



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

FY 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

Protecting land and water in our community

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Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*



**HANOVER
CONSERVANCY**

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in our community*

THANK YOU

Our many supporters and friends make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

CORPORATE CONSERVATORS

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FOUNDATIONS

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust
The Friendship Fund,
in memory of Lilla McLane-Bradley
Hypertherm HOPE Foundation
Norcross Wildlife Foundation
Upper Valley Region Community Fund of the
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
The Barrette Family Fund of the
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Vermont Community Foundation

Community Friends and Partners

Chippers, Inc.
The Chocolate Shop of Hanover
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Hanover Transport
Hanover True Value Hardware
I.T. Stuff for Nonprofits
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Land Trust Alliance
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Trescott Water Company
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Upper Valley Land Trust
Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association
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Vital Communities of the Upper Valley
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West Lebanon Feed & Supply
Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions
Youth in Action

*Cover photo: view from Trescott Water Company
lands, courtesy of Jim Block Photography.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

The images in this report were taken in Hanover, almost all on Conservancy properties. We retreat to these trails, fields, summits, and brooks to clear our heads, exercise our legs, or visit with friends. We hope everyone can enjoy this great outdoors often where access is so easy, close to home and work.

Our conservation results are possible because of our volunteers, dedicated Board members and a very energetic Executive Director. Conservancy trips to so many interesting places in Hanover happen because our enthusiastic leaders love to share their knowledge. Our properties are blazed, signed, maintained and improved by the efforts of our neighborhood volunteers. And we keep our office pace on high speed as we continually look for new opportunities, thanks to our supportive members, donors and corporate sponsors. We couldn't do it without you.

A most sincere "thank you"!

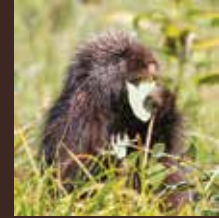


Nancy Collier, *President*



President Nancy Collier presents a gift to founder and former President Carolyn Tenney.

Above right: Porcupine lunching at Balch Hill, courtesy of Cindy Crawford.



The Hanover Conservancy, the oldest local land trust in New Hampshire, is dedicated to the conservation of land and water and to deepening the appreciation of natural resources for the benefit of the Hanover community and beyond.

Celebrating its 52nd year, the Conservancy is a private, not-for-profit, membership organization. While not affiliated with the Town of Hanover, the Conservancy partners frequently with the Town and other local and regional organizations.

MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FY 2013

(July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013)

Stewardship

The Conservancy devoted much effort to all our protected lands this year, especially at Balch Hill, our very first property. Neighbors and friends enthusiastically supported our new Balch Hill Fund, allowing us to restore the historic agricultural landscape — and its beautiful views and fine wildlife habitat — that our community has loved for so long. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and gifts in memory of longtime neighbor Mable Staples offered key support for this project. A new research project with Dartmouth is revealing the results of deer browse here.

At the Greensboro Ridge Natural Area, we completed a new trail to showcase more of this 113-acre property's intriguing natural features, creating a hiking loop. At Mink Brook Nature Preserve, we monitored 2000 native trees and shrubs we planted last year, and at Slade Brook, Boy Scouts pitched in to remove large truck tires that had lain hidden in the woods for decades. Detailed management plans are now in place for Greensboro Ridge and for our historic Tunis Brook Mill Lot, where we investigated forest history at the site of a 19th century sawmill. Also in northeast Hanover, natural resource studies are underway at the McKinley Tract, where we hold a conservation easement.

We value the spirit and commitment of each of our stewardship committees and trail monitors, and welcome new volunteers.

Top: Volunteers from the Conservancy and Hypertherm head out to build the new Greensboro Highlands Trail. **Center:** Monitoring the McKinley Tract. **Bottom:** Hanover Boy Scouts conquer an old tire dump at Slade Brook.





Top: Exploring leaning ledges at Greensboro Ridge Natural Area; Scenes from our other protected lands.

OUR PROTECTED LANDS

OWNED BY THE HANOVER CONSERVANCY:

Balch Hill Natural Area – 21 acres

Off Grasse & Hemlock Roads

Greensboro Ridge Natural Area – 113 acres

Off Greensboro Road & Velvet Rocks Drive

Mink Brook Nature Preserve – 112 acres

Off Route 10 & Brook Road

Jim & Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade

Brook – 35 acres *Off River Road*

Tunis Brook Mill Lot – 1.5 acres

Off Goose Pond Road

PROTECTED BY A HANOVER CONSERVANCY CONSERVATION EASEMENT OR DEED RESTRICTION:

Angelo Tanzi Natural Area – 15.8 acres

Adjacent to Mink Brook Nature Preserve / Owner: Town of Hanover

Huntington Hill/Upper Slade Brook – 31.8 acres

Off Hanover Center Road / Owner: private landowner

McKinley Tract – 125.7 acres

Off Wolfeboro & Goose Pond Roads / Owner: Town of Hanover

Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres

Off Route 10 / Owner: Town of Hanover

Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres

Off Purling Brooks Drive / Owners: private landowners

South Esker – 14 acres

Adjacent to Pine Knoll Cemetery / Owner: Town of Hanover

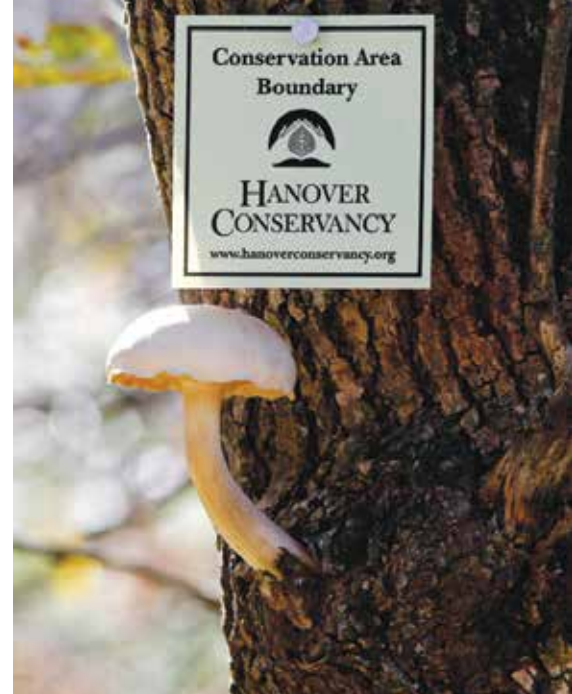
Outreach & Education

Bringing people into the outdoors is a half-century old tradition with us. This year, our outreach program engaged over 300 people from 18 towns in activities ranging from wildlife tracking and a wildflower walk in the wild Tunis area, visiting vernal pools, guided hikes to Lord's Hill in two seasons, a geology tour of the South Esker, and those Balch Hill favorites, Kite Day and the fall hawk watch. Conservancy members savored a special treat with fall and winter trips into the extensive, restricted Trescott Water Company lands, led by the foresters who manage them for water quality. We marked the 50th anniversary of Rachel Carson's Silent Spring with a program by Ted Levin and enjoyed a screening of "Mother Nature's Child" with producer Wendy Conquest. Conservancy trips are free. Find trail maps and much more on our website. Subscriptions to our monthly e-newsletter are up again, by 13%. And you can find us on Facebook, too.

Advocacy & Public Policy

We have been a clear voice for environmentally responsible public policies ever since support for natural resource protection zoning in Hanover led to our founding in 1961. This year we spoke up for the Connecticut River and Mink Brook as the process to craft a new operating license for Wilder Dam began. We served as an information clearinghouse and advocated for a conservation solution at the Dana Pasture Lot on Moose Mountain. We also participated in neighborhood meetings called by the Planning Board and on Hanover's Biodiversity Committee. Our conservation maps help decision-makers focus attention on key natural resource features.

Top: A mushroom decorates a boundary marker at Mink Brook Nature Preserve. Photo by Jennifer Esten. Bottom: Black and White Warbler feeds at Greensboro Ridge Natural Area. Photo by Cindy Crawford.



Land Conservation

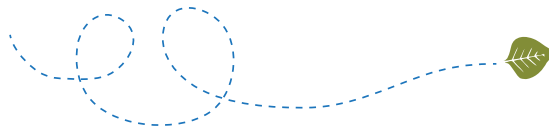
Protecting land and water for the benefit of the community has been the Hanover Conservancy's chief focus since its founding in 1961. We are updating our conservation priorities as we craft our next strategic plan, folding in new science by building climate change resilience into our conservation strategy. This year we began work to secure a conservation easement on the South Esker, to guarantee permanent protection for lands our predecessors secured nearly a half century ago. We are also active behind the scenes to protect several high-priority parcels in partnership with private landowners and also with the Town.

Through it all, we pursue protected places for you to enjoy within a five minute walk of your home or workplace while ensuring that Hanover's "green infrastructure" remains intact to provide clean water, flood control, and healthy habitat. We welcome inquiries from those interested in conserving their land.

King Bird Sanctuary

Many visitors are enjoying our Nan and Allen King Bird Sanctuary at Hayes Farm Park in Etna, a naturalized planting of native trees and shrubs with wildlife value. In 2013, following construction at the Etna Library, we began the second phase of our memorial project — the planting of a special lilac collection at a new reading garden. The lilacs come from Highland Park in Rochester, NY, where the Kings met.

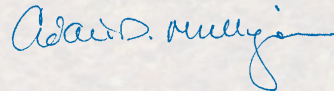
Top: Ancient tree at Balch Hill Natural Area. **Bottom:** Snowshoeing from the King Bird Sanctuary in Hayes Farm Park to the Etna Library.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

We are pleased to report that the Conservancy is on stronger footing than at any time in the last five years. Accompanying us up that trail are nearly 100 new members this year, whose support allows us to offer free trips and programs, and the hard-working, talented members of our board of directors. We continue to refine and update our operations, and now have an active investment committee of five experts to manage the funds we need to identify and research potential new lands and care for those we own. With such a long history, the accuracy and condition of our records takes on particular significance, and we appreciated the help of Courtney Dragiff in curating our records, supported by a generous gift from an emeritus board member. We were gratified to receive a number of memorial gifts recognizing the affection of our members for Hanover's natural places.

A special highlight of this year was our first (ever!) reunion in April of old and new board members of the Hanover Conservation Council (our former name) and Hanover Conservancy. We recognize that we are standing on their shoulders — the health of our organization is built upon the energy, ingenuity, and effort of the Council board members who laid its foundation over a half century ago and carried forward their vision of a healthy, natural Hanover.



– Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*

Last rays of the autumn sun flood the Grasse Trail to Balch Hill.

A BROADER VIEW FROM BALCH HILL

Balch Hill, the only open summit in Hanover that is accessible to the public, has long been a favorite for its wide views. This year, many hands and talents came together to restore views to Mt. Ascutney, Vermont and downtown Hanover, and the northwest. The result is better wildlife habitat and a reminder of the hill's historic farm landscape. Many neighbors and friends came together to create the new Balch Hill Fund to help us care for this wonderful landmark, so close to downtown.



FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2013

	2013	2012
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 49,111	\$ 88,197
Investments	400,417	328,002
Prepaid rent	433	433
Office equipment, net of depreciation	731	955
Land improvements, net of depreciation	6,669	7,145
Land held for conservation purposes	682,296	682,296
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	26,657	25,035
Total assets	\$ 1,166,314	1,132,063
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	405,502	\$ 157,977
Temporarily restricted net assets	53,516	266,790
Permanently restricted net assets	707,296	707,296
Total net assets	\$ 1,166,314	1,132,063
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	69,351	\$ 67,016
Membership income	23,494	11,510
Grants	6,800	13,975
Investment income	44,668	20,803
Total support and revenue	\$ 144,313	\$ 113,304
EXPENSES		
Programs	73,293	\$ 95,960
Management and general	29,795	28,243
Fundraising	6,974	8,710
Total expenses	110,062	132,913
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Net Assets, beginning of year	1,132,063	(19,609)
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 1,166,314	\$ 1,132,063



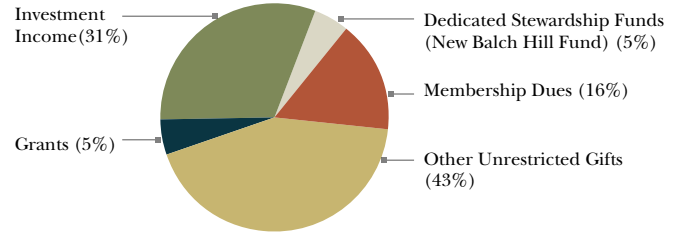
Shining clubmoss glows in the morning light at the McKinley Tract.



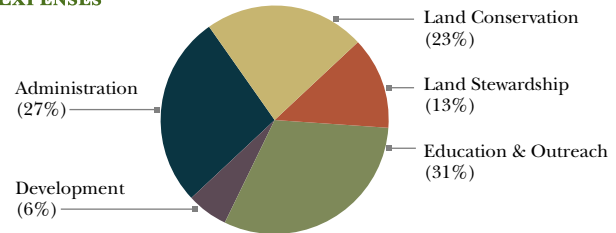
Forester Jeff Smith measures an ancient porcupine den tree on the Trescott Water Company lands during a Conservancy trip.

The Conservancy ended the year in strong condition, thanks to contributions from new members, new investments, and a generous gift from an emeritus member. Past contributions to our Strategic Land Action Fund and Education and Stewardship Fund helped us pursue strong programs in these areas.

INCOME BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES



THANK YOU

Our many volunteers continue a long tradition of caring for our lands, leading our trips, and helping in so many other ways.

Balch Hill Stewardship Committee: Jan Assmus, Clyde Barbour, Len Cadwallader, Ed Chamberlain, Rob Chapman, Anne Evans, Rob Harris, Barbara McIlroy, Lois Roland.

Greensboro Ridge Stewardship Committee: Jeanne Childs, Martha Cochran, Wendy Conquest, John Joline, Doug McIlroy, Jill Niles, Dick Potter.

Mink Brook Stewardship Committee: Jim Barrett, Cal Felicetti, Brenda Knight, Sarah Mahlab, Rich Menge.

Slade Brook Stewardship Committee: Kathy Harvard, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, Daniel Morrison.

TRIP LEADERS: Sally Batton, Sandy Chivers, George Clark, Nancy Collier, Wendy Conquest, Courtney Dragiff, Rob Harris, Jim Kennedy, Ted Levin, Linde McNamara, Gail McPeek, Mark McPeek, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Arthur Mudge, Adair Mulligan, John O'Brien, Kevin O'Leary, Barbara Prince, Carl Renshaw, Lise Richardson, Alice Schori, Steve Shadford, Bill Shepard, Alcott Smith, Jeffrey Smith.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS:

Tony Abbate, Jane Altabelli, Jay Barrett, Elizabeth Cornell, Jane Darrach, Dave Dostal, Courtney Dragiff, Jim Duffus, Betsy Eaton, Stephens Fowler, Hypertherm associates, Craig Layne, Dan Magoon, Jill Marquard, Betsy McClain, Betsy McGean, Linde McNamara, Bill Mlacak, Jay and Susan Pierson, Everett Poisson, Cornelia Purcell, Cam Rankin, Andrew Samwick, Becky Spiegel, Amy Stevens, Brian Walsh, Douwe Wieberdink, Youth in Action, and the Hanover Boy Scouts.



All ages turned out for a geology tour of the South Esker, led by Dartmouth Earth Sciences Professor and Hanover Conservancy board member Carl Renshaw.