

Saving Special Places 2009 Workshop Descriptions

Workshop 1A

Phil Auger, Land & Water Conservation Educator, UNH Cooperative Extension

Basic Conservation Options and Tax Benefits

Phil will provide basic and intermediate level information covering most of the tools used to permanently conserve land including deed restrictions, mutual covenants, conservation easements, gifts of land and combinations of tools. Attendees will also learn about the latest income estate tax benefits associated with conservation easement or gifts of land for conservation purposes.

Workshop 1B

Ryan Owens, Executive Director, Monadnock Conservancy

Landowners' Perspectives on Conservation Easements

No conservation project proceeds without a willing landowner, and understanding the landowner's perspective is key to successful negotiations. Even after the closing, good relations between changing landowners and the conservation entity are critical to effective stewardship. This panel discussion will feature actual conservation easement grantors sharing their motivations, challenges, and surprises from the entire experience, from the first contact through the ongoing stewardship relationship.

Workshop 1C

Pete Helm, Vice President Stewardship,
Monica Erhart, Stewardship Coordinator, Upper Valley Land Trust

Easement Interpretation... Come Exercise Your Mind

You've heard of the SAT's no doubt? And physical fitness is good for you, too? Come exercise your mind and take the Stewardship Acceptability Test. Learn how we might each interpret the same conservation easement language differently—and discuss how we come to these conclusions. Don't worry; there are no wrong answers, and #2 pencils will be provided!

Workshop 1D

JT Horn, Project Manager, Trust for Public Land
Bruce Clendenning, Policy Director, Northern Forest Alliance

Mahoosuc Initiative: Joining Conservation & Economic Development

Focused on the NH/ME border, the Mahoosuc Initiative's 12 member groups have over 50,000 acres of conservation transactions in process. The groups have also developed projects and programs to develop clean energy systems in public buildings, a driving tour map designed to promote nature-based tourism, and programs to promote a sustainable forest products economy. Learn & share ideas for other place-based conservation initiatives.

Workshop 1E

Shane Bradt, Geospatial Technologies Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension

GIS on Pennies a Day

GIS can be a powerful tool for land conservation if used correctly. Unfortunately, GIS is often overlooked by the conservation community due to either a lack of understanding of the technology or the lack of funds to acquire GIS software. The first part of the session will provide an introduction to the terminology, technology and uses of GIS to get attendees more familiar with its applications and its limitations. The second half of the session will be dedicated to discussing the wide range of free GIS software available and their potential uses in conservation.

Workshop 1F

Marcy Lyman, Partner, Community Forest Collaborative

Will Abbott, Vice President for Policy and Land Management, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Community Forests: a Community Investment Strategy

This workshop will provide information on the community forest model, the role of community ownership in conserving forestland, building assets, community capacity and economic opportunities. Workshop leaders will describe specific examples, and provide information on financing acquisition and technical assistance to support community forest projects. Participants are encouraged to bring ideas or potential projects to the workshop to discuss.

Workshop 1G (and 2 G)

Paul Doscher, Vice President for Land Protection, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Duane Hyde, Director of Protection, The Nature Conservancy, New Hampshire Chapter
Tom Masland, Esq., Ransmeier and Spellman PC

Advanced Transaction Trouble Shooting

Three experts with many years of experience will entertain your questions about conservation land transactions and negotiations. This workshop is for people who are actively engaged in negotiating conservation easements and land acquisitions and who want to "pick the brains" of experts who have been involved in projects ranging from the simple to the extraordinarily complex. You may attend this workshop in time block 1G or 2G or both.

Workshop 1H

Dick Wollmar, Board Member, Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire

Relocalization of New England Agriculture

We are moving into a "relocalization" phase of New England agriculture. Due to economic and nutritional demand, small family farms are on the rebound offering opportunities for young people to choose the rural life style of their grandparents. The word "sustainable" has become a buzz word which is an excellent and necessary fit with conservation groups' "stewardship". Young farmers need access to open space to practice sustainable organic and biodynamic methods. Conservation easements can provide that access.

Workshop 1I

Eric Masterson, Executive Director, Piscataquog Land Conservancy

Using Wildlife Tracking as a Land Conservation Tool *aka* Prioritizing Special Places, and Using Tracking as a Promotional Tool.

Eric will talk about a collaborative initiative between the PLC, the Frankestown Land Trust, and the Monadnock Conservancy that resulted in the completion this year of a 1,000 acre land protection goal along the Cold, Brennan, and Rand Brook watersheds in Frankestown. This region encompasses some of the richest wildlife habitat remaining unprotected in southern New Hampshire. Eric will discuss the special role that the Keeping Track initiative plays in conservation through helping landowners develop a deeper appreciation for the land they own.

Workshop 1J

Tom Howe, Senior Director of Land Conservation, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Legal Responsibilities in Receiving Conservation Gifts

Learn your obligations as a land trust or municipality in receiving a full or partial gift of land or conservation easement. We'll discuss: appraisals, IRS Form 8283, your gift

acknowledgment letter, and dealing with potentially fraudulent gifts. With the IRS scrutinizing conservation gifts, ignore at your peril! (Intermediate)

Workshop 1K

Rand Wentworth, President, Land Trust Alliance

The Alliance's Shared Conservation Defense Insurance Program

Every conservation easement is vulnerable to violations and frivolous law suits. Land owned by land trusts is also frequently threatened. Many land trusts asked the Land Trust Alliance to address this issue. This workshop explores the feasibility of defense and enforcement insurance, discusses current challenges and reviews proposed business terms for such a possible insurance program.

Workshop 2A

Anne McBride, Conservation Project Manager, Monadnock Conservancy

Preparing Good CE Baseline Documentation Reports

This workshop will look at the essential elements necessary for every baseline documentation report. We will also discuss preparing for field visits to make the most efficient use of your time, what to look for on your field visit and some of the challenges encountered during baseline preparation. We will also review timing of the report and working with the landowner.

Workshop 2B

Dijit Taylor, Director, Center for Land Conservation Assistance, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

How a Town Can Get a Great Conservation Easement

Creating and holding a conservation easement is a substantial responsibility with a VERY long time frame. Often it is better for a town to partner with a land trust to share the responsibility. If that is not possible, the strategies in this workshop will help to minimize your exposure to potential problems and do the best possible job of creating a strategy that will allow you to care for the land that is important to conserve in your town.

Workshop 2C

Rodger Krussman, State Director, Vermont and New Hampshire, The Trust for Public Land

Mike Speltz, Land Protection Specialist, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Complex Conservation Transactions – Tips, Techniques and Traps

This workshop is for anyone contemplating a conservation project with multiple funding sources, multiple stakeholders, multiple parcels, and/or multiple legal interests in land. We will walk through real-world projects to decide when a complex project is worth the risk, how to avoid pitfalls, how to deal with the complexities, and how to estimate transaction costs. We will leave time for questions throughout and for special problems at the end.

Workshop 2D

Will Abbott, Vice President for Policy and Land Management, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Valuing Forest Resources and Ecosystem Services

Forests provide a variety of services to life on the planet that have values rarely quantified in terms of their economic significance. Explore how the “highest and best use” of a forest may actually not be the conversion to non-forest uses.

Workshop 2E

Chris Wells, Director of Policy, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Rand Wentworth, President, Land Trust Alliance

Federal Land Conservation Funding Opportunities

State and Federal money for land conservation will be harder than ever to find and obtain in 2009 and 2010. Chris and Rand have been turning over rocks in many different streams and will share with you everything they know about opportunities for funding your important land conservation project.

Workshop 2F

Mark Zankel, Deputy State Director, The Nature Conservancy, New Hampshire Chapter

Integrating Biodiversity into Working Forest Easements

How can you ensure that your working forest conservation easements are up to the task of safeguarding biodiversity and wildlife habitat? What kinds of purposes, use restrictions, and other terms make a real difference, and what are the “costs” of these drafting decisions for easement holders and landowners? This session will delve into

the relationships and trade-offs amongst forest management, habitat conservation, and easement stewardship.

Workshop 2G (and 1G)

Paul Doscher, Vice President for Land Protection, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

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Workshop 2H

Victoria Barlow, Chair, Swanzey Open Space Committee

Sara Carbonneau, Swanzey Town Planner

Preserving Rural Character: a Swanzey Case Study

The Swanzey Open Space Committee has learned that preserving our town's treasured rural character involves much more than promoting protection of important open space. We'll share our stories and secrets of success - including an essential device of our own invention - to consider how other communities might harness their unique characteristics to protect their special rural qualities. Rest assured: oxen are optional.

Workshop 2I

Carol Foss, Director of Conservation, New Hampshire Audubon

Katie Callahan, GIS Specialist, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

Using the NH Wildlife Connectivity Model in Conservation Planning

Identification and protection of landscape linkages between key habitat blocks is important to the long-term sustainability of New Hampshire's wildlife populations. The purpose of this project is to identify wildlife connectivity zones to inform conservation and land use planning. This analysis can identify both key areas for land protection efforts and strategic locations for restoring connectivity in currently fragmented landscapes.

Workshop 2J

Tom Pare, CPA and John Hession, CPA, Hession & Pare, P.C. CPA's

The New Redefined Form 990 for Nonprofit Organizations

Tax forms for non-profit organizations have become more important as they are scrutinized by the IRS, Congress, the media, competitors, disgruntled employees and others. This workshop will provide a review of the underlying exemption principles involved, teach the procedural details and walk through how various items are reported on the Form 990.

Workshop 2K

Anne Duncan Cooley, Executive Director, Upper Valley Housing Coalition

Charlie French, Community Development Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension

The Shared Vision of Conservation and Workforce Housing

The NH Growth and Development Roundtable (GDR) is made up of leaders from several of NH's housing, conservation, planning, business and municipal interest groups who have come together to foster dialogue about the future of land use in the Granite State, and ultimately, provide resources to communities. This presentation will focus on a short film that was created by the GDR as part of its outreach efforts.

Workshop 3A

Emily Hague, Stewardship Manager, Monadnock Conservancy

Conservation Easement Stewardship Basics

Perpetual stewardship involves easement monitoring, record-keeping, communications, and violation resolution. Learn how to plan and conduct a monitoring visit, keep good records of site visits and correspondence, and ensure protocol for dealing with violations in this introductory workshop for people with a basic understanding of easements. Sample forms and policies will be included. (Intermediate level workshop for conservation commissioners, land trust staff and volunteers who know what a conservation easement is and why easements need to be monitored every year.)

Workshop 3B

Tom Howe, Senior Director of Land Conservation, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Crafting and Drafting Conservation Easements

This workshop is for those who negotiate, draft, and/or review easements but have had limited experience. We'll address: 1) preparations for drafting; 2) considerations such as who should draft, sources of templates, when to use side agreements, and different philosophies of CE's; and 3) provisions often negotiated or tailored, such as parameters for accepting landowners' requests, prohibited uses, grantor's reserved rights, and grantee's affirmative rights.

Workshop 3C

Sara Callaghan, Easement Steward, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

To Amend or Not to Amend – That is the Question

Although easements are written to exist in perpetuity, easement holders recognize that there may be circumstances where amending a conservation easement is appropriate. This workshop will address what easement holders should consider when evaluating an amendment proposal and the process for completing an amendment based on the Land Trust Alliance recommendations.

Workshop 3D

Ed Cherian, New England Development Director, Iberdrola Renewables

Wind Power and Conservation

Wind Power has come to NH, with the completion of the state's 1st commercial wind farm in Lempster November 2008. There are potential opportunities for wind power companies and conservation organizations to coordinate to achieve mutual objectives. These may include targeted land conservation, identifying revenue sources to avoid subdividing or developing properties, environmental benefits, and others. This workshop will discuss ideas and opportunities for creative collaboration between wind power and conservation – and identify areas where those interests may diverge.

Workshop 3E

Brenda Lind, Land Protection Specialist

Suzanne Kibler-Hacker, Vice President for Development, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

Conservation Easement Stewardship Funding

If you accept conservation easements and are raising and managing dedicated funds for easement stewardship, this workshop is for you. We will discuss estimating easement stewardship costs and per-easement contributions, land trust approaches to

raising funds, financial management of dedicated funds, and legal and ethical constraints, with examples from land trusts in New Hampshire and around the country.

Workshop 3F

Karen Bennett, Forest Resources Specialist

Kristina Ferrare - Forestry & Wildlife Program Assistant, UNH Cooperative Extension

The New and Revised: Good Forestry in the Granite State

After more than 10 years this keystone publication for landowners and natural resource professionals is being revised to include changes in scholarship and practice in the field. Highlights of this seminar: overview of the project including new chapters and significant changes proposed; a summary of findings regarding the current edition; how you can use the book; and questions and feedback from you.

Workshop 3G

Debbie Stanley Executive Director, Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust

Jeanie McIntyre, President, Upper Valley Land Trust

Advanced Land Trust Round Table

This workshop is intended for experienced land trust leaders who are responsible for the successful management and effective planning to build and sustain a strong land conservation organization. Participants will be contacted via email about 2 weeks prior to the conference and asked to submit suggested topics for discussion. Consensus by participants will determine topics discussed.

Workshop 3H

Ellie Kastanopolous, Executive Director, Equity Trust, Inc.

Innovation in Sustaining Agriculture

The session will describe the problems faced by small farmers – and the communities who depend on them – where competition from non-agricultural land uses (including both development and “private estates”) results in land prices that are unaffordable for farmers and cause the loss of local agricultural productivity. Our models require active farming and limit resale of the property to preserve affordability for successive farmers.

Workshop 3I

Emily Brunkhurst, Conservation Biologist

Lindsay Webb, Biological Technician

NH Fish & Game Department

Enhancing Small Scale Habitats: Grasslands, Shrublands and Vernal Pools

Small scale habitats provide critical habitat for some of New Hampshire's imperiled wildlife species such as marbled salamanders, black racers, grasshopper sparrows, and New England cottontails. Enhancing these habitats helps maintain the biological diversity in the state; the goal of the Wildlife Action Plan. Emily and Lindsay will explain how to identify these habitats on your property and how to maintain and enhance these habitats through management and maintaining buffers.

Workshop 3J

Paul MacDonald, Esq., Ransmeier and Spellman PC

Purchase & Sales and Conveyancing Agreements for Easements

Conservation transactions, whether easement or fee, purchased or donated, are sophisticated conveyances that should be treated like any other arms-length real estate deal. Too often the parties rely on mere good faith to close the deal, with the result being misunderstandings, delay, and last minute crises. We'll focus on the use of formal agreements to define the rights and obligations of the parties, and the problems that can arise in their absence.

Workshop 3K

Jim Oehler, New England Woodlands & Wildlife, LLC

Ellen Snyder, Ibis Wildlife Consulting

Collaborative Conservation: Working for Woodlands, Wildlife and You

Do you want to promote woodlands, wildlife, and outdoor recreation on your land? As NH's woodlands get divided into smaller lots, these objectives will become increasingly difficult to achieve if landowners focus only on their property. In this workshop you will learn why and how looking beyond your stonewalls and engaging your neighbors in land stewardship will help you meet your long term ownership goals.

Keynote Address

Lisa Vernegaard, Director of Planning and Stewardship, The Trustees of Reservations

Conservationists Respond to Climate Change

Lisa recently spent a sabbatical exploring how land trusts in the U.S. and the U.K. are responding to climate change. She is now working with conservation leaders from

across the country to coordinate and leverage these ideas so that we can tackle this monumental threat together. Lisa will share with us many on-the-ground examples of how land trusts and other conservation organizations are beginning to take meaningful action toward climate change, and will direct our attention to the many challenges that we face, including determining future land conservation projects, evolving our land management, reducing our organizational carbon footprints and building public support.