

MOUNT GRACE ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Eight years ago, I was a fresh UMass grad with no idea how to actually do the conservation I'd spent four years learning about. Serving with AmeriCorps gave me an entry point into what's become my career, and a reason to embrace my roots and build a life in the North Quabbin.
—Sarah Wells, Mount Grace Land Protection and Operations Director



Women in the Woods workshop, Feldman conservation restriction, Athol



Following a 10-year incubation, this year we hatched and fledged a new, independent nonprofit, TerraCorps. Four former Mount Grace staff ran the program in our offices in Athol. On August 1, it relocated to downtown Lowell. TerraCorps' 36 AmeriCorps members continue to serve all of Massachusetts. Plans are to expand to other states. Follow this Mount Grace legacy of community conservation at TerraCorps.org.

We also achieved re-accreditation for the first time.

Most of the land projects completed this year were our "assists" to partners in the \$7 million-dollar Quabbin to Wachusett Forest Legacy grant Mount Grace secured. None of us could have done this vast project alone. See more highlights inside.


Steve Rawson
President


Leigh Youngblood
Executive Director



Eagle Reserve Conservation Area volunteer day, Royalston

"I am excited by the potential that Mount Grace has facilitated by creating and then spinning off TerraCorps. As TerraCorps comes into its own, it will become a powerful force to protect New England's environmental treasures."—Donald K. Ross, Tortuga Foundation



Dexter Park School garden planting day, Orange

There is no substitute for access to healthy food. Mount Grace's TerraCorps program has worked tirelessly with partners across our Commonwealth to support community farms and make local food available to everyone. Expanding this program is a win not only for Massachusetts, but for all of New England.—Congressman Jim McGovern

CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR September 2017 – August 2018

"What a great year it was for TerraCorps! We loved seeing the connections made by our members serving across the state at land trust, urban agriculture, and food justice nonprofits all working towards the same goal!"

—Mackenzie Sains, Chief Philanthropy Officer, TerraCorps



Our TerraCorps partnership helped us grow significantly by deepening our relationships with our partners and the people we serve. In our school and community gardens, our members approached their projects with an ethic of sustainability that has allowed them to flourish beyond their service."—Anna Swanson, Community Programs Manager, Backyard Growers

CONSERVATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR September 2017 – August 2018

Our Quabbin to Wachusett Initiative (Q2W), realizes a landscape-scale vision to conserve land in a 20-mile forested corridor linking thousands of acres of existing conserved lands. A partnership between dozens of landowners, 6 towns, 3 land trusts, and 1 state agency, it is funded by a Forest Legacy Grant. Together with its sister project, the Quabbin Heritage Landscape Partnership, it includes more than 4,100 acres.

Richardson, Phillipston, 133 Acres

Rise and John Richardson transferred a Watershed Preservation Restriction to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Water Supply Protection. The couple moved to Phillipston as part of a circle of friends that came to the Mount Grace region from eastern Massachusetts beginning in the 1970s. The group played a lead role in founding The Village School, now in Royalston, where Rise is the Director. The Richardsons raise

sheep (and the occasional llama for security), grow hay and vegetables, and tap sugar maples on their land, which also serves as a place where Village School classes and children from the community can experience nature and a working farm.

Quabbin to Wachusett Partner Projects, Barre, Hubbardston, Phillipston, Princeton, Westminster, 780 Acres

In addition to directly managing a dozen of the individual projects in the Quabbin to Wachusett and Quabbin Heritage Initiatives, Mount Grace wrote the grants, served as the liaison to the United States Forest Service, and coordinated the group effort from its start in 2010 to the anticipated finish this year.

Mount Grace congratulates the Fitchburg Water Department and the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Water Supply Protection on their successful protection of an additional

ten properties this year! We also extend our gratitude to the towns of Athol, Barre, Phillipston, and Petersham, and to Janet Morrison, East Quabbin Land Trust, Nashua River Watershed Association, and the North County Land Trust, for their involvement in projects that closed prior to this year.

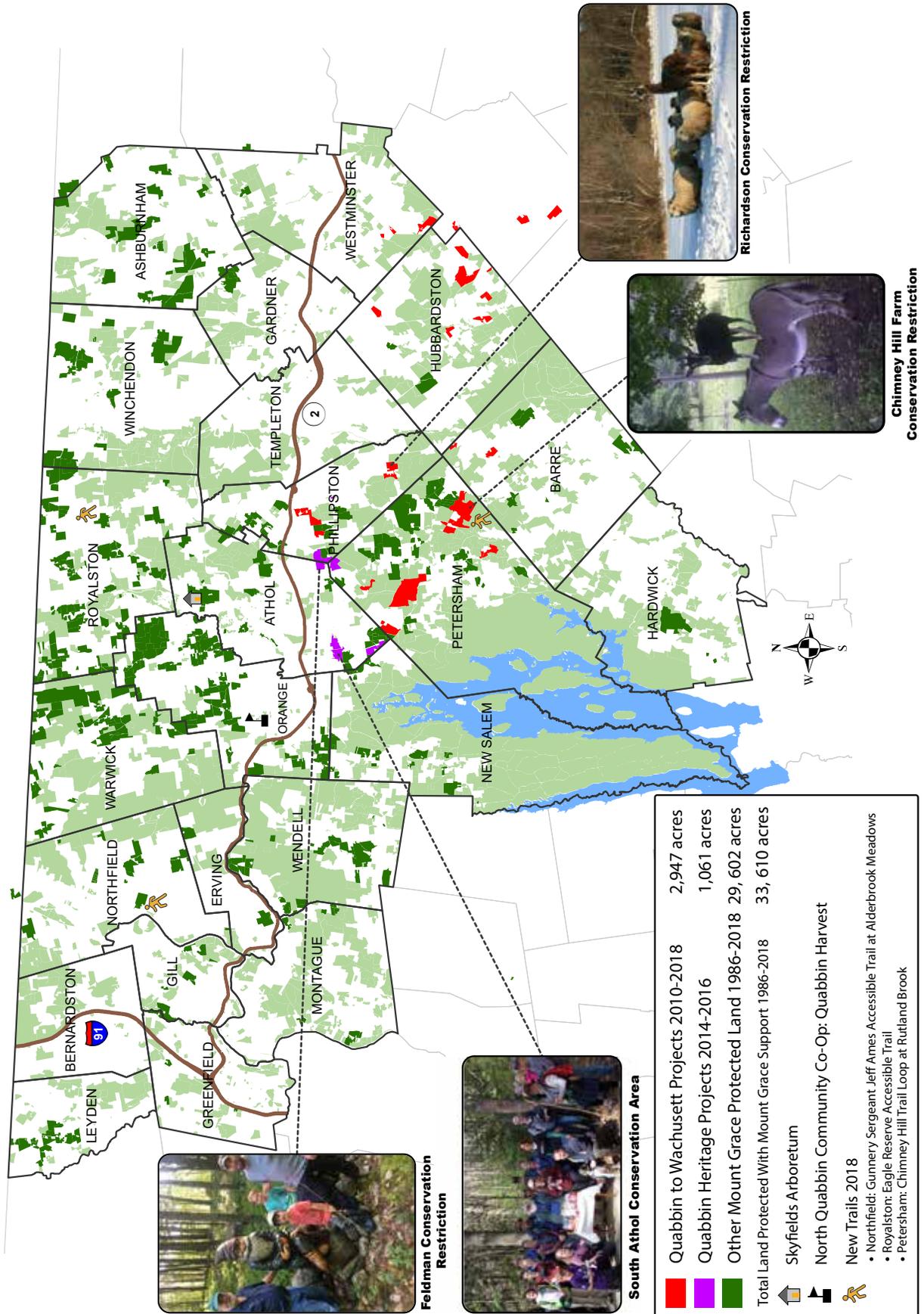
Five more projects, totaling 158 acres, are expected to close before the end of 2018.

Other Mount Grace Projects:

Northfield Pasture, Northfield, 10 Acres

Walt Jaworski protected his Northfield farm with Mount Grace in 2012. This spring, Mount Grace was able to partner with Jaworski again when FirstLight Power Resources, owners of Northfield Mountain Pumping Station, donated a small pasture across the street to Mount Grace. FirstLight and Mount Grace designed the conservation restriction—held by the Northfield Conservation Commission—to allow for Jaworski's continued use of the land for grazing. The pasture is the third piece of farmland Mount Grace owns.

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust Conservation Projects 1986 to 2018



ABOUT MOUNT GRACE PROGRAMS

LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION & NORTH QUABBIN REGIONAL LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP —Sarah Wells

Mount Grace's **Landscape Conservation Program** is the guardian of a rich mosaic of natural lands. We act quickly and strategically to safeguard our rural heritage and bolster our region's legacy of land conservation. Working with partners, we save the landscapes that our natural and human communities need to thrive. Together, we stitch these ecologically significant and locally important places into one connected and resilient landscape.

The **North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership**—an informal network of landowners, land trusts, planning agencies, academic institutions, and public agencies—is our primary mechanism for implementing this vision, as collaboration is the most powerful tool at our disposal. Our recently-completed Mormon Hollow Working Lands Corridor Project and Quabbin Heritage Landscape Project are testaments to this truth, along with our continued efforts to coordinate the \$7M Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain (Q2W) Forest Legacy initiative that involves more than 30 landowners and nearly a dozen partners. Our 2018 Annual Meeting on October 20th will celebrate the completion of Q2W.

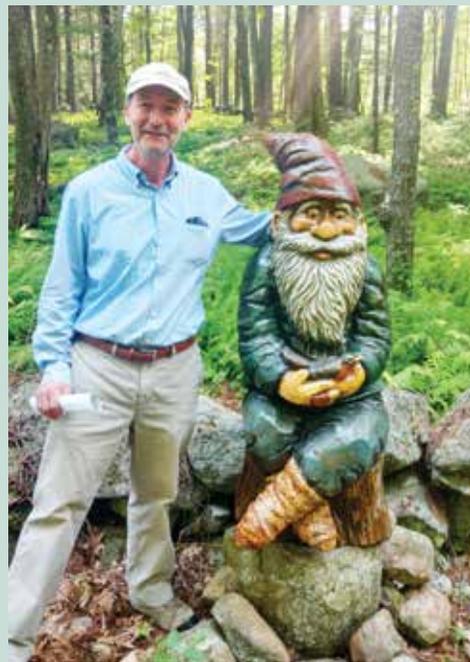
This year, the NQRLP also completed a separate two-year outreach grant from the U.S. Forest Service in collaboration with the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership, East Quabbin Land Trust, the MA Association of Conservation Commissions, the Keystone Project of UMass-Amherst, and the Service Forestry program of the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). Together, we reached landowners throughout central Massachusetts through dozens of workshops, woods walks, and potlucks. Our goal was simple: work with the many enthusiastic stewards of our region's woodlands to get even more people engaged in efforts to sustainably manage and protect our shared landscape.

In late winter, we held "Woods Wisdom" potlucks, where neighbors were invited to spend an evening sharing food and stories about the woods. As we settled in with our pulled pork and gumbo, Fletcher Clark (former DCR Service Forester) read aloud "Axe in Hand" by Aldo Leopold. As Leopold ponders the motivations behind the decision to cut or keep a given tree, the stage is set for thinking about how and why our own backyards and woods are managed.

In the spring, we worked on the 2-mile "Forest Learning Loop" on the 300-acre conserved Feldman property in Athol. The trail—designed by Susie Feldman to attract the imagination of a 10-year-old—features facts about our common tree species. Each trail sign is marked with a gnome who guides visitors along the path.

This summer, we visited the completed trail through another grant-funded event: "Women in the Woods." Attending an all-female woods walk was a new experience for everyone, and the group of 14 women broadly agreed that there was something special about it. The sunny June morning was spent swapping ideas, advice, and historical tidbits related to our region's long history of forest management. The trail lived up to its name, sparking conversations like one about the "mast pines" reserved for the Royal Navy in the 1700s and the colonists who hid their widest pine boards in efforts to resist the King's reach.

This US Forest Service grant enabled us to be creative in our outreach, and our sincere hope is that we've helped grow the team of people needed to conserve our beautiful and productive landscape.



Bob O'Connor (on left) resting along one of the many trails open to the public at the Feldman Conservation Restriction. Bob and many others at the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs supported our Quabbin to Wachusett and Quabbin Heritage Initiatives which conserved 4,100 acres of land

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION –Jay Rasku

The **Community Conservation Program** builds healthy and resilient communities by protecting lands that are essential to all people's quality of life. We engage directly with communities to save the land they love and deepen local commitment to conservation by helping to ensure that all people have equal access to the benefits of our natural environment forever.

Can conservation make a community stronger and more inclusive? That's the goal of Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary. We hope this site will have an impact greater than its five acres might imply. A partnership that includes Lane Construction, Northfield town committees, high school students, community volunteers, Tribal Nation representatives, and the Department of Conservation and Recreation Trails Grant Program, has created a half mile accessible trail complete with interpretive signs, benches, and a cantilevered observation platform on the edge of a beautiful wetland. Everyone, including families with young children in strollers and those using wheel chairs, is welcome to explore the area and observe the beauty of wood ducks, the antics of beavers and muskrats, and the hunting



Gunnery Sergeant Jeff Ames—inspiration and namesake for Northfield's first wheelchair-accessible trail—inaugurated the route, which leads through Mount Grace's Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary to a viewing platform alongside a beaver pond.

proWess of herons and hawks. This summer we launched a similar effort in Royalston to bring accessibility to our Eagle Reserve Conservation Area. Please contact us if you can lend a hand! What's an important place worth conserving in your community? Let us know!

STEWARDSHIP –Jay Rasku

The Mount Grace Stewardship Program partners with natural resource professionals and committed volunteers to demonstrate how active and responsible stewardship can provide long-term environmental, economic, social, and community rewards. Like many landowners in our region, we practice ecologically-sound forest management to generate income, create wildlife habitat, and improve recreation. We train and support volunteers to monitor our growing number of conservation areas, conservation restrictions, and trails. We engage with young people through field trips, in-class teachings, and afterschool programs to foster a new generation of land stewards and support relationships with nature that will last a lifetime. We invite everyone to help steward our conservation areas through projects that increase public access opportunities, restore habitat, and monitor the health of the land.

The bedrock supporting all Mount Grace stewardship projects are volunteers. Many of you have lent your time, talent, and wisdom to help make Mount Grace the conservation leader it is today. Thank you, all of you! Thanks to Danny Monette, Jim Solinas, and Steve Rawson for building trails; at Eagle Reserve Conservation Area in Royalston; Lis McLoughlin for monitoring Conservation Restrictions in the Leyden area; Jerry Wagener, Celt Grant, and Steve Roberto for building the observation deck at

Alderbrook Meadows in Northfield with Sue Space, Joanne McGee, Joe Graveline, Julia Blythe, Charlie Eiseman, and Mimi Hellen Jones building the trail; and Elizabeth James-Perry, Rich Holschuh, Doug Harris, Carol Lebo, Sue Ross, and David Brule designing educational signage about the cultural history of the area; Ernie LeBlanc and David Small for discovering rare and endangered species at our conservation areas; Kris Gunderman, Norm Flye, Don Flye, Pat Worth, Johanna Lawlor-Moore, Bob Curley, Don Shambroom, Ray Jackson, and Jim Herbert for maintaining Skyfields Arboretum and our office in Athol; and many more...it takes a village of people who care about the land and our community's relationship to it, for this all to work...thank you!



Maps of eight different Mount Grace trails—including full descriptions and ratings for accessibility—are online at: mountgrace.org/download-mount-grace-trail-maps-free.

FARM CONSERVATION –Jamie Pottern

Our **Farm Conservation Program** undertakes innovative projects that help sustain our local economy, increase community access to healthy, local food, and build Massachusetts' food self-reliance by protecting farms for future generations. We work to develop and employ new conservation models to ensure that whole farms remain affordable and will transfer to the next generation of farmers.

This year, we are nearing completion of our West Gate Farm project—Will and Shalee Pratt's 45-acre farm will be Mount Grace's first conservation project ever in Bernardston. We are also working with Chuck and Livvy Tarleton of Sunset View Farm in Winchendon to protect their historic 70-acre farm, woodland, and house with a conservation restriction and with an additional restriction that ensures the farm will always pass on to working farmers at an agricultural value.

Our fabulous Terra-AmeriCorps member, Kat Kowalski, continued the Program's innovative farmland inventory work, adding four new towns to our inventory to enhance our strategic farmland conservation plan and support local open space planning efforts. Kat also organized two estate planning workshops for farmland owners to learn about options for the future of their land.

We also continued our coordination of the Greater Quabbin Food Alliance (the regional food systems network Mount Grace founded in 2013). Kat organized two regional gatherings and numerous working group meetings throughout the year to bring together more than 150 stakeholders from across the region to connect and collaborate on ongoing food access and economic development initiatives.



West Gate Farm, which is located on Bernardston's scenic Eden Trail, is Mount Grace's first conservation restriction (CR) in Bernardston, and will close in the late fall of 2018. The CR will protect the agricultural, forestry, and scenic resources on the property, as well as keep the farmhouse and barn tied together with the conserved land.

Ways of Giving To Mount Grace

Thanks to all of our supporters for partnering with Mount Grace to protect farms, water, and wildlife. Without your support the conservation of our community resources would not be possible! Some creative ways that you can support our conservation and stewardship work include:

- **Monthly Giving** – Set up a monthly gift in any amount on your credit or debit card.
- **Real Estate Gifts for Resale** – Donate any type of non-conservation real estate property located anywhere to Mount Grace for resale to benefit conservation.
- **Website donations** – Visit mountgrace.org anytime you like to make a gift.
- **Workplace Giving** – If your employer offers matching gifts, simply include your company's matching gift form with your contribution. If your employer is a partner in Earthshare, a federation of environmental charities, you may designate an automatic deduction from each paycheck to Mount Grace.

Thank You!



We welcome your participation in the Mount Grace Margaret Power-Biggs Society

The Margaret Power-Biggs Society recognizes individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations contributing \$1,000 or more annually to Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. To learn more about how you can become part of the Margaret Power-Biggs Society, contact Major Gifts and Grants Manager David Kotker at 978-248-2055 x19 or kotker@mountgrace.org.



Maintaining the level of conservation and stewardship that our shared landscape requires is a community effort. On behalf of future generations and the local landscape, we thank each and every one of you!

Planned Giving

Land Conservation is a commitment to protect the places we cherish now and into the future. Now, more than ever, Mount Grace needs community support to protect cherished local landscapes. We invite you to consider the planned giving options you can use to support Mount Grace while meeting your own financial needs.

Legacy gifts can help you:

- Reduce taxes on your income and capital gains
- Take care of your family's financial needs
- Reduce taxes for your heirs
- Make a larger charitable gift than you thought possible to protect the land

If you are thinking of making a bequest to Mount Grace, please let us know. We are available to talk through the numerous possibilities that benefit you, the region, to help you find a planned gift that's right for your legacy. If you'd like to discuss a legacy gift of your own, please contact David Kotker at 978-248-2055 X19 or kotker@mountgrace.org.



"We have a special opportunity to truly shape our region's landscapes, and we hope you will join us in considering a legacy with Mount Grace."

~ Julia Rabin & Dan Leahy

Grateful Thanks to SUPPORTERS OF MOUNT GRACE

Every contribution is special to us. Donors contributing to Mount Grace during the fiscal year (June 1, 2017 – May 31, 2018) are listed on these pages. Gifts of Services and In-Kind Gifts are not listed. We regret any unintentional omissions. Thank you to each and all.

The Margaret Power Biggs Society recognizes individuals, businesses, organizations, and foundations contributing at least \$1,000 annually to

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. The generosity of Society members gives Mount Grace the resources to conserve the local landscape in a sustained manner that supports the rural character of the region.

Margaret Power-Biggs
Society



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Vahe and Anni Bedian



Touring Massachusetts' first Forest Legacy project, protected in 1996 by Ted and Beverly Hutchinson and Mount Grace, in Petersham.

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Last year's Annual Meeting celebrated the completion of a seven-year effort to secure the permanent conservation of Montague's Red Fire Farm as a Whole Farm Forever!

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 Glen Youngblood
 Robert and Carol Ziegenhagen



Ruth Shaw, of Orange, at opening day of the Gunnery Sergeant Jeff Ames Accessible Trail. Mount Grace is now working to add a new accessible trail at our Eagle Reserve Conservation Area in Royalston.

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 Jude Bischoff
 Gene Bishop and Andy Stone



Our newest stewardship project is hosting Blandings Turtles at our Skyfields Arboretum headquarters in Athol. The turtles will be raised to maturity with help from local students and released into the wild to help restore this threatened species in Massachusetts.

Karl and Doris Bittenbender
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Thanks to Dennis Koonz of Orange for this great shot of bears enjoying a swim. Follow Mount Grace on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for wildlife pictures, events, and more!

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 Michael Hoberman
 Ben Holmes
 Deborah Ann Huisken
 Mary Humphries
 William Hunting
 Mary Hurley
 Lisa Hussay
 Carly Hutchinson
 Sarah Hutton
 Ella Ingraham
 Kathryn and Brian Inman
 Rick Innes
 Raynold Jackson
 Rev. Philip C. Jacobs
 Jackie Jacobs and Dan Holzman
 Christina Jeffers
 Jake Johnson
 Leon D. and Sandra M. Johnson
 David and Mary Johnson
 Helen Johnson
 Kerry and Bride Johnson
 Julianne and Barry Johnston
 Dorri Jones Knolle
 Jonah Keane
 Chris and Joan Keating
 Raymond Keddy
 Sean and Liz Keller
 Paula King
 Rick King
 Manuel and Mary King

Sue King
 Jack Kittredge and Julie Rawson
 Travis Knechtel
 Michael and Mary Kociela
 Greg Konkol
 Brian Kowalski
 Hank Kozlowski
 Janet Kraft
 Stephen and Suzanne Kulik
 Peter LaFrance
 Ashley Lamoureux
 Amy Landry
 Sita Lang and Anne Jemas
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 Rose and Jeff Lawrence
 Patty Lazok
 Kate Lee
 Anthony and Grace Leger
 Rosa Lendall
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 John Lepore
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 LifePath
 Mike Littlewood
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 Erin Lyman
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 Doug MacLeod
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 Mike and Mary Ellen Mansfield
 Maple Mama Beverages
 Cathi McRae
 Anna Maravalli
 Myron and Suri Maron
 Jim Martindou
 Jimmy Mason
 Kim Matecki
 Meryl Matthews
 Kathleen McLendon
 Jim McRae and Sue O'Reilly-McRae
 Ian McSweeney
 Ann Marie Meltzer
 Mim's Market

Hanna Mogensen
 Jay Molina
 Dan Monette
 The Montague Reporter
 Montague & Desautels
 John N. and Laura Moore, III
 Pamela Moore
 June Moran
 Anne Morehouse
 Steven Morgan and Mary Ellen Kelly
 Eva Moseley
 Mindy Nadolski
 Cedric Nash
 Michael Naughton
 Amanda Nims
 Judith Northup-Bennett
 Michael Novack and Penny Novack
 Deb and Joe Nunes
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 Prudence Smith and Sharon Gensler
 Liz Smith
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 Janice Sorensen
 Mick Spence
 Bobbie Spiegelman
 Helen Staiger
 Shane Stanek
 Patti Stanko
 Mary Jo Stanley
 Homer Stavely and
 Mary Maysbark Stavely
 Joseph and Dawn Steim
 Jane and Peter Stein
 Marion Stoddart
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 Diane Sullivan
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 Thayer Academy Parent Association
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 Thomas and Sylvia Wetherby
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 Katherine Williams
 Nancy Wilson and Nick Simms
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 Matthew Wolkenbreit
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 Lita Wright and Murray Biggs
 Michael and Greg Wright
 Jim Xue
 Paul Yarmoluk and Roberta Gillette
 Paul and Sheila Youd
 Allen Young and Dave Malin
 Alejo Zacarias
 Benjamin Zahradnik
 Karol and Keith Zub

Thank You!



Neighbors and friends joined hosts Bob Busby and Maureen Conte to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the community effort to save Gale Farm in Orange, now known as Tully Meadow Farm.



Please contact Mount Grace if your name was accidentally left off this list or if you would prefer to be anonymous next year.

MOUNT GRACE ANNUAL REPORT 2018



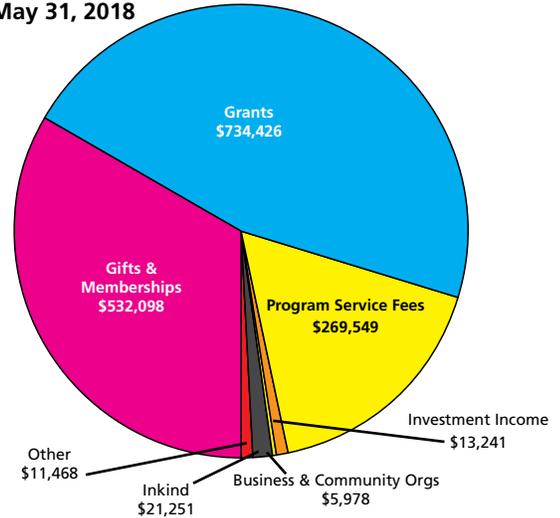
Preliminary Financial Summary For the Year Ending May 31, 2018



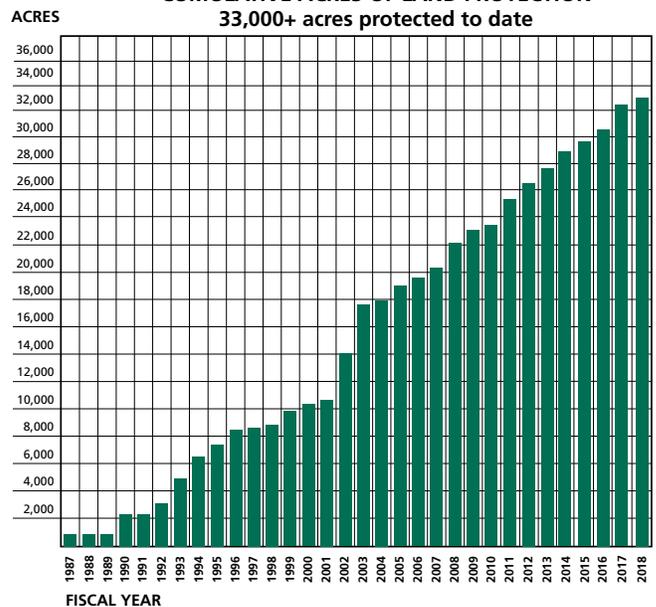
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	FY2018 PRELIMINARY	FY2017 FINAL
REVENUES		
Gifts & Memberships	\$ 532,098	\$ 442,690
Grants	\$ 734,426	\$ 670,535
Program Service Fees	\$ 269,549	\$ 366,420
Investment Income	\$ 13,241	\$ 17,300
Businesses & Community Orgs	\$ 5,978	\$ 6,572
Inkind	\$ 21,251	\$ 13,236
Other	\$ 11,468	\$ 10,510
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 1,588,012	\$ 1,527,263
EXPENSES		
Landscape Conservation	\$ 165,439	\$ 175,951
Farm Conservation	\$ 139,507	\$ 108,326
Community Conservation	\$ 80,636	\$ 81,452
Land Stewardship	\$ 114,967	\$ 114,788
Engagement & Education	\$ 155,859	\$ 151,681
TerraCorps	\$ 677,234	\$ 632,032
Administration	\$ 147,597	\$ 149,699
Fundraising	\$ 97,083	\$ 81,132
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 1,578,322	\$ 1,495,061
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 9,690	\$ 32,202

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	FY2018 PRELIMINARY	FY2017 FINAL
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,072,134	\$ 1,640,035
Conservation Land & Restrictions	\$ 1,586,548	\$ 1,493,514
Buildings & Equipment	\$ 320,466	\$ 324,615
Project Assets	\$ -	\$ 72,772
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,979,148	\$ 3,458,164
Total Current & Long-Term Liabilities	\$ 364,233	\$ 935,314
Total Equity	\$ 2,614,915	\$ 2,522,850
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 2,979,148	\$ 3,458,164

OPERATING INCOME Year Ending May 31, 2018



CUMULATIVE ACRES OF LAND PROTECTION 33,000+ acres protected to date



Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

Our Mission: To benefit the environment, the economy, and future generations by protecting significant land and encouraging land stewardship.

We welcome your articles, photographs, comments, and suggestions. For information about becoming a member or to request a change of address, please contact our office at:

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

1461 Old Keene Road
Athol, MA 01331
978-248-2043 (tel)
978-248-2053 (fax)
landtrust@mountgrace.org
Visit our web site at
www.mountgrace.org
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MOUNT GRACE STAFF

Leigh Youngblood, *Executive Director*
Sarah Wells, *Land Protection and Operations Director*
Jamie Potters, *Farm Program Manager*
Fletcher Harrington, *Community Conservation Program Manager*
Lisa Cormier, *Office Manager*
Carol Mayer, *Administrative Assistant*
John Dooley, *Director of Finance*
Jay Rasku, *Stewardship and Engagement Director*
David Kotker, *Major Gifts and Grants Manager*
Cami Duquet, *Communications and Engagement Coordinator*

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