flat tail acts as a rudder for underwater navigating, stores fat for the winter, and slaps the surface of the water to warn about danger.

And if that wasn’t enough, we were endeared to beaver even more by learning that they are fiercely loyal to their families, mate for life, and have a major beneficial impact on the environment. By damming up streams to create ponds that enable them to build and protect their lodges in the middle, they help to create and maintain wetlands that hundreds of plants and animals call home. Indeed, they are now purposely introduced into barren regions to quickly and dramatically

improve habitat. With almost half of all endangered species in North America living in wetlands, this is a critical service!

In addition to a fun, engaging and informative talk with wonderful photos, Willa Coroka offered an after-presentation activity for those that wanted to try their hand at making a beaver dam.

In all, it made for an amazing evening under the Beaver Moon!

*\*The Beaver Moon is named for the time of busy activity by beavers as they prepare for winter. It was shining its brightest at 4:29 p.m. EST on November 15, the evening of the Brilliant Beaver presentation and marked the last super moon of the year. Its placement in the Earth sign of Taurus amplified a focus on comfort, stability, and tangible joys—with lunar energy encouraging us to embrace simplicity and indulge in the small pleasures of life.*

# Thank you to all our supporters!

The Franchestown Land Trust is dependent upon, and deeply appreciative of, community support. Whether you are a Franchestown resident, a neighbor in the region, or you just have a special place in your heart for our town and its wild places, we would like to express our gratitude to all who have supported us during this past year:

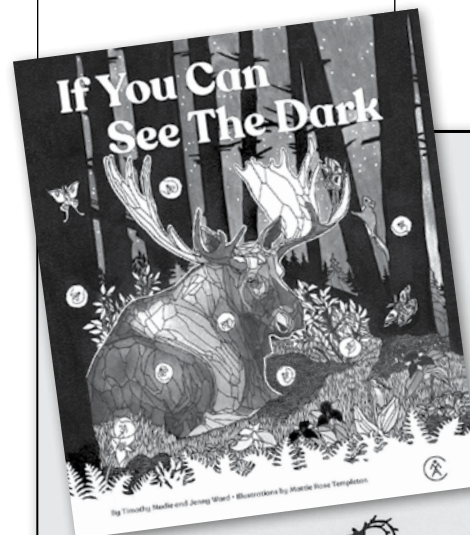
Beverly Abbott  
Bobby Abbott  
Carlos Agudelo & Jennifer Vadney  
Brewster & Elizabeth Ames  
Larry Ames & Jay Hale  
John P. Arnold  
Pamela Avery  
Bruce Bachand  
Judith Badot & Ron Cheney\*\*  
Vicki Baggia  
Moe Baptiste  
Jim & Cher Barker  
Merrill Beauchamp  
Jerry Begley  
Ruth Behrsing & Peter Jones  
Gerri Bernstein  
Judith & Robert Bitterli  
David & Patricia Blake  
Christine Boudreau  
Doug & Donna Boulter  
Breckinridge Capital Advisors  
Jeff & Paula Briggs  
Stewart & Carol Brock  
Herb Bromberg  
Philip Brooks  
Tim & Dianne Buirge  
David Butler  
Frank & Diana Byrne  
Kathy Byrne  
Meade Cadot & Sandy Taylor  
Robert & Mary Frances Carey  
Chris & Christy Claflin  
Miriam & Fillmore Clark  
Timothy & Amy Coffin  
Sara Cox & Jeff Gorton  
Richard Crawford  
Martha Cruciani  
Cycles Etc  
Heidi Dawidoff  
Russell Dedmon  
Anna Dingman & Jared Nelson  
Lisa & Tom DiRienzo  
Marsha Dixon  
Dumas Trust  
Claire Duvallet & Ben Pollak  
Peter & Mary Eppig  
Christina Falco  
Grace Falco  
Martha Farmer  
Jim & Deb Farrow

Tim & Mary Feltz  
John Ferranti  
Ruediger Flik  
Ann & Bill Forbush  
Michael & Tammy McClary Foreman  
The Franchestown News  
Jenny & Derek Fritz  
Francois Gauthier & Leigh Robinson  
George Holmes Bixby Memorial Library  
John & Joan Giese  
David Gleason  
Kevin & Madeleine Gordon  
Ted Graham & Marcy Tripp  
Stephen & Janet Griffin  
Sheryl Guterl  
Comfort & Greg Halsey  
Betsy Hardwick & Jeff Tarr  
Ben & Robin Haubrich  
Lisa & Scot Heath  
Richard Herfurth  
Janet Hicks\*  
Isabella Hill  
Ken & Cecily Houston  
Paula Hunter & Joe Valentine  
Roger & Mary Pat Jackson  
Jerry Johns  
David & Susannah Jonas  
Susan Kane  
Robert & Wendy Koch  
Larry & Barbara Laber  
Rodney Lamon  
Elizabeth & Ralph Lavallee  
Jane & Paul Lawrence  
Vicki Leandri  
Bob & Linda Lindgren  
Kelly & Paul Marshall  
Chester & Anne Masel  
Lauren McAloon  
Ellie Miles & William McAuley  
Donald & Martha McGinley  
David & Janice McKenzie  
John & Sally McLaughlin  
Thomas & Margaret Merrow  
Gerald Miller  
Ann Montgomery  
Jim & Sue Morash  
Pierre Morin & Donna Rafdal  
Michael & Mary Murphy

Greg & Ellen Neilley  
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation  
Sheldon Pennoyer & Penelope Beal  
Nancy Perry  
William & Jennifer Petersen  
Pinnacle Fish & Game Club, Inc  
Mark & Shirley Pitman  
Kevin & Mindy Pobst  
Hannah Proctor  
Sarah & Charlie Pyle  
Jeff Rider  
Jim & Linda Roche  
Dennis & Eileen Rodier  
Catharine Roehrig  
Christopher and Deborah Rogers  
Carol Russell  
George Sanderson & Tracey Szantos  
Joanne Santospago  
Ruth & Charlie Scott  
Robert Seamans III  
Jacqueline Smethurst & David Drinkwater  
Caldwell Smith & Alice Benedict  
Cynthia & Jim St. Jean  
Robert & Johanna Staub  
John & Cathi Steiger  
Steve's School Bus Service

Robert Stiratelli  
Kat Strange  
Laura Studen & Marilyn Campbell  
Thomas Sullivan  
Timothy & Karen Sullivan  
Roger Swain  
Patricia Swan  
Fletcher & Janet Taft  
Ben & Kate Taylor  
David Taylor  
John & Patricia Thalhauser  
William Thomson  
Barry & Terri Tiedt  
Ed & Joan Tiffany  
William & Bessann Triplett  
Christine & Thomas Tyrie  
Martine Villalard-Bohnsack & Charles Bohnsack  
Francie VonMertens  
Margaret Watkins  
Barry & Lois Wicklow  
Lisa Wilsher & Steve Chamberlin  
Hollis & Fletcher Wilson  
Harry & Lisa Woodbury  
Robert & Patricia Zeamans  
George & Pat Zink

\* In Memory of Abigail Arnold  
\*\* In honor of Elizabeth Lavallee



## Check it out!

As a follow-up to last year's JHNS talk **Nocturnal Wonders**, presented during International Dark Sky Week, the FLT has donated a copy of the children's book **If You Can See the Dark** to the Franchestown George Holmes Bixby Memorial Library.







**FRANCESTOWN  
LAND TRUST**

PO Box 132  
Francestown NH 03043

PRST NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
FRANCESTOWN NH  
PERMIT NO. 9

Return Service Requested

**FLT ANNUAL MEETING**

**THURSDAY  
JUNE 12  
6:30 PM**

## **OLD-GROWTH FORESTS: Why They Matter and How to Protect Them**

**THE FRANCESTOWN LAND TRUST** will hold its Annual Meeting at 6:30PM on Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. After a gathering for refreshments and conversation at 6:00PM and a brief business meeting, our featured speaker will be Sarah RobbGrieco, Northeast Regional Manager for the Old-Growth Forest Network.

Old-growth forests have been standing for hundreds of years, they show us everything a forest can be. They contain rich biodiversity, support rare species, filter water and air, and are the best carbon-capture technology our planet has to offer.

The Old-Growth Forest Network is the only national network in the U.S. of protected, old-growth, native forests. With a B.A. in Biology from Vassar College and more than 15 years of experience in nonprofit leadership, Sarah RobbGrieco helps people preserve, protect, and promote the remaining old-growth forests of New England.

Come learn about old-growth forests, how to recognize them, and why they are important. We'll hear about how the national Old-Growth Forest Network protects and promotes these special places in New Hampshire.

Location: **Old Meeting House of Francestown**