



Tidings of the Turtle



Captain Sandy's mark from the collections of the Maine Historical Society

Francis Small Heritage Trust Newsletter – Fall 2002

Everett Libby proves to be a man of his word

It began with a simple promise. Now, after more than 10 years of conversation, discussion, and negotiation, 72 acres on Veazie Mountain in Limington have changed hands. With the sale, Everett Libby relinquished his dream of an upland cottage and the Francis Small Heritage Trust moved an important step closer to its vision of protecting the Sawyer Mountain Highlands.

In the very early days of the Trust, Everett had told Trust board member (and distant cousin) Sherwood Libby, that if he ever decided to sell the Veazie parcel, he would give the Trust first option to buy. Continued erosion of the Sawyer Mountain Road and ongoing discussions between Everett and Sherwood set the stage for the climactic phone call. Everett had been given an enticing offer for his land. With questionable access to his proposed cottage site on the peak, it was time to sell. True to his word, he was offering the Trust first crack at the purchase. And after the funds were raised and the papers signed, Everett went one better. He made a handsome cash donation to the Trust!

The Libby parcel is mostly ridge and steep slope, with forested wetlands. It is home to moose, deer, bear, fisher, and bobcat. They and future human generations are the beneficiaries of Everett's legacy ... a legacy founded on a promise kept.



Introducing... The Sawyer Mountain Highlands! Trust to receive major LMF grant

The Francis Small Heritage Trust has been notified that it will become the recipient of \$175,000 through the state's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) Program. The Program was established in 1987 when Maine voters overwhelmingly approved a \$35 million bond for purchasing lands of statewide or regional significance for recreation and conservation. In the ensuing years additional millions have been appropriated by the state's citizens and nearly 65,000 acres have been acquired from willing sellers, including about 3,800 acres in conservation easements.

In effect, the Trust's success represents a closing of a circle begun in the late 80's when Sawyer Mountain was first deemed a "special place" and highly ranked for public acquisition by the state. Political opposition at that time chilled the state's ardor, but served in 1990 as a motivation for local people to create the Francis Small Heritage Trust. Since that time the Trust has had two proposals rejected by the LMF Board. In 2001, down to its last out, the Trust turned to consultants Brian Kent and Allison Truesdale to prepare a third request. Eureka! The portfolio created by this pair was impressive both visually and imaginatively, and the LMF Board responded with its imprimatur.

The \$175,000 award does have its constraints. The money may be used for new purchases only, and not to pay off mortgages on earlier land acquisitions.

Grant writing is an inescapable aspect of the Trust's work -- and thankless work it is, generally. Nevertheless, the process offers an opportunity for shaping and clarifying that "larger vision". During a summer brainstorming session with Kent and Truesdale, the FSHT board came to terms with its larger vision: to help create a greenbelt of diverse ecological habitats stretching from Sebago Lake and the Saco River to beyond the New Hampshire border.

This goal is important for two reasons. First, growth and sprawl in southern Maine are fragmenting the landscape. Consequently, the opportunities for the conservation of large blocks of land are being lost at an alarming rate. Second, an area we have chosen because of its topography to call the "Sawyer Mountain Highlands" is in the center of, and could potentially link to, other significant conservation parcels. As the map here shows, the 2,467 acre Steep Falls Reserve and the 1,893 acre Little Ossipee Reserve lie in the

(continued on the back page)



Plaintain Leaf Sedge
Carex Plantaginea



Scouts (and others) in action

Good deeds, indeed, support Trust's work

Travelers along Route 25 that late October Sunday, 2001, might have wondered at the line of vehicles parked by the "Jagolinzer Preserve" sign near the Limington-Cornish border. The periodic buzz of a chain saw would have led the curious to that part of the piney woods adjacent to the Saco River where Limington Boy Scout Troop #315 was putting its collective muscle behind the words "community service".

Under the guidance of Trust board member Robert (Bos) Savage, the Scouts



Silver Spleen Wart
Asplenium Platyneuron

and their leaders were clearing brush and cutting small saplings in the process of carving a loop trail through the 20 acre preserve. Savage, with Audubon trail work experience, had ribboned the route earlier. Starting at 9AM, his charges worked quickly and efficiently and had largely accomplished their mission by 3:30.

Kudos to Scouts Jacob Brink, Sam Beety, Josiah Plummer, Brandon Hale, Justin Hale, Eric Matthews, and Andrew Pinkham, and leaders Cliff Brink, Roger Hale, and Bruce and Sherry Beety.

The Trust holds a conservation easement on these 20 acres, a gift of Scarborough denizen Phil Jagolinzer. The new trail will provide foot access to lovely Pease Brook, which meanders through a portion of the preserve before it empties into the Saco.

Newsworthy pneumatics

Just a few months later the Beety's were at it again, joining a host of other volunteers in perpetrating the April 20th disappearance of a small mountain of discarded tires, refrigerators and miscellaneous trash from Trust land near the Sawyer Mountain trailhead on Route 117 in Limington. It is important to remove the tires as they provide a breeding area for mosquitoes.

This effort was part of an Earth Day clean up unofficially organized by Bethany Brown and it brought out, besides the Brown and Beety clans, Julie and Trevor Jennings, Sommer Michaud, Corey Wilcox, Chelsea Jackson, Arthur Brown, Debbie Doughty, Peter Stebbins, Lorraine and Sherwood Libby, Nat Brackett and his grandchildren Kelvin and Ashley Bailey, Paul Thompson, and Andrea and Dick Jarrett, as well as others who "escaped without recognition."

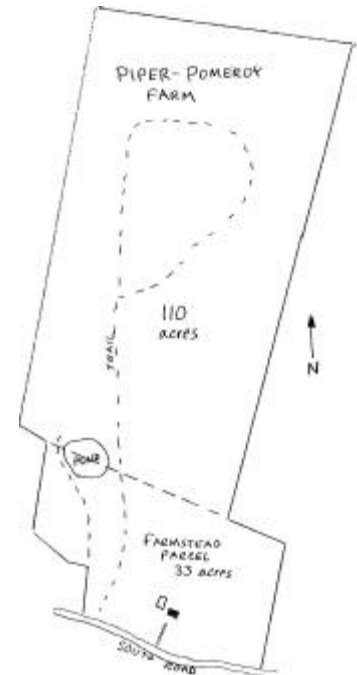
Two gentlemen who were recognized for their "tireless labors" were Gary Libby with his truck, and Calvin Lewis of New Hope Excavating who provided a dump truck. Full loads of pneumatics were carted away, mostly from the start of the discontinued Sawyer Mountain Road.

Chipmans donate easement for Piper-Pomeroy Farm

For the second time in a year, the Francis Small Heritage Trust has been the beneficiary of an easement from a conservation minded landowner. (See article on trail work in the Jagolinzer Preserve elsewhere on this page.) In December, 2001, David Chipman signed the papers which designated the Trust the holder of a conservation easement on the lion's share of a 140+ acre property in Parsonsfield. This land, the so-called Piper-Pomeroy Farm, was purchased by Mr. Chipman and his wife Kathe in 1996 from Wayne and Karen Moulton.

Mr. Chipman said he was motivated to make this gift because he wanted to make sure most of the land remains undeveloped for wildlife habitat. A "farmstead parcel" of approximately 33 acres is not included in the easement. Since the December signing, the entire 140+ acres have been sold to Frank Allman of New York. The easement, of course, remains in place despite the change of ownership.

One of the significant values of this land from the Trust's perspective is that it is contiguous to the 8,000 acre Leavitt Plantation, the focus of an effort by the Nature Conservancy to purchase an easement from the owners. Thus it represents one more bead in a "green belt" necklace stretching from the New Hampshire border to Sebago Lake.





Walking the Jagolinzer Preserve

The 20 acre Jagolinzer Preserve is located in Limington off Route 25 just east of the Cornish Line. The area offers a beautiful brook, waterfall, wetlands, forests, and frontage on the Saco River. A sign one-half mile west of the junction of Route 25 and 117 marks the start of the right-of-way to the nature area. The area is available during daylight hours for hiking, nature study, and other low impact activities such as cross-country skiing.

To enter the preserve, walk 250 feet down the right-of-way and then angle to the left and walk an additional 500 feet. A stone wall marks the boundary line of the property. Approximately 45 minutes are required to walk the loop trail that passes both the old dam, the brook, and the river. The trail is lined on the sides by fallen logs.

Trust's Annual Meeting to feature Allagash presentation

The Francis Small Heritage Trust will hold its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, October 22 at the Porter Town Hall. Trust members will gather at 6 PM to elect directors and officers. Current directors are Marlene Livonia, president, Bos Savage, 1st vice-president, Dan Kidd, 2nd vice-president, Peter Zack, secretary, Dick Jarrett, treasurer, Scotty Hoar, Lorraine & Sherwood Libby, John MacDonald, and Dave Fedrizzi.

At 7 PM, the public is invited to enjoy a slide show on the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. The presenter will be Tim Caverly, director of Maine Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER). PEER is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping public service employers uphold environmental values. In 1999 Tim retired after 32 years with the Maine Department of Conservation. For part of this period he was the regional supervisor of the Allagash Wilderness Waterway and the Penobscot River Corridor.

Christmas
Fern
*Polystichum
Acrostichoides*




Thank you, Amber!

The pen and ink plant drawings like the one above are the handiwork of Cornish artist Amber Carr, who has volunteered her fine skills for the Trust's benefit. These sketches depict flora that can be found in the Sawyer Mountain Highlands and on other properties protected by the Trust.

The Trust is grateful to the



for helping to cover the cost of printing this newsletter.

 The work of the Trust is important to me. Please accept my donation of _____ to help protect the Sawyer Mountain Highlands as well as aid in other conservation activities of the Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please contact me next spring about purchasing dragonflies.

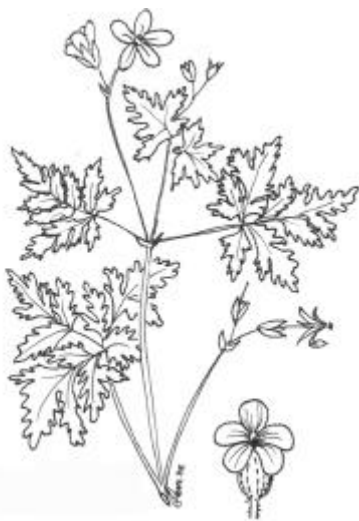
Contributions and memberships are tax-deductible under IRS code 501 (C)(3).
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Hiking map and trail descriptions

A few of the many special places in the Sawyer Mountain Highlands are described in the next few paragraphs. But there are hundreds more waiting to be discovered, so please do not be afraid to explore on your own. However, with the many ridges and valleys in this wild area it is easy to get turned around, so you should plan on bringing a compass and the map on the reverse side. This remote area is one of the few remaining places where a hiker can still get lost yet be so close to civilization. Hiking in these mountains can be quite a different experience than hiking on traditional well-marked trails. The Trust is committed to keeping its lands

General location:

The Sawyer Mountain Highlands are part of the single largest block of undeveloped land in York and Cumberland Counties. This block is bounded on the east by Route 117, on the north by Route 25, on the west by Route 5, and on the south by Route 11. While there are many side trails that can be used to reach the mountain, the best access is via the old (discontinued) Sawyer Mountain Road that runs from Route 117 in Limington to Emery's Corner in Limerick, where a portion of the road is still in use. The trailhead (point 8 on the map) is located at a sharp turn in the highway and has space for parking. This point is located 2.5 miles south of the junction of Routes 25 and 117 or 2.4 miles north of the junction of Routes 11 and 117. A Trust sign marks this spot and also honors Benjamin H. and Earle B. Webster. Alternatively, from Limerick, take Emery's Corner Road to the Sawyer Mountain Road. At the fork in the road, bear right up the mountain. The road is only maintained to the last house and rapidly becomes impassable by vehicle.



Herb Robert
Geranium robertianum

Points of interest on the map

- 1 The gorge
- 2 A cascading waterfall
- 3 The old Sawyer homestead (now just foundations)
- 4 Sawyer Mountain summit
- 5 Old beaver pond now regenerating to forest
- 6 Another old homestead with foundations
- 7 Active beaver area
- 8 Trailhead and parking area
- 9 Lloyd's Corner named in honor of Donald S. Lloyd

Sawyer Mountain Trail from Limington

(allow 3 hours)

Starting at point 8, take the rightmost trail. Where the Hale road turns to the right (point 7), be sure to check out the beaver activity. Just above the Estes Cemetery, the center Sawyer Mountain Trail continues steeply up the slope. It is easy to get lost here since a second ridge trail branches to left and a snowmobile trail branches to the right. Continue up the mountain through steep, eroded ravines. The trail to the summit will be on the left. If you have extra time, the Spur Trail winds its way through a beautiful, older growth forest.

Veazie Mountain Trails

(allow 1 hour)

Starting at point 8, take the rightmost trail. The Lower Veazie Trail branches to the left immediately before the Sawyer Mountain Trail becomes very steep. At the end of this steep section, the Upper Veazie Trail also branches to the left. This loop trail can be hiked in either direction, but note the "T" that leads to the summit of the ridge.

Gorge

(allow 1.5 hours)

The gorge consists of unique rock formations with sheer cliffs. Hiking from the Sawyer Mountain Road in Limerick, turn left immediately before the horse farm. You will pass a camp on the left but stay on the trail. This trail is a right-of-way access to the Trust property, so please show respect for the neighbors. When the trail crosses a stream, follow the leftmost branch of the stream to the gorge (point 1). Although the gorge is not visible from the trail, the path does run right next to the chasm and is easy to find for the return trip.



Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Arisaema triphyllum

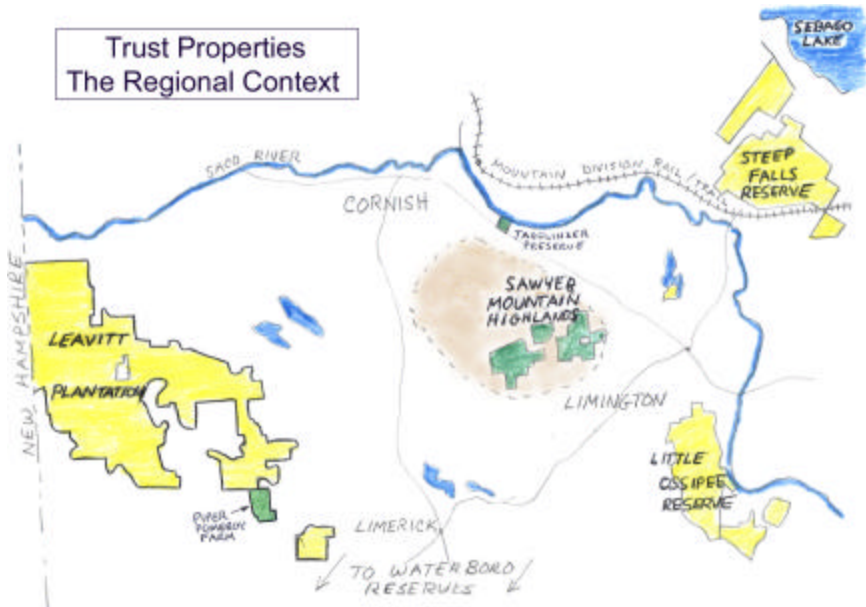
Cascading waterfall

(allow 2 hours)

In early spring and other times of heavy run-off, this waterfall (point 2) is well worth the hike. Follow the directions above for the gorge, but when you reach the stream follow its rightmost branch instead. To loop back to the Sawyer Mountain Road, follow the stream at the top of the falls to the right. The brook alternately follows its original lead as well as an old road that eventually leads back to the main trail.

Note: Source data is the USGS quadrangle maps for Cornish, Steep Falls, Limerick, and Limington. Contours are at twenty foot elevations. The map also shows the boundaries for the 700 acres of Trust property. Please respect the rights of all private landowners.

**Trust Properties
The Regional Context**



(continued from front page)

lowlands to the east; Leavitt Plantation (+/- 8000 acres) is to the west, and protected land in Waterboro lies to the south.

The Sawyer Mountain Highlands, with peaks over 1000 feet, represent the highest elevations in southern Maine south of the Saco River. The core area represents about 2000 acres, part of an approximately 11,000 contiguous acre block (parts of which are shown surrounding the Highlands) that has been identified as the largest undeveloped habitat block in southern Maine. The Trust now owns 703 acres, holds easements on 160 acres, and plans to purchase additional land from willing sellers.

**Hiking
Map
Enclosed!**

FRANCIS SMALL HERITAGE TRUST

Caring for land and a way of life in southern Maine

Who We Are:

The Francis Small Heritage Trust, Inc. is a private, not for profit conservation land trust founded in 1990. We are governed by a volunteer board of directors and have no paid staff. Our operations are supported by memberships and contributions.

What We Do:

Our Mission...

To protect the present character of the land centered around the five Ossipee towns of Limerick, Cornish, Limington, Newfield, and Parsonsfield by ensuring the continuation of natural areas while supporting compatible commercial uses, such as agriculture and forestry. We protect natural resources and provide for public access.

...and How We Carry It Out

- *By accepting donations of land and conservation easements.*
- *By providing information and support to towns, developers and landowners.*
- *By acquiring land through purchase.*
- *By presenting educational programs to help foster an appreciation of land and nature.*



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