



A scenic woods trail follows a stone wall that meanders through the George Clark Woods protected property on Rowe Mountain Road in Bradford.
Photo: Andy Deegan



Crews work to open culverts on the Northern Rail Trail to provide proper drainage of rain and surface water on the trail.
Photo Chris Norris

Ausbon Sargent Adds Another Important Property in Bradford

Press release

The Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust added its newest property on October 20, 2017 when it closed on the George Clark Woods property in Bradford. Ausbon Sargent now helps to protect 9 properties in the town of Bradford, encompassing 1,269.17 acres of land.

Gary Clark placed an easement on his 63-acre property in Bradford believing it was the perfect way to pay tribute to his father, George. In 1958, George Clark purchased the property with the hopes of creating a retirement spot for him and his wife and a wildlife and recreation haven for all to enjoy. Gary obviously shares his father's appreciation for this special property as he wrote in a recent article for Ausbon Sargent's Chatter newsletter, "Every piece of land holds its own wonders and

is beautiful in its own right, but not every piece of land offers such diversity as this: streams and vernal pools, lowlands and highlands, wetlands and drylands, a mature mixed forest, all of it bounded and crisscrossed by magnificent stone-walls."

The Clark property is highly ranked for wildlife habitat in the 2015 NH Wildlife Action Plan and can be managed for forestry and agriculture, boasting highly ranked forestry soils. In addition, it is located near other protected land including Low State Forest, Battles Farm and both of the Blitzer protected properties and it preserves scenic views for people traveling on Rowe Mountain Road.

With the addition of George Clark Woods, Ausbon Sargent now protects 143 properties covering 11,263 acres in its 12-town region.

Safety, Surface Quality, and Other Improvements on Rail Trail

Press release

The Friends of the Northern Rail Trail are committed to maintaining a safe and enjoyable experience for rail trail users whether they come on foot, bicycle, horseback, skis or snowmobile. Much time and treasure has been spent on building the trail since its inception in 2004. Now the

on the rail trail both in terms of use by its fans and by volunteers and contractors promoting and improving it. Here is a summary of the Friends' doings of late:

Volunteers hosted a number of promotional and fundraising events with participation in the Concord Market Days in June, a bike raffle at the Andover Fourth of July Celebration, Wilmot Farmers Market booth presence and Wilmot Bandstand food concession fundraiser in July.

In August, FNRT-MC's booth and bike raffle were present at the Old Time Fair at Potter Place. Two October events in Andover fleshed out the season with the presence of FNRT-MC's info booth at the Proctor Academy Special Olympics Fun Day and the hosting of its annual Peter Crowell Memorial Ride.

Weather-wise, the summer of 2017 was just plain stormy. In many instances trees were uprooted and fell across the Trail. FNRT-MC is grateful to volunteers Steve Robinson of Hill and Prescott Towle of Epsom who were very quick to get out with their chain saws to remove them. With severe storms becoming the norm we assume this kind of maintenance work will continue

into the future, and we are planning for it.

Vegetation control is another ongoing issue for the Friends. To keep the vegetation at bay, the entire 35 miles of Trail in Merrimack County was mowed in August by Andover resident Jim Shaw as contracted. This fall, goats are being engaged to help out on a trial basis thanks to Cheryl Sisson of Wild

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Creative solutions had to be found to fill in openings between the bridge rails and the trail surface at the Bridge Street and Potter Place iron bridges. Photos: FNRT-MC

focus has shifted to promotion, preservation of the surface, and attending to safety and drainage issues on bridges, in tunnels and at trail-side. It is our sincerest hope that an extension of the rail trail from its present terminus in Boscawen to Concord comes to fruition. We fully support preliminary efforts being made by the City of Concord in this regard.

This summer has been a busy time

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