

UPPER VALLEY LAND TRUST March 2016

NH and VT Lawmakers Consider Forestry, Habitat, Easement Permanence



March marks the midpoint in the legislative session, when bills must "crossover" from one house to the other -- hence the past weeks have been busy ones for legislators working on some important conservation and stewardship issues. In New Hampshire, HB 1298, which would provide private landowners with a "right of action" and enable

claims of triple damages against those who pollute or vandalize land has been advanced out of the Judiciary Committee and will be heard by the full House. Contact Jasen Stock, [NHTOA](#) to learn more.

Also, the controversial subject of bobcat hunting will come before the NH Joint Rules Committee on April 6 and is likely to be addressed in legislation later this spring. [Let us know](#) if you'd like to be notified of further action on this issue.



Vermont's House Natural Resources Committee has recommended HB 580, which protects conservation easements from subsequent property tax liens and clarifies that conservation easements are exempt from a 40-year re-recording requirement. These changes have been a goal of land trusts for several years, and UVLT has worked closely with lawmakers to accomplish the legislation.

Also, the Vermont House of Representatives has approved H.789 aimed at helping to maintain intact forests and wildlife habitat through local and regional planning. Contact [Jamey Fidel](#) at the Vermont Natural Resources Council to learn more about this initiative.

Warner Meadows Trail Conserved

25 years ago, a group of neighbors who jointly own a 21-acre meadow in the heart of Norwich came together to conserve the land they shared. Now, in conjunction with the successful conservation of the adjacent Samples Hill property and Rosemary Rieser Trail (completed last June), they have added a trail easement, formalizing the community uses that have been ongoing for decades. The Samples Hill initiative was a UVLT partnership with the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and supported by dozens of Norwich residents.

We know you love the Upper Valley

WE DO TOO!

Please join with us to conserve Upper Valley farms, forests, natural areas and trails. Make a difference right here, on the ground today!

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Upcoming Events

Visit our [calendar](#) for details.

Acutney State Park Management Plan

Public Discussion
(see story left)
Thursday, March 24

Smith Pond Shaker Forest Walk

Saturday, March 26

Spring Migrant Birding

Saturday, April 16

Spring Forum Enfield Shaker Museum

April 22-24

Volunteer Easement Monitor Training

Saturday, April 23



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

Visit us at www.UVLT.org

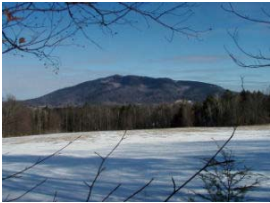
Spring Forum will include Shaker Forest Exploration, Conservation Plan



The Enfield Shaker Museum will host its annual Spring Forum April 22-24. A weekend of lectures by Shaker scholars, tours of the Museum and a trip to Smith Pond is planned. UVLT's John Roe will speak at 7:30 on Saturday evening, to share information about the Shaker Forest land we've acquired. We look forward to meeting historians, scholars and supporters and learning more about how UVLT and the Museum can cooperative bring the history of this area to light. Learn more about the forum [here](#).

Masthead photo: Bobcats at UVLT's Rix Ledge's property in Lebanon. More photos [here](#).

A New Plan for Mount Ascutney



A proposed [new management plan](#) for Mt. Ascutney State Park and other state-managed lands in southern Windsor County has been published for public comment. The 20-year plan addresses wildlife habitat, recreation and forestry within the 3100-acre park and other managed land. UVLT holds conservation easements on several parcels of park

land and has conserved over 1300 acres of adjacent land. A public meeting to discuss the draft plan is scheduled for March 24, at the Weathersfield town office, at 6:30 p.m. Following the meeting, members of the public will have 90 days to submit comments on the plan.

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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