

Conservation Solutions *for the Places You Love*

UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST Year-end 2015

Ompompanoosuc River Protection



Our final conservation easement of 2015 protects a mile of frontage on the Ompompanoosuc River in West Fairlee. UVLT purchased the easement from Doug Dresser, whose family has owned the 63 acres of forest and hayfields for many years. The transaction is the first of two supported by grants from Vermont's Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP) and the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation and Enhancement Fund (MEF) to support the river's natural patterns of flow and flooding. Learn more [here](#).

Lyme Landmark Conserved



Land conservation in the Pinnacle area took another step forward when Manning Rountree and Kendall Hoyt donated a conservation easement on 14 acres located across the street from the Cutting Hill trailhead for the popular Pinnacle Trail. Once the site of one of Lyme's largest farms, the field at the northeast corner of Highbridge and Hardscrabble Roads is now beloved for the open views it provides to nearby hills and trails. Learn more [here](#).

Finding Smith Pond... what you should know



News of our planned acquisition of the 995-acre Smith Pond Shaker Forest has brought inquiries about how to get to the pond. This is a conservation project still in process; there's much yet to be done. To visit on your own, please use the signed public parking area. Do not park at the gate or block the road. Click [here](#) for directions and information.

Celebrate Nature in Winter at "My Walden"

When an easement is signed, the promise of many stories begins, for conserved land will be treasured by many people over time. A late January visit to "My Walden" conserved by Steve and Shiela Swett in 1999 will loop through the wood roads and trails, up to a meadow and beautiful vista complete with a special statue celebrating the land and those who love, protect and nourish it. This 263-acre property has been lovingly and respectfully stewarded by the

BE COUNTED for land conservation!

The end of the year is a time of tallying and resolutions. Have you made a 2015 gift to UVLT? It's not too late to join in conserving our region's special places -- the impact of your generosity is invaluable!

WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU TO SUPPORT FARMS, FORESTS, TRAILS AND WILD PLACES IN THE UPPER VALLEY.

Donate Now
Secure donations through
Network for Good



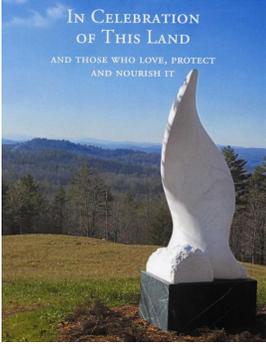
Upcoming Events

Visit our [calendar](#) for details.

Leavitt Hill Wetland
Saturday, January 23

Snowshoe at My Walden
Saturday, January 30

 **Join our Mailing List**



Swetts and features streams, a pond and outstanding habitat for wildflowers, birds, mammals... it's a great place for human renewal too. Come wander with us! Find more on the story of the land and sculpture [here](#). Trip details are posted on our [calendar](#).

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

[Visit us at www.UVLT.org](#)

Many Hands for the Land - Thank you!



As we finish the first six months of fiscal year 2016, we are deeply grateful for the contributions of hundreds of volunteers and donors who have joined in the effort to conserve and steward the Upper Valley's most special places. If you have helped monitor conserved lands, clear and mark trails, open and close riverfront campsites; if you have assisted with field trips, shared your knowledge of local flora and fauna, posted your photos of conserved lands; if you have mailed a gift or donated online... please know what a difference you make. In the past six months we've stewarded thousands of acres, welcomed families to discover nature on our lands, hosted paddlers and hikers and added 3,300 more acres of conserved land. Our successes together make the Upper Valley a healthier, more beautiful and more hopeful place. Happy 2016!

Masthead photo: 26 years ago Bea Clark donated an easement to protect grassland, wetland and a tributary of Blow-me-down Brook along Route 12-A in Plainfield. This week, new snow was waiting when Land Steward Alison Marchione visited.

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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