



The Newsletter of the Francestown Land Trust, Inc.

Fall 2022

21st Century forests face growing challenges

What can we do to help?

The Francestown Land Trust stewards over 3,000 acres of land, most of it forested.

The importance of the health of these forests cannot be overstated. They protect water quality, provide critical wildlife habitat, and serve as an important economical and recreational resource.

Most importantly, forests release oxygen and remove carbon from the atmosphere through photosynthesis. About 36% of the carbon in a forest is stored above ground (mostly in living trees) and about 50% is below ground (mostly in soil). Dead wood (snags and fallen trees) and leaf litter account for about 14% of a forest's carbon.

In New Hampshire, forests are the natural vegetative cover. Most land in our area would revert to forest if we were to let Mother Nature have her way. One hundred years ago, much of this land was in agriculture, so most of our local forests have been cleared at least once. In addition to human activity, natural forces, such as fires or hurricanes, also create clearings in the forest over time.

The process by which cleared land again becomes forest is called 'succession' and natural forests contain an ever-changing variety of species adapted to the conditions of the ecosystem as it evolves. The end point of succession is called the 'climax forest.' The species diversity in a climax forest depends upon environmental factors, such as soil type, moisture, and exposure.

New stressors

The warming climate, land fragmentation and development, the introduction of invasive insects and diseases, and the elimination of apex predators have placed enormous stress on our forests. These stressors may also interact and compound their effect.

What can we, as a conservation organization and individual landowners, do to help keep our forests healthy into the future?

We can help increase forest resiliency (the capacity of a forest to respond to a disturbance by resisting damage or stress and recovering quickly) in a number of ways:

- Keeping our forests connected and un-fragmented increases their resiliency and provides valuable habitat for both plant and animal species. As individuals, we may want to consider donating land or conservation easements to land trusts or other conservation organizations to keep large parcels in one piece. Owners of smaller parcels could see their property as part of a larger landscape and connect with neighbors

Forest Challenges *Continued on page 4*



Ode to the Forests of Francestown

*I know that I will never be
As strong and graceful as a tree
As calm as dusk at Pleasant's edge
Or handsome as is Crotched's ledge*

*I am not soft, like winds that waft
Across the bows of well-worn craft
Or sparkly like the wind-swept spray
At Brennan's Falls, up Bullard Way*

*I am not sweet like farmland soils
Or swift like Rand Brook rapids roils
I'm not as pleasant as a stroll
Along the Shattuck Forest knoll*

*I'm not as hearty as a tromp
Along the edge of Arnold's Swamp
Where fox and otters often romp
And moose are sometimes known to clomp*

*I cannot offer the delight
Of hooting owls in the night
Of loons that disappear from sight
Or heron startled into flight*

*Or spending many hours sweet
On Fisher Hill where hawks we meet
And vernal pools provide retreat
Rocks and rills beneath our feet*

*I cannot soar like eagles will
From secret spots on Bible Hill
Or nap on rocks so turtle-still
Or snatch up fish with just my bill*

*I cannot leap o'er limbs and rails
Like deer I see on Dinsmore's trails
Or climb a tree to have a snack
Or walk along and leave cool tracks*

*I wonder at the swallows winging
And the bliss of thrushes singing
Woodland flowers bloom enchanting
Breeze inspired ferns are dancing*

*But as I hike the lands I know
Or sit and watch the sunset glow
I take the best of all I see
And try to keep it part of me*

Sarah Pyle and Betsy Hardwick

Friend and Advocate: Abigail Arnold, 1944-2022

The Francestown Land Trust lost a treasured friend and conservation advocate with the passing of Abigail Arnold on May 26, 2022. Abigail, through her tireless work for more than a dozen years on the board of the FLT, played a key leadership role in protecting



many, many acres of land in Francestown. She served as our Treasurer for several years, as Project Manager on many land protection projects, and as Development Director for her entire time on the Board.

While successful land conservation requires the efforts and contributions of many, Abigail's energy, devotion to detail, and selfless time commitment were critical.

Abigail played many important roles,

walking and helping assess properties, working with landowners to place conservation easements on privately held parcels, writing grants, securing private donations to purchase land, and drafting easements. She promoted land conservation and good land stewardship through diligent communication and outreach. These efforts included writing articles, publishing newsletters, managing membership lists, and coordinating programs and events. She also created more than 70 informative monthly 'awareness' ads published in *The Francestown News*.

Abigail was especially instrumental in the "2010 by 2010" conservation initiative to protect 25% of the land in Francestown, by adding an additional 2010 acres of protected land by the year 2010. She helped promote and pass the bond at the 2005 Town Meeting that kicked off the project and drive it through to completion. She also served on the steering committee and leadership committee of the Headwaters Project, a coordinated effort among multiple conservation organizations to conserve land critical to the protection of water quality and habitat in the Rand and Brennan Brook watersheds.

In 2010, Abigail's leadership in conservation education and in protecting the watershed was recognized with the Gordon A. Russell Award.

Abigail's full commitment to conservation extended into her personal life. She bought a parcel of land along Old County Road North and then donated a conservation easement on the entire property. She persuaded her family to put much of their land into conservation easement and partnered with a friend to purchase and protect an important tract of land along the Piscataquog River.

Although Abigail left the FLT board in 2015, she continued to work behind the scenes to facilitate and support land conservation efforts in Francestown. Indeed, she was working right up until shortly before she passed on a conservation project important to her, and one that the FLT intends to complete in the coming months.

Abigail Arnold *Continued on page 3*

Abigail Arnold from page 2

A Life of Service

In addition to all of her conservation work, Abigail served the Town of Francestown in myriad capacities for nearly five decades: nine years as Selectman, twelve years as Chair of the Planning Board, and six years as a ZBA alternate. She was a contributing editor and founding member of the board of *The Francestown News*. She helped write town laws and regulations, establish town budgets and reserve funding, and shape public opinion. As Planning Board Chair, she directed the work and authored most of the town's first comprehensive Master Plan.

Abigail was always generous with her time and talent. In addition to her own hard work, she was adept at fostering volunteers: finding individuals or forming teams to accomplish tasks at hand to meet the needs of our community. In recent years, even though she was less visible, her presence remained strong, and her loss is accordingly deeper because it is not only personal, but seismic.

Abigail loved her family and she loved Francestown, and she guarded fiercely that which she loved. She was a woman of strong character and principles. Her family and friends will remember her as incredibly thoughtful, loyal, and generous—to each and every one.

Terms like “prominent citizen,” “leader of the community,” and “influencer” seem inadequate for Abigail Arnold, although she was all of that.

Abigail filled a big space. She is missed.

A Letter from the Chair

September 2022

Dear Friends and Neighbors of the Francestown Land Trust,

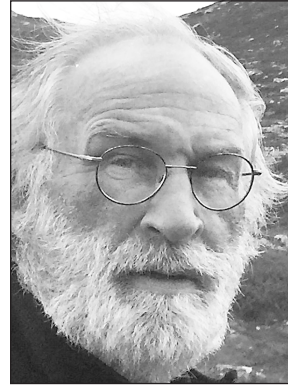
Reflecting on this Summer's weather—notably the drought conditions many of us endured and the implications for our wells, gardens, lawns and wild visitors—the theme of ‘resilience through diversity’ came to mind. In our neck of the woods, rainfall levels fell into the ‘moderate drought’ category. Lawns grew parched and gardens thirsty; some public water systems instituted water use restrictions. Yet due to the intricacies of aquifers and groundwater systems, most wells seemed unaffected, even as surface waters diminished.

In other words, thanks to a diversity of water sources, our gardens survived the drought. Admittedly, things got a little weird. Some crops thrived while others struggled. Still, we ate well, as did the squirrels, who demonstrated admirable resiliency. As their wild food sources suffered, they diversified; first to my sunflowers, then to the peaches, then the tomatoes. Finally, they made off with my last two melons.

Resilience, whether that of an individual or a species, a single tree or the forest as a whole, is the capacity to respond to stress by resisting damage and recovering quickly. Diversity provides stressed systems with alternative options and resources to utilize in resistance and recovery. Practices that preserve or encourage diversity can significantly increase the resiliency of a system.

In this newsletter, we take a look at the importance of diversity in responding to stressors, such as climate change, and steps that you can take to help. We report on our management

plan for Rand Brook Forest and the changes you can expect



to see. And we tell you how you can enhance your forest experience with artist-naturalist Rosemary Conroy.

It has not escaped our notice that the principle of resiliency through diversity and succession planning applies to organizations as well as forests. Although the FLT was founded in 1986, all of our current board members are a bit older than that! We would certainly benefit from increased diversity of age, energy level, and talent to ensure the health of the organization into the future.

Interested? The best way to get acquainted with us and our work is to get out on the land. Our work plan includes invasive plant removal, habitat improvement, trail work, and annual monitoring visits to our holdings. (For inspiration, read Mark Lohr's account of his experience as an ‘FLT trailhand’ on page 6.) To learn more about all the ways you can get involved, simply reach out to us at:

info@francestownlandtrust.org

In the meantime, be sure to boost your own resilience by getting outside in the sun and fresh air.

Larry Ames, Chair of the
Francestown Land Trust

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FRANCESTOWN
LAND TRUST

Founded in 1986

Join our email list to learn
about our upcoming events.
Contact us at
info@francestownlandtrust.org
to be added to this list.

A Beautiful Place

I would like to take a moment and thank the Francestown Land Trust.

On Sunday August 21, 2022, the Cilley family, some great friends, and some members of the FLT gathered at Cressey Hill Road, where they officially named the parcel of land that they have purchased “The George Cilley Sr. Memorial Forest.” They also placed a plaque with a quote of my choosing into a boulder. The Cilley family is beyond proud to have been able to grow up in such a wonderful town, with such a wonderful community.

My Dad loved it just as much. He really enjoyed getting to



On Sunday August 21st, members of the Cilley family, the FLT Board of Directors, and a few family friends met off Russell Station Road to dedicate a recently acquired 40-acre parcel to the memory of George Cilley, Sr. A plaque was installed on a boulder close to one of George's fishing spots and the land was christened the George Cilley, Sr. Memorial Forest.

know everyone while working at the transfer station, it was something he looked forward to every week. Besides doing odd jobs for some amazing people in town as well.

I'm sure he is looking down, saying “Huh, What did I do to deserve all this?” Well Dad, you were a true townie, a smiling face people loved to see on the weekend, or any other day during the week, a great person with a kind loving heart, a friend to all, and a helping hand.

The list goes on. This day was truly an honor for the Cilley family. It was a pleasure working with Larry and the FLT. Thank you all so much for taking a vision and turning it into a reality. It is a place for all to see and remember my Dad, maybe even

throw a line into the Rand Brook.

One of my Dad's favorite fishing spots, how ironic is that!!

Lastly, this parcel of land is now protected by the conservation. So if you visit this beautiful place, please leave it in even better shape than you found it.

Thank you Francestown Land Trust, for all the hard work, and dedication you put into saving and preserving the town's animals and forests.

Sincerely,

Katie Cilley, and the Cilley Family

Forest Challenges *Continued from page 1*

and organizations to protect open space and support conservation-based zoning

- Identification, reporting, and control of invasive species of plants can help forests to be more resilient by preventing their spread
- Managing deer populations through human and apex predator hunting to control browse can help maintain forest health
- Appropriate road and trail use and design and good logging practices can help protect forest soil and water systems
- Maintaining or promoting species diversity can help a forest reduce its vulnerability, since not all species are susceptible to the same stressors. Maintaining diversity in the size, age, and spatial arrangement

of trees, for example, makes a forest less likely to succumb to any given stressor. Specific actions include: promoting the establishment of well-adapted / future-adapted trees and removing susceptible ones; maintaining a variety of spatial conditions through canopy gaps, changes in stem density, and unique micro-sites; preserving or increasing the amount of standing or fallen deadwood, including ‘nurse logs’ for specific tree species; and maintaining non-compacted soil, rich in organic matter, that holds water and provides nutrition for tree growth and vigor

- Protecting at-risk species helps preserve forest diversity and future options for resilience. Prioritizing microhabitats for endangered species and conserving areas of diverse topography, geology, and local connectivity can help these species

to persist.

Environmental conditions in New England are certain to change. Actions that increase the resilience of our forests can help them—and us—to better adapt to these changes.

Sources:

Increasing Forest Resilience for an Uncertain Future, Paul Catanzaro, Anthony D'Amato, & Emily Silver Huff

Securing Northeast Forest Carbon, Charles Levesque, Green Energy Times

Larry Ames

Stewarding into the Future

Rand Brook Forest management plan builds resilience to stressors known and unknown

The Francestown Land Trust now protects more than 3,000 acres of land (1,258 in fee ownership and 1,811 acres in conservation easement) in Francestown and surrounding towns.

By protecting forested lands through conservation easements and fee ownership, the FLT strives to preserve forests as diverse ecosystems in perpetuity. That means we take responsibility for stewarding the health of ecosystems not just for the present, but into the future. This is no easy task, because while many forest stressors are well known, others are just becoming apparent, and still others are likely to arise without warning.

One way to preserve healthy forests in the face of uncertainty is to strengthen natural resilience through diversity and judicious management. To this end, the FLT develops and executes stewardship plans for all our fee-owned properties. These plans include annual monitoring visits, trail work, wildlife habitat improvement, invasive plant removal, and event- and site-specific activities.

In the case of Rand Brook Forest, the FLT applied for and received funding assistance from the federal Natural Resource Conservation Service and the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department for a comprehensive, professionally prepared forest management plan, developed by Bryan Comeau of Dalton Mountain Forestry.

Unfragmented habitat

Today's 514-acre Rand Brook Forest was acquired as a number of separate parcels over a period of years and is part of the Headwaters Project, an initiative supported by a number of conservation organizations, including the Society for the Protection of NH Forests (SPFNH), which holds conservation easements on two of the parcels.

The Rand Brook Forest lies within a 1,484-acre unfragmented block of habitat, one of only two remaining large blocks in a 443 square mile area. Portions of the property are ranked among the highest in New Hampshire and the region for quality of wildlife habitat. The property is a combination of upland forests, mostly white

pine, red oak, and hemlock, with rolling and undulating terrain reaching elevations of 1,000 feet above sea level and a variety of wetland types, including Rand Brook, vernal pools, seasonal tributaries, and a black gum swamp.

There is also a maintained hayfield and a stand of young forest saplings, which were part of the impetus for the forest management plan—and a number of cellar holes and even a schoolhouse foundation, relics of the Town's early history.

Accessible by a system of trails, Rand Brook Forest is visited year-round, primarily by hunters, hikers, and cross-country skiers. If you're one of these visitors, you may notice some changes over the coming years.

The plan

The plan provides critical data, mapping, and management goals to promote good stewardship of the land with the primary goals of improving wildlife habitat, protecting water resources, maintaining a healthy resilient forest, protecting or enhancing significant natural communities, and maintaining recreational trails.

These goals align with the stated objectives of both the FLT and SPFNH for the property, which include: to protect, conserve, and manage the natural habitats of plant and animal species native to New Hampshire; to protect and conserve open spaces for productive farm and/or forest land; to retain and protect land for low-impact outdoor recreation; and to protect the quality of water resources, especially the undeveloped frontage on Rand Brook.

To increase resiliency, the plan recommends extending responsible land management across property boundaries in continuity with the surrounding landscape; establishing and/or maintaining age classes in a forest stand; creating gaps in the canopy sized to establish target species; converting plantations to mixed native species; promoting well-adapted or future-adapted species suitable to the specific site; reducing susceptible species; reducing stem crowding; increasing deadwood (standing and logs); and establishing forested buffers around water resources.

In Rand Brook Forest, the bulk of the long-term management of forested areas will be to promote uneven-aged stands and structural diversity that mimic the natural landscape. Uneven-aged forests emulate

common natural disturbances such as windstorms, ice storms, and natural timber decline and mortality using a combination of thinning, single tree selection, and small group openings averaging ½ acre. Large blocks of mature forest will thereby be contained with multiple vegetation layers within the stand, including ground cover, shrub layer, mid-story, and mature canopy.

Visible changes

The most obvious aspects of the plan to the casual observer will be transitioning the hayfield to pollinator habitat, harvesting 11 acres of red and white pine plantation, and encouraging natural forest succession.

The hayfield is at the top of Driscoll Hill and affords lovely views of the Lyndeborough ridge. Until recently, it has been mowed for animal feed. The current plan is for rotational grassland mowing, allowing the wet drainage within the field to revert to a shrub condition, and mowing just 50% of the grassland per year to promote pollinator habitats. A clear cut is also planned along the southern edge of the field to establish "soft edge" habitat.

The red pine plantation clear cuts on the south side of Russell Station Road will improve species diversity and forest resilience. The State's Forest Entomologist/Pathologist recommends harvesting red pine in southern New Hampshire before they succumb to red pine scale. Additionally, cutting the acreage adjacent to wetlands will encourage forest and shrub habitats for waterfowl and other shrubland and wetland associated wildlife.

Public site walk

The plantation harvest and wildlife habitat improvement activity is planned for this coming winter. You may have already noticed some flagging ribbons that are part of the effort.

A pre-implementation public site walk with Bryan Comeau and other forestry professionals is planned for the morning of Saturday, November 5. To register for the walk, please email info@francestownlandtrust.org.

Larry Ames

My Days as a Francestown Land Trust Trailhand

No dogies were roped, but a few enjoyable, somewhat productive, and dare I say, spiritually meaningful walks in the woods were had!

Armed with hand clippers, a gardener's hat liberally sprayed with Deet and a computer backpack repurposed as a water caddie, I started on the mission. Ben of the Francestown Land Trust had asked for volunteers to help maintain the Trust's trails, and I was given what was probably a starter assignment, the Draper Farm Trail in the Rand Brook Forest.

I put in at the end of Old Country Road South where I was initially warned off by signage that said 'no parking' and 'emergency turnaround only'. I didn't think my U-turn would constitute an emergency, other than for the fact that it was the only way to get back home. The more inviting end of the parking area is well-marked, with a map, signage, and a closed gate to the internal

access road that is the Forest Road Trail, which leads to Forest Trail, which in turn leads to the targeted Draper Farm Trail.

My task was first to scout—take inventory of needed work—and clip the small branches, saplings, and rootlets that were intruding in on the trail. I noted a few 'widow-maker' trees that were leaning overhead and a few bends in the trail that would benefit from additional trail markers.

Overall, the trail was already in good shape—it had clearly been tended to in years past. It offered a very pleasant wooded hike, slowed down only by my clipping and clearing the branches offered up by recent falls. Toward the end, I was rewarded by the trail continuing along a stone wall, which traversed a beautiful high wildflower meadow framed by distant

hills (and which shall remain nameless due to my lack of map interpretive skills).

The trail "ended" at a Class 6 road. I looked around for the Draper Farm Trail that Ben had thoughtfully highlighted on the map he emailed. No luck. Baffled, I declared victory and returned. Upon my report, Ben thoughtfully informed me that I had missed the marked trailhead.

So, mission #2...

This time, I stayed on the Forest Road trail, another route to the open meadow and, presumably, the Draper trail-



A rendition of the Draper Farm on Driscoll Hill, circa 1780. The cellar hole of this farm is along the Draper Farm Trail. For writings about the Drapers see *The History of Francestown, NH*, Cochrane and Wood, 1895.

head. I was prepared to slash my way, machete-like, through dense vegetation disguising the trailhead. But instead, I found, 15 feet to my right, a perfectly legible and perhaps even prominent sign: "Draper Farm Trail." As my significant other can readily attest, my blindness to the obvious is legend.

As the Draper Farm trail wends back deeper into the woods, you come across the farm's stone cellar foundations and walls. These structures have always held near-mythic status for me: How were the people of that time able to move and place these huge stones? What led the Drapers and all the others of that age to a life of incredible physical toil for what must have been a largely subsistence existence? Were they there by default, already in place as the forests were lost, hewn to meet the de-

mands of shipping and building in faraway places, or did they actively seek out this life in some romanticized notion of opportunity? Was all of this because they didn't spend hours and hours watching TV and playing Fortnite?

(By the way, Ben thoughtfully had sent me a page of local history. Apparently, the Drapers had some mystical/witchy inclinations. I report no evidence of any supernatural influences, except, possibly, the placement of impossibly heavy stones.)

Happily, I eventually reached the definitive end of Draper Farm trail, marked by a now familiar blue marker set horizontally. Victory! I had come prepared, chainsaw in appropriated backpack, to clear the widow-makers and other major timber inconveniences. Except: I had left a minor but essential part of the saw at home, rendering most of my second hike pointless, other than adding 10 lbs. worth of exercise to the hike.

So, mission #3...

Additional blue markers and nails, thoughtfully provided by Ben, in hand. With my pretested chainsaw

more or less tucked into the appropriated backpack, no widow-maker was safe from me. I continued up the trail after a particularly stubborn leaner finally fell to ground, and found to my chagrin, that someone had recently cut and cleared the trail ahead! Wait, this is my trail! About 50 yards farther, light dawns on marble head. Those were my cuts. I had started back the wrong way. Try again.

Finally, the horizontal marker. True victory and the sense of completion. A few more markers at the squirrelier turns and multiple option points on the return to the trailhead, and the work was done.

My modest efforts at trail management led me to feel that I "owned" Draper Farm Trail and gave me an abiding sense of

Trailhand Continued on page 7

the time and timelessness of the lands around us. The quiet makes one consider not just the immutable past, but our fleeting place in securing these lands for the indefinite future.

There is a rightfully obscure word that applies here: usufruct. It refers to an asset owned by one person that others can use as long as their use doesn't harm the interests of the owner. Feel free to use "my" trail and the others that abound in Frankestown. And, if you have any complaints or suggestions about my maintenance work, Ben will consider them very thoughtfully.

Mark Lohr

Usufruct

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Usufruct (/ˈjuːziuːfrʌkt/) is a limited real right (or in rem right) found in civil-law and mixed jurisdictions that unites the two property interests of usus and fructus:

- Usus (use) is the right to use or enjoy a thing possessed, directly and without altering it.
- Fructus (fruit, in a figurative sense) is the right to derive profit from a thing possessed: for instance, by selling crops, leasing immovables or annexed movables, taxing for entry, and so on.



Trail maps of the Rand Brook Forest, Schott Brennan Falls Reserve, Crocthed Mountain and Miller/Dinsmore Brook

Conservation Area, as well as the Frankestown Wildlife Action Plan map can be downloaded from francestownlandtrust.org

Join our email list to learn about our upcoming events. Contact us at info@francestownlandtrust.org to be added to this list.

Come Experience "Wonder in the Woods"

In partnership with the Frankestown Land Trust, local artist-naturalist Rosemary Conroy will be leading a monthly walk in Rand Brook Forest.

Starting on Saturday September 10th, from 10:00AM to noon, Conroy will lead an easy, guided walk to help participants reconnect with nature. The walk is free, but pre-registration is required. Please email hello@rosemaryconroyart.com or call 603-315-9060 to learn more, to sign up (and to learn the secret password, of course.) All ages are welcome, but children under 12 must be supervised by their own adult.

Every month on the second Saturday, Conroy will lead a walk in Rand Brook Forest, one of the FLT's premiere conservation properties. By returning to the same place each time, participants will be able to learn about nature on a micro and macro scale.

"We will observe all the cool stuff happening in the woods and then get to see how it changes over time," says Conroy. "The idea is to slow down, reconnect with nature a bit and just get more comfortable being out in the woods."

She hopes to make each outing a more meditative and peaceful exploration than a standard "guided hike." It will be more about the journey than the destination. "I find great comfort in the cycles of the seasons, especially in these times of so much uncertainty," she notes. "There's so much beauty and wonder out in the woods."

Conroy will lead these nature walks through the end of this calendar year, and then assess whether there is enough interest to keep going into winter.

"We are so lucky to live in a place with so many wild places—let's go explore one and see where it leads," she adds. "I think it will be fun to build a little community around connecting with a local wild land." She says she hopes participants will return monthly,



Rosemary Conroy

but there are no requirements other than "some basic curiosity and an open heart and mind." (And to know the secret password, of course.)

Conroy lives in Weare and maintains an art studio on Main Street in Frankestown, right next to the Three Sisters General Store. She holds a Masters in Science in Environmental Studies from Antioch New England University and has been exploring the wilds of NH for over 30 years. You can visit her website at www.rosemaryconroyart.com.

Founded in 1986, the Frankestown Land Trust (FLT) is dedicated to protecting critical natural land areas in the town. A registered 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, FLT can hold and monitor conservation easements, help negotiate land transfers, and, with public support, purchase sensitive properties. FLT is a completely volunteer organization that relies on private donations for its work and is separate from the town Conservation Commission. To find out more, please visit www.francestownlandtrust.org.



**FRANCESTOWN
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Joan Hanchett Nature Series *presents*

**Becoming Wolf:
Eastern Coyotes in New Hampshire**

When: Friday, November 18, 6:30PM
Where: Francestown Town Hall
Presenter: Chris Schadler

Myths surround the coyote and cloud our understanding of it. Learn the true story of the eastern coyote - how it lives among us but is rarely seen and how it contributes to keep our forests and fields healthy. It is a creature of our own making – different than the western coyote in genetics and behavior but with the same superior resilience and adaptability. It has rewilded the northeast with its howl and challenges us to live with and appreciate this small wolf in our presence.

Despite the ecological benefits the coyote brings, it is the most persecuted carnivore in North America. And despite human efforts to eradicate it, it survives and thrives among us.

Chris Schadler, NH and VT Representative for Project Coyote, a national organization promoting coexistence with coyotes, will discuss coexistence strategies, whether you farm, hike or garden.



“Understanding the mind and ecology of the coyote can keep us one step ahead of problems,” says Chris, who, with 40 years of wolf and coyote research, sheep farming, and teaching, will demonstrate that “knowledge is power” when it comes to living with coyotes.

Chris’ interest in wild canids began in the 1970s as a volunteer at the Wolf Park in Battleground, Indiana. She received a Masters in Conservation Biology at Antioch University in Keene where her thesis focused on the Natural Recovery of the Eastern Timber Wolf in Michigan. Chris lived in Michigan and Minnesota during the early 1980s where her research into the gray wolf continued and her speaking career began. Her attention shifted to the Eastern Coyote when she and her flock of sheep moved to New England.

The Joan Hanchett Nature Series is a free program for adults and children of all ages. It is sponsored by Francestown Land Trust, George Holmes Bixby Memorial Library, *Francestown News*, and the Francestown Conservation Commission.

Non-ConVal Sponsored Event • Non-Profit
We respectfully request that everyone wear a mask to help make our event a healthy success.