



News & Notes

U P P E R V A L L E Y L A N D T R U S T

FOR THE BIRDS

Cliff's Cliff, Palisades, Fairlee, VT

Fairlee, VT has been called “the town under the cliff” and indeed, the dramatic ledges that rise just north and west of the village are iconic aspects of the town’s character and history. Known locally as “the Palisades,” the ledges are visible from across the Connecticut River valley. They also are home to rare and threatened plant species and provide nesting habitat for peregrine falcons.

Charles Clifford grew up in Orford, NH. Now 80 and living in Holderness, he fondly recalls hiking on Morey Mountain to the Palisade cliffs as a boy scout. When a 6-acre portion of the cliffs was offered for sale as a highway remnant in the early 1970’s, these experiences spurred him to buy it. After nearly 50 years of ownership, he and his wife have donated the land his friends and family refer to as “Cliff’s Cliff” to UVLT.

Though relatively small in size, this property is rich in natural resources. The land stretches steeply upward from Interstate 91. The Palisades and Morey Mountain area as a whole is considered a “hot spot” by the VT Agency of Natural Resources due to an abundance of native species and natural community types including rare, threatened, or endangered (RTE) species. The property itself hosts portions of a Temperate Acidic Outcrop natural community and Peregrine Falcon nesting sites (or eyries) on the high ledges.

Biologists have been monitoring peregrine falcon nesting sites on the property for more than a decade. Once eliminated east of the Mississippi, peregrines were listed under the federal endangered species act in 1970 and have rebounded thanks

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GOOD DEEDS



CONSERVED

January - June 2017

Julie & Jim Murray
Plainfield, 78 acres

Connecticut River Watershed Council, Richard & Anne Rosten
Corinth, 14 acres

Charles & Maureen Clifford
Fairlee, 6 acres

Town of Windsor
Windsor 5.5 acres





maintain these areas and trails? Become a UVLT volunteer!

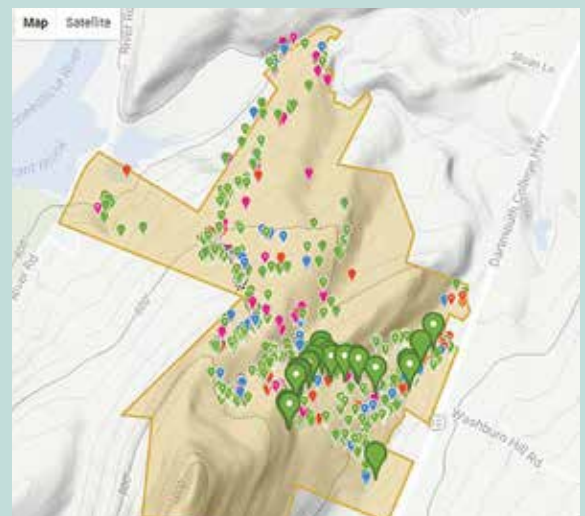
BIO BLITZ AT LYME HILL CONSERVATION AREA

On June 10th, 16 enthusiastic naturalists gathered at Lyme Hill to help collect information about biodiversity there using a smart phone app called iNaturalist. Over the course of three hours in the field, they recorded nearly 700 observations of 240 different species! This confirmed what many already knew about the property, which is that it is a biological hotspot with incredible biodiversity.

Going forward, we plan to use this data to inform our management activities on the property. For example, if we were to consider a new trail at Lyme Hill, we would consult this data to make sure the trail location avoided any rare, threatened, or endangered species, or sensitive habitat. Additionally, we can keep track of invasive species at Lyme Hill and nip any new occurrences early before they become entrenched. We will also be able to tell if our mowing management is increasing the biodiversity of the field at Lyme Hill as we hope.

The key to using this platform as a management guidance tool is lots of data! This is where the community comes in. Anyone can help UVLT learn more by downloading the iNaturalist app, and making observations when you visit Lyme Hill -- take photos, or sound recordings, and upload them to iNaturalist.

The Lyme Hill Bioblitz will remain ongoing for the next year. To see what we've found so far, visit our Lyme Hill Bioblitz project. Also, keep an eye on UVLTs calendar of events, as we'll plan to run more group bioblitz days over the coming months. If you'd like to connect with UVLT to volunteer your time to collect data at Lyme Hill, and would like some training on using iNaturalist, email contactus@uvlt.org



<https://www.inaturalist.org/projects/lyme-hill-bioblitz>

But their future is uncertain. New England has lost more than 80% of its dairy farms in the last fifty years. Today less than 120 New Hampshire farms are shipping milk into the commodity market. The volatility of milk prices, which have been all too often below the cost of production, loss of access to land, cost of taxes and regulatory compliance and being treated as a nuisance are some of the reasons that farms go out of business and new farmers don't choose dairy.

Last month, UVLT and the Co-op Food Stores teamed up to screen "Forgotten Farms," a film about the challenges and changes facing family dairy farms. About 100 people turned out to watch the film and discuss ideas and questions afterward with the filmmakers and several local farmers. We are currently working with the Co-op to determine how best to keep the conversation going -- how to help consumers be more aware of local producers who may not be marketing directly.

One place to start is keeping your town "farm friendly." The NH Coalition for Sustaining Agriculture and UNH Cooperative Extension produced a checklist for communities that wish to encourage farming and promote understanding of agricultural needs and practices. It's available online at: www.nhmunicipal.org/Resources/ViewDocument/327