Spring 2015 eNewsletter

Thanks to everyone who supported us in 2014 and early 2015. Our work is possible because of people like you who care about wilderness.

New Forever-Wild Easement in Vermont

Philip Sharpsteen loves the forest and wild orchard that surrounds his home and wants to give future generations a chance to love it, too. That’s why, on December 31, 2014, Mr. Sharpsteen donated a forever-wild easement on his land in Jericho, VT to Northeast Wilderness Trust. The protected acreage adds to the forested flanks of Mount Mansfield, the centerpiece of one of the largest and most important forest blocks in the region.

The 71-acre Sharpsteen parcel features interesting exposed bedrock, ledges, and outcrops along with critical seepage areas. The woods are healthy and beautiful. Located between Mount Mansfield and Lake Champlain, it abuts the Ethan Allen Firing Range (approximately 11,000 acres of federal land) along its eastern boundary. Wildlife ecologist and professional tracker Susan Morse of Keeping Track has documented black bear, bobcat, whitetail deer, turkey, moose, short-tailed weasel, fisher, squirrel, and numerous songbird and raptor species on the Sharpsteen Preserve. We thank Phil Sharpsteen for his gift and are pleased to take on the responsibility of ensuring this forest is conserved as forever wild.

Read more about the Sharpsteen Preserve.

What Does Stewardship Mean?

Stewardship: the activity or job of protecting and being responsible for something, especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care* (Merriam-Webster online)

While our general approach to forest management is simply to let nature thrive, Northeast Wilderness Trust must still visit the properties under our care on an annual basis. By walking boundary lines, our volunteer stewards can observe the condition of the land and report any concerns or potential violations. We’re pleased to note that in 2014 Conservation Director Marisa Riggi and our volunteer stewards monitored 25 properties totaling over 23,400 acres. Of these, we have forever-wild easements on 14 properties and own 11 parcels outright.

Volunteers Paul Gale and Don Dickson monitored Babysitter Swamp in October 2014.

Notes & News You May Have

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the activity or job of protecting and being responsible for something, especially: the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care*
(Merriam-Webster online)
Just out in February, *Protecting the Wild: Parks and Wilderness, the Foundation for Conservation* is an essential read for those interested in how to best achieve conservation goals. With essays by Harvey Locke, Jane Goodall, NWT board member Spencer Phillips, NWT founding director Kathleen Fitzgerald, and many others, this new book (a companion volume to *Keeping the Wild: Against the Domestication of Earth*) argues that protected areas are more important now than ever.

**Northeast Wilderness Trust's investments are now fossil fuel free.** The Trust had already made a commitment to sustainable investing, but we recently moved to a strategy that excludes all companies that produce fossil fuel-based energy, including oil and gas companies and coal-based utilities. [Read more.](#)

*Two wonderful women joined our ranks last year.* Learn more about NWT board member Cynthia Pope White and new Administration & Finance Director Cathleen Maine.

*Read "John Muir's Last Stand," an essay about John Muir and his conservation legacy* posted on our website on the centennial anniversary of his death. Written by Tom Butler and Eileen Crist, the thoughtful editorial touches on the present philosophical dustup in conservation and provides historical context to the debate.

Thank you again for being a part of our community and for advocating for the wild. If you ever have any questions about our work, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**Sincerely,**

Daryl, Jennifer, Marisa, and Cathleen

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**MAKE A DONATION TO THE TRUST.** We can't do it without you!

Know someone who might be interested in our work? [Forward to a Friend](mailto:forwardtofriend@newildernesstrust.org)