

# HANOVER CONSERVANCY

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



*Founded in 1961 as the Hanover Conservation Council*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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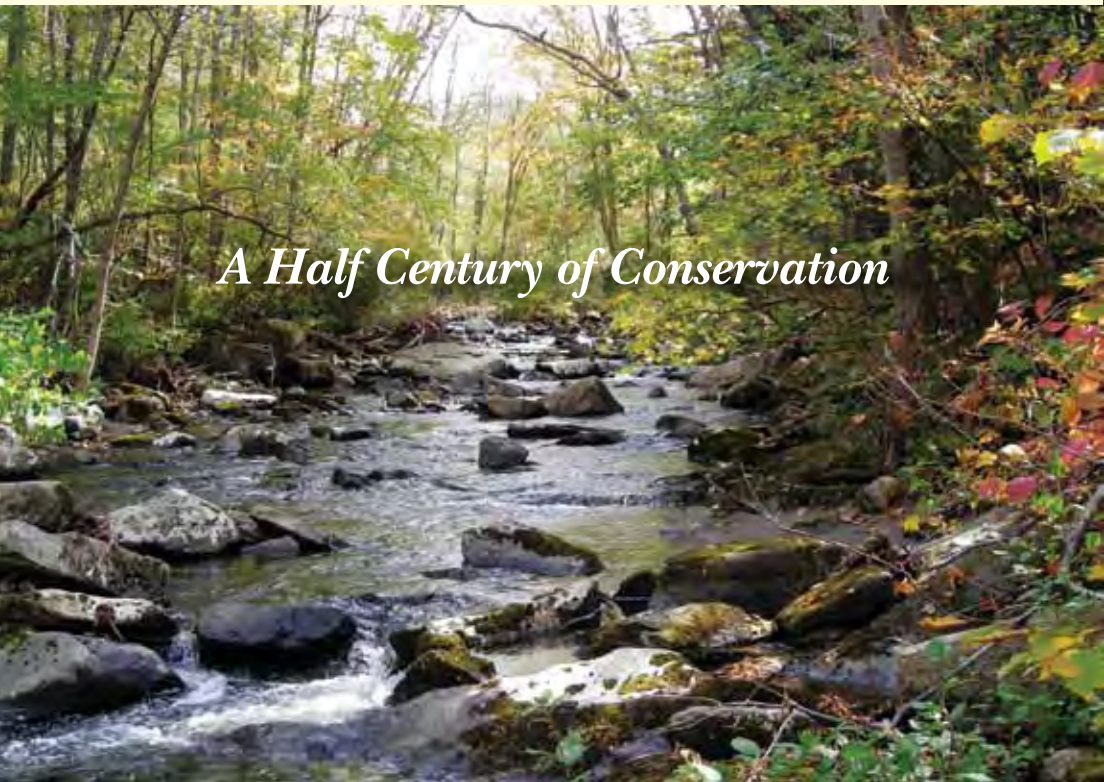
Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*

## THANK YOU

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

Byrne Foundation  
Chippers, Inc.  
E. C. Brown's Nursery  
Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust  
Full Circle Forestry  
Hanover Conservation Commission  
Hanover Co-op Food Stores  
Hanover Lions Club  
Hudson Forestry  
I.T. Stuff for Nonprofits  
King Arthur Flour volunteers  
The Barrette Family Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation  
TomTom International  
Upper Valley Land Trust  
Upper Valley Region Community Fund of the NH Charitable Foundation  
Upper Valley Trails Alliance  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program  
Vital Communities of the Upper Valley  
Youth in Action

*Cover image painting of Balch Hill summit maple by Bradford Johnson, courtesy of Greg Baker.  
Below: Autumn comes to the Mink Brook Nature Preserve.*



## *A Half Century of Conservation*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Friends,

2011 marks our 50th year! Since 1961, we have spoken up for common sense conservation, responsible land management, and the timeless pleasure of getting outdoors close to home.

Now, we are preparing for the future with a fresh look and a new name. In 1961, “council” was a familiar term, and the town’s Hanover Conservation Commission did not yet exist. More recently, it has proven difficult to allay confusion between the two, one private and one public. Was this a mere nuisance, or could it affect our success?

A broad public survey in February confirmed what we’d suspected: the majority of our respondents thought the names were confusing and many thought that the Council and the Commission were the same organization. Worse was the mistaken belief that we received taxpayer funding, and the widespread confusion about the roles of the publicly-appointed Commission and the private, nonprofit Council.

Presented with such strong evidence and after consulting founders and members, our Board voted unanimously to endorse a new name: Hanover Conservancy. Our 1963 logo, which so gracefully depicts our role in nurturing nature, will continue to represent us in the future while honoring our past.

Thank you for your support and active engagement. We hope you will remain involved as we forge ahead into our next half century of conservation in Hanover.

*Nancy Collier*  
Nancy Collier, President



*Betsy McGean (left) served as president until December, turning the reins over to Nancy Collier.*



**HANOVER  
CONSERVANCY**

*Protecting land & water  
in our community*

*The Hanover Conservancy 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 50th year, the Conservancy, founded as the Hanover Conservation Council, 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 2011

### LAND CONSERVATION

Our year began with acceptance of a permanent conservation easement on the Town's 24-acre Rinker-Steele Natural Area, where ancient forest and dramatic slopes are within five minutes' walk from Storrs Pond, Oak Hill, and Kendal. In a major step forward this year, we developed our computer-based mapping, allowing us to better evaluate the natural resource values of parcels proposed for protection. We explored new opportunities to protect special lands in partnership with the Town, Dartmouth College, and private landowners. We welcome inquiries from those interested in conserving their land, either directly with the Conservancy or with a conservation buyer secured with our help.

### STEWARDSHIP

Substantial investment this year in caring for the Conservancy's protected lands shows in many ways. At the Mink Brook Nature Preserve, trail users appreciate a safe new log crossing of Trout Brook and a new off-road path linking the Quinn Trail with trails west of Route 10. The Conservancy retained a biologist and licensed professionals to control invasive plants on 35 acres here and also at the Balch Hill Natural Area. At Balch Hill, another new log crossing spans a wet area. We won USDA funding for a new forest activity plan to improve wildlife habitat here and will begin restoring the summit's expansive views.

We launched a natural resources inventory at our Greensboro Ridge Natural Area, pairing volunteers with professional biologists to document vernal pools, wildlife tracks, wildflowers, and more. Armed with new data on rare, threatened and endangered species, we can better manage our sanctuaries. We value the spirit and commitment of each of our properties' stewardship committees and welcome new volunteers.





*Sunshine follows a March ice storm  
at Balch Hill.*

*Opposite: Building a new crossing  
over Trout Brook, with help from  
Upper Valley Trails Alliance.*





## OUTREACH & EDUCATION

Bringing people into the outdoors is a half-century old tradition with us. This year, we led 18 trips engaging nearly 250 people, ages 10 to 75, in activities as diverse as early morning birding to a moonlit snowshoe hike. Conservancy trips are free and open to the public. Find trail maps on our website.

Our outreach happens indoors as well. When our Mink Brook black bear brought forth her triplets, we hosted a standing-room-only program by bear expert Ben Kilham. Programs at Kendal and the Howe Library illuminated the natural history of the Rinker-Steele Natural Area. We updated our Balch Hill trail guide (and greatly expanded our image library). Subscriptions to our re-designed monthly e-newsletter jumped by 20%.

An important aspect of the Conservancy's outreach was a survey in conjunction with Ravenmark, Inc., to explore what the public thinks about conservation in our area and how we might better share our conservation message. This led us to address long-standing confusion with the town's conservation commission, by adopting our new name.

*Biologists and Conservancy volunteers conduct a natural resources inventory at Greensboro Ridge Natural Area.*

## ADVOCACY

We have always been a clear voice for environmentally responsible public policies in Hanover. This year, the Trescott Water Company board named our executive director, Adair Mulligan, to the advisory committee for Hanover's 1,345-acre public water supply watershed. We also participate in regional bike and pedestrian commuter trail planning and Hanover's Biodiversity Committee.

## SPECIAL PROJECT

We were proud this year to create the Nan and Allen King Bird Sanctuary, in close cooperation with the King family and the Hanover Conservation Commission. A former farm pasture in Etna, cleared of a heavy growth of invasive plants, became the home of a naturalized demonstration garden of 15 species of native trees and shrubs with wildlife benefits and ornamental value. A stone memorial bench offers a view over Etna's Mink Brook valley. Over 60 people joined us to celebrate the sanctuary's opening on the Kings' wedding anniversary. (Future plans call for a guide to the new plantings.)

## OPERATIONS

Tightening and updating our operations this year, we conducted a complete overhaul of our bylaws, developed an investment policy, and embarked on a planned giving program. We also updated our accounting system, invested in staff and board training, improved our insurance coverage, and found savings by streamlining several areas of operations.



*Kite Day at the Balch Hill Natural Area is an annual favorite.  
Photo courtesy of Lisa Densmore.*

## THANK YOU

Our many volunteers make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

### **Balch Hill Stewardship Committee:**

Jan Assmus, Clyde Barbour, Mary Ann Cadwallader, Rob Chapman, Anne Evans, Rob Harris, Barbara McIlroy, David Pollock, Judy Reeve, Lois Roland, Ellis Rolett

### **Greensboro Ridge Stewardship**

#### **Committee:**

Jeanne Childs, Martha Cochran, Wendy Conquest, John Joline, Doug McIlroy, Dick Potter

### **Mink Brook Stewardship Committee:**

Jim Barrett, Cal Felicetti, Brenda Knight, Larry Litten, Sarah Mahlab, Rich Menge, Hilda Sokol

### **Slade Brook Stewardship Committee:**

Kathy Harvard, Gail McPeck, Hugh Mellert, Daniel Morrison

**Trip Leaders:** Jim Barrett, Tom Bickel, Dick Birnie, Michael Choukas, George Clark, Laura Dintino, Ehrhard Frost, Elisha Huggins, Jim Kennedy, John Lanier, Gail McPeck, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Bill Mlacak, Donna and John Moody, Arthur Mudge, Adair Mulligan, Bob Norman, Janice O'Donnell, Pip Richens, Ellis Rolett, Alice Schori, Bill Shepard, Dr. Alcott Smith, John Taylor

**A special thanks to:** Ruth Bleyler, Chip Brown, Andrea Caruso, Ed Chamberlain, John Collier, John & Leslie Connolly, Elizabeth Cornell, Andrew Deaett, Jim Duffus, Stephens Fowler, Wiley Little, Jill Marquard, Ken Pelton, Jay & Susan Pierson, Cornelia Purcell, Cathie Redpath, Amy Stevens, Mark Tecca



## FIFTY YEARS, FAST FORWARD

Fifty years ago, at the 1961 Town Meeting, Hanover citizens took a vote that set in motion a chain of events leading to the founding of the Hanover Conservation Council. Today, we proudly remember our history.

Early recognition of Hanover's need for a coherent open space plan came in the 1957 report, *Hanover Plans Ahead*. This, the basis of the first town-wide zoning, recommended a "greenbelt" of protected land around the urban core "to provide recreation and breathing space," consisting largely of "land too wet, too steep, or otherwise not suited for intensive urban development."

Although Town Meeting adopted the ordinance in 1961, no provision was made for a greenbelt. This prompted a group of Hanover citizens, led by Robert Norman and Carolyn Tenney with George Wrightson, Ted Hunter, and Jean Hennessey, to investigate how Hanover could protect its natural assets. Their proposal to add a Nature Preserve Zone to the ordinance, offered by Bob Norman at the 1962 Town Meeting, passed overwhelmingly.

This citizen movement quickly grew into a new private organization called the Hanover Conservation Council, incorporated in 1963. The Council has continued to work closely with the Town, supporting creation of its Conservation Commission in 1966. Since then the Council has assisted the Commission and private landowners in securing permanent protection of some 1,700 acres.

Promoting conservation beyond Hanover's borders, the Council sparked the protection of key waterfront in Lyme, Plainfield, and Grafton in the 1960s-80s, inspiring the founding of the regional Upper Valley Land Trust, another valued partner. Meanwhile, the Council assembled its own portfolio of protected lands in Hanover, now totaling over 300 acres at Balch Hill, Mink Brook, Greensboro Ridge, and Slade Brook. Programs grew to include a rich roster of outdoor trips, land management, and above all, advocacy for the kind of sound public policy that launched the Council.

The public-private partnership continues. At the 2011 Town Meeting, the Hanover Selectmen proclaimed a resolution "warmly and gratefully recognizing Robert Z. Norman and Carolyn C. Tenney for their bold actions, begun 50 years ago, to establish Natural Preserve Zoning for the town; for their commitment to land conservation in Hanover; and for their role in establishing the Hanover Conservation Council."

We thank our fore-sighted founders as we look forward to continued success under our new name: **HANOVER CONSERVANCY.**



**1961**

Five citizens  
begin to plan for  
Hanover's future

**1962**

Sponsored  
Nature Preserve  
zoning

**1963**

Incorporated  
as Hanover  
Conservation  
Council

**1964**

Completed first  
project —  
43 acres on CT  
River in Lyme

**1965**

Started Greenup  
Day with scouts;  
opened Julius Mason  
Fund for Hanover  
beautification

**1966**

Helped  
establish town  
conservation  
commission

**1967**

Secured Tanzi  
Tract; trip/  
film series  
underway

**1969**

Planned Ray School  
Nature Area

**1970**

Purchased  
summit of  
Balch Hill

**1971**

Secured Mink  
Brook/CT River  
area

**1972**

Bought books,  
equipment for  
area schools &  
library

**1973**

Purchased  
Rinker Tract;  
helped buy  
South Esker

**1974**

Sponsored  
conference on  
community land  
use planning

**1975**

Led 23  
outdoor trips  
and Audubon  
Film series

**1976**

Held conferences:  
Open Space  
Protection,  
Energy/  
Environment

**1977**

Secured  
Marshall Brook  
Wetlands

**1978**

Sponsored  
Transportation  
& Traffic  
workshop

**1980**

Secured 25.5  
acres at Balch  
Hill

**1982**

Promoted  
statewide  
Bottle Bill and  
recycling

**1983**

Contributed  
funds to  
Town's Elm  
Tree program

**1984**

Master Plan work  
on ground water,  
old roads

**1985**

Helped form  
Upper Valley  
Land Trust

**1986**

Represented NH  
on Acid Rain  
Partnership  
w/Ohio

**1987**

Early promoter  
of household  
hazardous waste  
collection

**1989**

Gave \$ for CT  
River water  
quality testing

**1991**

Led effort  
to conserve  
Fullington Fields

**1993**

Secured 25  
acre McKinley  
Tract

**1997**

Secured 42 acres  
in Hanover  
Center

**2000**

Purchased Mink  
Brook Nature  
Preserve;  
500 donors

**2001**

Hired first  
paid staff

**2002**

Conserved 34  
acres on Moose  
Mtn. Rd with town

**2005**

Protected 38 acres  
Lower Slade Brook;  
guide to Ray School  
Natural Area

**2006**

Launched invasive  
species control at  
Mink Brook

**2007**

Published trail  
maps of Balch  
Hill, Mink  
Brook, Slade  
Brook

**2008**

Successful \$500,000  
capital campaign,  
Fund for Hanover's  
Future; acquired 112  
acres on Greensboro  
Ridge; hired part  
time stewardship  
coordinator

**2010**

Conserved  
Rinker-Steele  
Natural Area;  
hired first  
full-time  
executive  
director

**2011**

Adopted new name:  
**HANOVER  
CONSERVANCY**

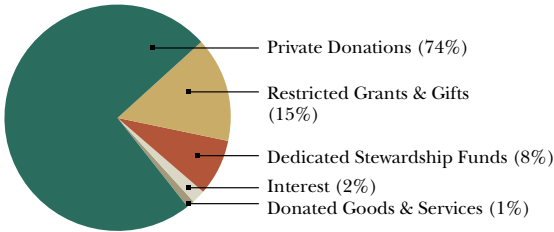
FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2011

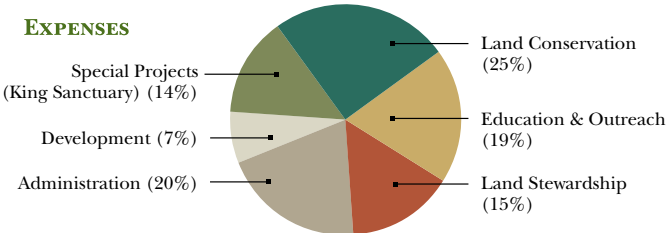
	2011	2010	
<b>ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 459,439	\$ 519,915	<i>A copy of the 2011 financial statement is available for review at our office.</i>
Pledges receivable, less allowance	0	750	
Prepaid rent	433	433	
Office equipment, net of depreciation	1,780	2,683	
Land improvements, net of depreciation	7,724	8,303	
Land held for conservation purposes	682,296	682,296	
Total assets	\$ 1,151,672	\$ 1,214,380	
<b>NET ASSETS*</b>			
Unrestricted	\$ 154,320	\$ (21,743)	<i>*The change in composition of net assets is the result of the Conservancy's review, in consultation with our accountant, regarding assets previously regarded as temporarily restricted.</i>
Temporarily restricted net assets	290,056	555,450	
Permanently restricted net assets	707,296	680,673	
Total net assets	\$ 1,151,672	\$ 1,214,380	
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>			
Contributions	\$ 64,466	\$ 46,135	<i>*The change in composition of net assets is the result of the Conservancy's review, in consultation with our accountant, regarding assets previously regarded as temporarily restricted.</i>
Membership income	15,977	17,843	
Grants	14,400	18,173	
Investment income	2,088	4,294	
Total support and revenue	96,931	86,445	
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Programs	116,578	85,391	
Management and general	32,456	17,671	
Fundraising	10,605	7,400	
Total expenses	159,639	110,462	
<b>INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS</b>			
	(62,708)	(24,017)	
Net Assets, beginning of year	1,214,380	1,238,397	
Net Assets, end of year	\$ 1,151,672	\$ 1,214,380	

The Conservancy ended the year in good financial condition, thanks partly to several generous gifts, contributions from new members, and cost containment measures. Past gifts to our Strategic Land Action Fund, Education and Stewardship Fund, Mink Brook Fund, and King Memorial Fund helped us pursue strong programs in these areas, including our contribution of \$25,000 toward the Town's purchase of the Steele lot.

INCOME BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES





# HANOVER CONSERVANCY

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Hanover, NH 03755  
(603) 643-3433

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage  
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[www.hanoverconservancy.org](http://www.hanoverconservancy.org)

*Exploring Moose Mountain Ridge on snowshoes, January 2011*



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