



The Art of Conservation

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Signature conserved landscapes will be showcased on canvas when nationally known and local artists show their landscape portraits Sept. 3 - 27 at the Sunset Hill House in Sugar Hill. This unique project brings together the artists that capture our scenic heritage and the land trust families and members who have worked together to protect properties in the Ammonoosuc River watershed.

ACT, in cooperation with the Arts Alliance of

Northern NH and the Banks Gallery of New London, is pleased to bring this exhibit and sale to the forefront of the conservation community. In addition, orders will be taken throughout the month of September for a book depicting each of the original works. Many of the paintings will be juried into a database will be the beginning of an effort to catalogue White Mountains fine art being produced today.

"A healthy environment, robust economy, vibrant community and cultural life are inter-related and interdependent," said ACT Executive Director Rebecca Brown. "The Art of Conservation is all about these connections and is a celebration of the families who have conserved their land." The exhibit runs through Sept. 27.

Visit www.aconservationtrust.org
For the most current info!

Littleton Couple Protects Woodlands for 'the creatures'



Littleton landowners Carol and Tony Ilacqua conserved 90 acres of their Mt. Eustis Road property with ACT on July 27. The Ilacquas first approached ACT about protecting their property with a conservation easement two years ago. They were dedicated to finding the right solution to provide permanent protection for the land and the wildlife that enjoys the property. Over their more than 30 years of ownership, the couple has worked hard to establish a habitat that supports numerous native species. Knowing that "the creatures," as Carol puts it, will continue having the land as a sanctuary was important to the couple. Some people conserve their property for the tax credits, the Ilacqua's motivation however was for the animals.

ACT Executive Director Rebecca Brown said, "The Ilacquas show that preserving land is leaving a legacy for their community and their family. Conserved land is really a community asset. ACT's vision is that we link conserved lands together so that trails for people and corridors for wildlife are protected as part of the green infrastructure." The Ilacqua property includes a state designated snowmobile trail.

Chris Latulip, ACT's board president and Littleton resident, noted that it has been nearly a hundred years since a Littleton resident had given such a generous gift to the community; the Dells and Kilburn Craggs are two examples of protected property that are enjoyed by area residents. THANK YOU Carol and Tony for setting the example for renewed land conservation in Littleton!

Farmland & Floodplain Initiative Focuses along Major Rivers

Partnering with The Nature Conservancy, ACT is working to protect valuable farmland and floodplain forests along the Connecticut, Johns, and Israel Rivers. Agricultural soils along these rivers are some of the richest in the state, and support many of the major remaining farms in the North Country. Many farmers' lands also include floodplain forests, a significant and declining habitat. Stately silver maples and lush ostrich ferns are the signal species; both are adapted to living through periods of high water. These forests provide critical habitat for a variety of wildlife, particularly migratory songbirds. Floodplains also act as natural sponges, soaking up water when rivers overflow their banks, and helping protect property from flooding downstream. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has identified the floodplains along the Connecticut River from Lancaster to Stratford as one of the most important natural flood storage areas in the entire four-state Connecticut River watershed. Yet very little of these lands have been conserved.

This intersection of human and wildlife needs is at the core of the Farmland and Floodplains Initiative. ACT and TNC will conduct sophisticated GIS analyses to identify the highest priority lands for conservation, and work with landowners on conservation options such as using federal Farmland Protection funds to purchase development rights. "We're looking for win-win situations for farmers, communities, and habitat," said ACT Director Rebecca Brown. "These lands are a backbone of our watershed."

Family Knits Together 320+ Acres

More conserved lands were knit together August 11 with the signing of the easement protecting the Perkins family's 136 acres on Bronson Hill in Sugar Hill. Since the inception of ACT, seasonal resident Rufus Perkins has been a driving force behind the organization's success. The family's willingness to permanently protect the outstanding scenic value of the hillside - as well as allow public enjoyment of it - stands as a testament to their commitment to ACT and its values.



Rufus, brother Jim, and sister Louisa Porter show that people can give a gift to future generations by protecting what they hold so dear today. The family's connection to the land started when their great grandfather arrived in Sugar Hill in 1885. "We have spent many summers as children and all seasons as adults either on Sunset or Bronson Hill," Rufus says. "The long family connection and our appreciation of the special nature of the place made us want to keep it as it is for future generations to enjoy." Their land abuts ACT's Foss Forest and the MacCornack-Evelyn Forest, the generous gift from another family with deep local roots. The combined 320 acres form a significant unfragmented tract of forestland, enjoyed by many for the walking trails and splendid views. The entire ACT Board of Directors has been humbled by the neighborhood effort to combine these individual tracts. THANK YOU Jim, Louisa, and Rufus for your generous gift and your untiring commitment to our mission, vision and goals. Your leadership has provided us with the vision to truly see the forest for the trees!

Lancaster Family Joins in the 'ACT'



ACT is delighted to have its first CE in Coös County, further expressing its mission to provide services as a regional land trust.

Through a local realtor, Edward (Ted) and Lois McGee contacted ACT about placing a conservation easement on a 60-acre parcel of their farm property. They had approached a larger conservation organization and were told that their parcel wasn't large enough for consideration. ACT was far better positioned to carry out their protection wishes. The McGee property is adjacent to a 40-acre parcel that is already conserved. This combination of open farmland and forest met ACT's objectives and the conservation easement was perfected.

The McGees wished to ensure that their children and grandchildren would be able to enjoy the land that they have loved for over 50 years. The McGee gift will inspire generations to come about the values that Ted and Lois express today.

ACT Earns its Wings

What do an airport and a land trust have in common? Lots of open land! ACT was asked to participate in a unique protection project as part of a comprehensive mitigation project for an expansion of the taxiways at the White Mountain Regional Airport in Whitefield. Since the airport is adjacent to the Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge, this was an opportunity to further expand the refuge.

ACT, in partnership with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, identified a parcel of land for acquisition and helped to facilitate a pass-through of the parcel to the Service. The 18 acres are on Hazen Road, at the entrance of the refuge. The land contains wetlands and the shrubs and brush habitat enjoyed by many bird species, including breeding and migratory woodcock.



Plan, Plan, Execute

ACT's organizational capacity continues to be challenged as newer and bigger projects come our way. The Board of Directors has embarked on a comprehensive strategic planning process to guide the future. Heading the priority list is to become a nationally accredited land trust by adhering to the Land Trust Alliance Standards and Practices. ACT is in the process of committing all of its policies and procedures in writing and embarked on a new capital campaign to support an administrative position. The addition of a part-time staff person will improve our response time to projects while streamlining our internal documentation. We are very excited at the prospect and we welcome your financial support to make this position a reality!

Join ACT in Conserving the North Country's Special Places, become a member today!

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