

# Conservation Solutions *for the Places You Love*

UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST February 2016

## Donors Share Their Stories; Campaign for Smith Pond Shaker Forest Grows



"We have spent the last 50 summers at our cottage on Mascoma Lake just below Shaker Mountain. We love the area and are so glad it will become conservation land. Thank you for undertaking this campaign." With support from many people who know and love Smith Pond and Shaker Mountain, the campaign to raise \$1.5 million for the purchase of this 995-acre property is gaining momentum! We love learning about the many ways that this special

place has touched the lives of area residents and visitors. Find a project description here and directions [here](#).

## Lebanon Conserves Watershed Parcel



The City of Lebanon has purchased and conserved 7.72 acres on Hardy Hill Brook, a tributary of the Mascoma River. Due to the well-drained soils and steep slopes on the parcel, the wetlands associated with Hardy Hill Brook do not take up a large extent of the parcel but they are noted as "Very High Value" by the Lebanon Natural Resources Inventory (NRI). River otter (one of the NRI's "target species" due to their relative intolerance for disturbed riverine sites) were noted using this corridor of Hardy Hill Brook and the large box culvert that

provides passage under Jenkins Road. We're very pleased to assist the Lebanon Conservation Commission in conserving this land for habitat and water quality protection.

## DOUBLE DOWN to support UVLT operations!

Three friends of UVLT have thrown down a challenge: if you make a gift of \$250 or more to support UVLT, they will match any increase over your prior-year gift.

They put \$25,000 on the line; about \$15,000 remains to be claimed.

## NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO GIVE!

Help UVLT earn these matching funds by redoubling your commitment to Upper Valley farms, forests, natural areas and trails.

**Donate Now**  
Secure donations through  
Network for Good

## Community Celebrates, Ascutney Outdoors Revives Lift Skiing



January 16th marked the resumption of lift-served skiing at Mount Ascutney as community members fired up the rope tow. Mother Nature produced some snow for the first day of the season and people turned out to enjoy it. Hundreds of community members and friends participated in a formal dedication of the Rope Tow February 6th. We posted [photos here](#). Once winter weather returns the slopes will be open several days a week. UVLT has conserved about 3000 acres on the slopes of Mount Ascutney; the conservation easement that protects the community ski area is UVLT's ninth there. Learn more about skiing at Ascutney and the group that is making it happen [here](#). Photo courtesy Ascutney Outdoors; credit Felicity Knight

## Write Now: NH Considers Hunting Bobcat



A NH Fish and Game proposal to open limited hunting and trapping seasons for bobcat has raised many questions: how much is truly known about current bobcat populations, what is the state's plan for monitoring population trends, will the harvesting of a predator species have ecosystem impacts, and why is the cash-strapped Department proposing a new hunting program that will be a net cash loss? Learn more and read [UVLT comments](#) here. Written comments regarding the NHFG proposal must be received by the Department by February 10, 2016. Send comments to: [comments@wildlife.nh.gov](mailto:comments@wildlife.nh.gov) (use the rule name "Bobcat Season Proposal" in your subject line); or write to Executive Director, N.H. Fish and Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301; or fax to (603) 271-5829.

## VT Housing & Conservation Legislative Day

On February 24, housing and conservation advocates will gather in Montpelier to showcase for legislators the effectiveness of investments made by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board. Here in the Upper Valley, VHCBC grants have conserved dozens of working farm



### Upcoming Events

Visit our [calendar](#) for details.

#### Housing & Conservation Board

Wednesday, February 24

#### Bear Pond Snowshoe

Saturday, February 27, 10-2

#### Smith Pond Shaker Forest Walk

Saturday, March 26, 10-2

#### Volunteer Easement Monitor Training

End of April - more details soon



Like us on Facebook

View our videos on YouTube

Our Annual Report for FY2015 is online [here](#).

Visit us at  
[www.UVLT.org](http://www.UVLT.org)

**Masthead photo:** January views from the conserved Schenk property in the highlands of Strafford.

parcels and natural areas, and supported the creation and preservation of hundreds of units of affordable housing. Most recently, VHCB has supported the successful conservation of the [Richardson Farm](#) in Hartland and [Ascutney Mountain](#) in West Windsor (see story above). To learn more about Legislative Day or how you can show your support of VHCB, contact [Craig Privett](#), UVLT Conservation Assistant.

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The Upper Valley Land Trust helps people conserve land in 45 New Hampshire and Vermont towns. We invite you to learn about our work, explore some of the special places we have conserved, and join the volunteers and supporters who make our work possible.

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