

A MAGAZINE FROM MOUNT GRACE LAND TRUST

SPRING 2026

Skyfields



Mount Grace
LAND TRUST



Mount Grace Land Trust
1461 Old Keene Road, Athol, MA
978-248-2043 | landtrust@mountgrace.org
[f](#) mountgraceLCT [@](#) mountgraceLCT
mountgrace.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Spackman *President*
Joan Meyer *Vice President*
Lenny Johnson *Treasurer*
Craig Twohey *Clerk*
Members: Bob Busby, Sara Crawley, Pam Harty,
Nancy Hazard, Jim Levitt, Alan Medville, Elaine Mroz
John Natoli, Al Rose, Phil Stevens, Mary Woolsey

STAFF

Leadership

Emma G. Ellsworth *Executive Director*
Max Feldman *Deputy Director*

Conservation

Dave Small *Director of Conservation*
Helen Castles *Senior Conservation Project Manager*
Seth Kelley *Community Conservation Program Manager*
Tyson Neukirch *Farm Conservation Program Manager*
Isaac Wagner *Conservation Program Manager*
Jack Monahan *Conservation Project Associate*
Christa Collins *Conservation Management Consultant*

Stewardship

Matt DiBona *Director of Land Stewardship*
Tessa Dowling *Stewardship Manager*
May Grzybowski *Stewardship Engagement Associate*

Land Justice

Jenn Albertine *Climate & Land Justice Director*
Jose (Ite) Santana *Land Justice Fellow*

Development

David Kotker *Major Gifts & Grants Manager*
Caitie Dwyer-Huppert *Community Outreach Associate*
James Holcomb *Membership & Administration Associate*
Kolya Partan *Communications & Engagement Associate*

Finance & Administration

Liz Wilson *Finance & Administration Manager*

TerraCorps Members

Emily Volmar *Land Stewardship Coordinator*
Delana Gonzales *Land Stewardship Coordinator*

IN THIS ISSUE

- 02 Dear Friends
- 04 Protecting a Generations-Old Sporting Tradition
- 06 A Conversation with Dave Small
- 07 A Constellation of Projects in Northfield
- 08 Explore Eagle Reserve
- 10 Celebrating 40 Years of Conservation
- 15 Upcoming Events



Mount Grace's mission is to conserve and care for our forests, farms, and waterways to promote healthy communities in climate-resilient, biodiverse landscapes.

Skyfields is our new member magazine—and yes, it looks different! This fresh format replaces our triannual newsletter and arrives as we celebrate Mount Grace's 40th anniversary. Alongside it, we're introducing a new logo that reflects our commitment to the interdependence of people and the landscape.

ON THE COVER

This issue's cover features children playing at Northfield's Hobo Falls—a cascading waterfall that roars back to life each spring, and a recently protected property conserved by Mount Grace.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

My morning walk was wrapped in a soft cover of clouds, the air carrying a gentle, warm sweetness. Across the pond, I watched the wildlife respond to the shift of the season—diving ducks erupting from the water in a feeding frenzy; an otter surfacing again and again, climbing onto a brushy clump with fresh catches from below; while geese filled the air with their raucous mix of courtship and competition.

Underfoot, I'm beginning to see the first blush of green. Spring has certainly arrived—and like the wildlife stirring all around me, Mount Grace shares that same sense of anticipation and renewed energy that defines the season.

It's hard to keep up with the extraordinary breadth of conservation, stewardship and outreach projects that are bursting from the walls at Skyfields, our beloved headquarters. While we bring tremendous joy to the work that we do, we also feel the urgency. So many of our efforts are shaped not by internal timelines or long-term planning, but by urgent, external pressures—whether from invasive species or the threat of subdivision and development.

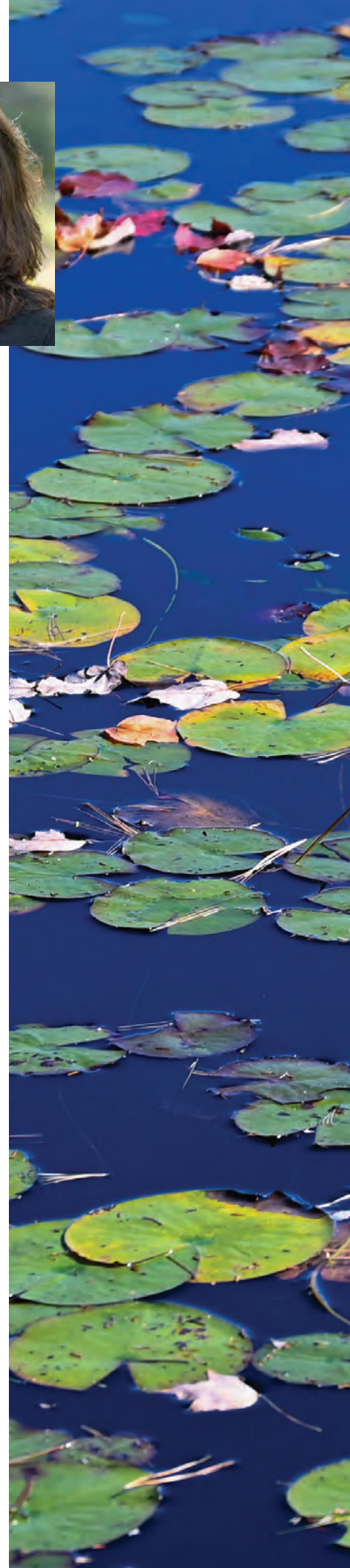
Going into our 40th anniversary, we have 40,000 acres of conserved landscape to celebrate. That said, the need for this work is not slowing. To protect the farms, forests, and wetlands that surround us—and that give us the air we breathe, the food we eat, the timber that shelters us, and the wildlife we cherish—we must continue with greater urgency and reach than ever before. And for that, we depend on all of you.

We have an amazing year ahead of us, and an inspiring 40 years to follow. And our spectacular corner of Massachusetts is counting on us.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emma G. Ellsworth". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Emma G. Ellsworth
Executive Director



A large, brown dog, likely a Weimaraner, stands on a light-colored, flat rock in a grassy field. The dog is looking to the left with its mouth open and tongue out, appearing happy. The background shows a line of trees under a blue sky with scattered clouds.

Protecting a Generations-Old Sporting Tradition in Templeton

BY KOLYA PARTAN

Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust has completed a conservation project that does something rare in Massachusetts: permanently protecting land not just as open space, but as working landscape dedicated to training competition retrievers.

At the start of the year, Mount Grace placed a conservation restriction on 44-acres of Swift River Retrievers, owned and operated for more than 20 years by professional dog trainer Buck Shope. The property's fields, forests, and ponds have been carefully managed to support the training of hunting retrievers—dogs that require large, clean, and distraction-free spaces to run, swim, and work

at distance in realistic field conditions.

For Mount Grace, this project represents the opportunity to protect not just a landscape, but a generations-old sporting tradition that depends on it.

“Hunting with a dog was my gateway to becoming a hunter,” says Emma G. Ellsworth, Executive Director at Mount Grace. “I fell in love with the dog first, and then the sport. This land conservation project reflects that bond—bringing together a shared love of land and dogs while connecting future generations of sportsmen and women to both.”

Development pressure has eliminated many

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Protects retriever training grounds, sustaining a hunting tradition and landscape where dogs and sportsmen train together.

127 ACRES | TEMPLETON, MA

“Hunting with a dog was my gateway to becoming a hunter. I fell in love with the dog first, and then the sport. This land conservation project reflects that bond—bringing together a shared love of land and dogs while connecting future generations of sportsmen and women to both.”



PHOTO BY RON AMIDON

of the large, intact parcels required for field training. Swift River Retrievers represents a vanishing category of land use—one that cannot simply relocate or adapt to smaller or fragmented spaces. “Safety always comes first,” says Buck Shope. “Most people don’t realize what serious retriever training requires from the land. On my grounds, there’s no broken glass to cut a dog’s pad—no barbed wire, rocks, or stumps hidden in tall grass or cover, and there are no groundhog holes a dog could step in and break a leg.”

This conservation project ensures the land remains clean, safe, free from urban hazards, and large enough for advanced retriever work. While the core training grounds will remain a working landscape, the broader protected area contributes to clean water, wildlife habitat, and public recreation opportunities in the Swift River watershed.

Through a partnership between Mount Grace, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and Buck Shope, two parcels totaling 127 acres have been permanently protected. In 2024, Shope partnered with the Massachusetts Division

of Fisheries and Wildlife to permanently protect 83 acres of adjacent forest, now part of a Wildlife Management Area open to public hunting and recreation. The current project completes that vision by protecting the core 44 acres of training grounds that make Swift River Retrievers possible.

Together, these efforts create a connected conservation landscape that supports wildlife, water resources, public access, and working sporting traditions. “This property has been a labor of love since I purchased it in 1997,” says Shope. “Knowing it’s protected and will continue to be available for the retriever community is fulfilling for me.”

More than \$45,000 in project funding has already been raised from public supporters, including a matching grant from the Worcester County League of Sportsmen (wclsc.org), the project’s largest gift to date. Their support reflects a shared belief that conservation must include the people and practices that have long cared for the land.

The conservation restriction will permanently protect the property while explicitly allowing retriever training and hunting-related use consistent with conservation values.

“For us, this project exemplifies how land trusts can adapt to meet today’s conservation needs,” says Emma Ellsworth. “Protecting habitat and the human traditions tied to it go hand in hand.”

Conservation Corner

BY KOLYA PARTAN



Q&A with Dave Small, Director of Conservation

Dave Small joined Mount Grace last year to direct its conservation projects across central and western Massachusetts. A lifelong naturalist from Royalston, he grew up exploring forests and streams across the North Quabbin and has become a recognized leader in conservation and wildlife across the state. He served as Assistant Regional Director at the DCR Quabbin Reservoir and continues as president of the Athol Bird and Nature Club and director of the Millers River Environmental Center.

Through workshops, lectures, and field trips across New England, Dave shares his expertise while studying and monitoring wildlife, leading field programs, and volunteering extensively to protect the region's landscapes.



**SCAN TO
READ OUR FULL
CONVERSATION**

What makes Mount Grace supporters especially well-positioned to make a difference for conservation in our region?

From where I sit, our supporters are right there with us at the forefront of innovative conservation work in the greater North Quabbin, a region uniquely positioned to help achieve the state's land protection goals. We still have large parcels of unprotected land, and compared to other parts of the state, they're relatively affordable — so every conservation dollar goes that much further. By working alongside our communities, Indigenous partners, hunters, trappers, birdwatchers, and more, Mount Grace has positioned itself to bring diverse interests together for the common good.

Access to nature is important, but so is protecting wildlife habitat. How does Mount Grace strike that balance when planning trails and public access?

Those of us involved with land protection are faced with the constant push and pull of public access. We want to involve the public by providing healthy outdoor experiences and yet we want to protect the flora and fauna at the heart of the conservation mission. Understanding the unique attributes of a given land project allows us to make informed decisions about trail placement to help protect rare species communities while also providing an interesting experience for our visitors.

What conservation project are you most excited about right now?

I'm really looking forward to revisiting the Eagleville Barrens Project. In the late 1990s, I was involved with a grant from EOEPA to do a biological inventory of the Lake Rohunta area which includes Eagleville Barrens. It'll be fun to replicate some of that inventory work and see how the area has evolved over the past 25 years. This kind of inventorying will help inform Mount Grace as we develop the stewardship plan for restoring the unique barrens habitat.



A Growing Constellation of Protected Lands in Northfield

BY KOLYA PARTAN

Across the town of Northfield, a constellation of protected lands is taking shape — one that builds upon an already robust patchwork of permanently conserved land. From cold-water streams fed with fresh snowmelt to forested hillsides speckled with granite outcroppings, the diversity of these properties is remarkable. But what makes these lands so important?

The answer isn't found in any single parcel, but in the relationships between them—and the way they connect to form something greater.

“The connections aren't always visible on a map, but they're written into the movement of wildlife, the flow of water, and the continuity of forest,” says Emma Ellsworth, Executive Director at Mount Grace. “I often think of a bobcat moving through a landscape, a wild neighbor that doesn't recognize property lines. It follows forest cover, water, and food—moving from one protected parcel to the next. Every conserved forest, farm, and wetland adds another piece to a connected landscape that supports wildlife, protects clean water, and helps communities thrive in a changing climate.”

While most of these projects remain confidential until conservation restrictions are signed and deedholders are ready to go public, here's a glimpse into this growing network of protected land.

Along Old Wendell Road, a small but beloved 10-acre parcel—home to the locally admired Hobo

Falls—has been protected by Mount Grace and is now owned by the town. A short walk to the north, the Herlihy-Zimmerman project—a roughly 80-acre conservation restriction—will add another layer of protection to the landscape surrounding the New England National Scenic Trail. The project helps safeguard the experience of hiking this iconic route while extending a corridor of uninterrupted habitat around it.

After crossing Gulf Road and heading west toward Richardson Overlook—one of our most visited scenic vistas—you'll soon arrive at Millers Brook, where we are developing a cornerstone project within this emerging network. Spanning a few hundred acres along the Brook, this private land, when conserved, will protect a vital cold-water fishery and expands an already extensive block of conserved forestland.

Further South in town, Mount Grace is protecting two parcels along Four Mile Brook, which flows directly into the Connecticut River. Together totaling roughly 90 acres, this land will remain “forever wild,” with natural processes guiding the future of the forest. These protected stream corridors play an essential role in maintaining water quality and supporting downstream ecosystems.

Additional projects—including 102 acres near Richardson Overlook—are in earlier stages, but will further strengthen this growing network of conserved land.



The connections aren't always visible on a map, but they're written into the movement of wildlife, the flow of water, and the continuity of forest.

Explore Eagle Reserve

139 Acres of Wetlands and Forest in the Heart of Royalston

BY TESSA DOWLING

At Eagle Reserve, wetlands take center stage. Rare natural communities—including a floating Spruce–Tamarack Bog and beaver-influenced Level Bogs—are woven into this mosaic of marsh, open water, and wooded uplands, creating a haven for the animals that hover, dabble, dive, and hunt here.

We've protected this unique landscape for the creatures that call it home—but it's a place you can experience up close, too. Here's a look at the three trails that you can explore—and a sneak peek at upcoming trail upgrades that will improve access and experience.

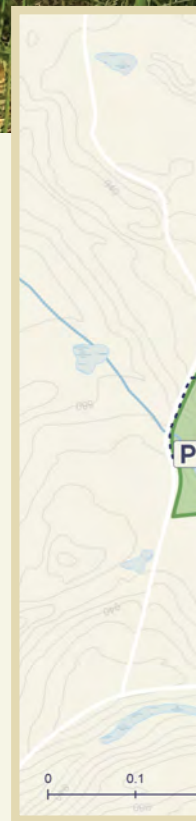
One of the most popular ways to explore Eagle Reserve is along the ¼ mile David H. Small Community Nature Trail (shown in yellow). This accessible, crushed-stone path leads to an observation deck where people of all abilities can look out across the water and view the diverse array of wildlife that call the reserve home. For a more rugged hiking experience, the ½ mile Peninsula trail brings you to the heart of the wetlands along a narrow peninsula trail. If you're searching for the path less traveled, explore the ½ mile Stone Road loop trail on the western reach of the reserve. Whichever route you take, you'll be rewarded with expansive views of the wetlands and a peaceful retreat with no visible signs of human development.

The reserve's shape—and the placement of its dry trails—tell a story 18,000 years in the making, carved by retreating glaciers that left behind gravel deposits. When beavers later

dammed Beaver Brook, the poorly drained lowlands flooded, creating the wetland complex that persists today. Besides active otter and beaver populations, over one hundred bird species have been spotted here, including a pair of nesting bald eagles that give this conservation area its name.

Each year, Mount Grace works with volunteers and local high school students to maintain the property's accessible trail. Eight years after construction, however, trail edges have narrowed, and gravel has loosened, falling below accessibility standards. Thanks to a MassTrails grant, we will improve the trail this summer with resurfacing, regrading, expanded rest areas, along with better signage. Work will be done in partnership with the Appalachian Mountain Club and their Teen Trail Crew, with the goal of reopening the upgraded trail this fall.

This year marks our 40th anniversary—about the same span of time that bald eagles have been reclaiming their place in Massachusetts. Thanks to a coordinated statewide effort to restore the bald eagle as a breeding species, more than 70 nesting pairs now soar across the Commonwealth. Their return reflects the power of long-term conservation—and at Eagle Reserve, you can see what that commitment makes possible.





EXPLORE EAGLE RESERVE



139 acres of wetlands and woods provide wildlife habitat, recreational trails, and rare bird sightings.

**55 WINCHENDON RD
ROYALSTON, MA 01368**

Plan your visit using our website's new Explore page.

SCAN TO EXPLORE





Celebrating 40 Years



1986
Founding
Mount Grace begins!

2006-2009

Protecting the Quabbin

The first Forest Legacy projects in Mount Grace's Quabbin Corridor Connection are completed, protecting over 2,000 acres in Barre, Petersham, and Phillipston.



2008-2010

The Founding of TerraCorps

Commonwealth Corps begins at Mount Grace, building stewardship capacity, coordinating service learning, and helping start Greenfield's Just Roots Town Farm. In 2010, Commonwealth Corps goes statewide. Today, as TerraCorps, the program provides 52 volunteers to support land trusts and food security groups across Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

2001-2003

The Tully Initiative

Mount Grace worked with a host of state partners and more than 100 deedholders to protect 9,100 acres in Athol, Orange, Royalston, and Warwick through the **largest multi-partner land protection project in Massachusetts history.**



2009

Nineteenth Hill

Mount Grace helps the Town of Winchendon create the new town forest at Nineteenth Hill.

2012

Murdock Farm

We partnered with the Girouard family to permanently protect the Winchendon landmark, Murdock Farm.

2013

Affordable Farms Forever

We completed a multi-year capital campaign to help the Voiland Family permanently conserve Red Fire Farm in Montague as a whole farm forever.



2026

Mount Grace Turns 40

We celebrate our 40th anniversary with an expanded team and 40+ active conservation projects underway.

2025

Marchmont

The White family donates 400 acres of forest and wetlands in Winchendon next to Lake Monomonic.



2024

Hawes Hill

Mount Grace works with local partners to protect 800+ acres across eight Barre projects, enhancing habitat and community resilience. Neighbors, including Carter & Stevens Farm and two Buddhist meditation centers conserved land that connects the Quabbin and Ware River watershed reserves.

2023

Winchendon Forest

Mount Grace partners with Mass Audubon and people in Winchendon and Ashburnham to protect 1,247 acres of contiguous forest after hundreds of citizens turned out to support the forest.

1987

Inaugural Project

Lawton Tree Farm becomes Lawton State Forest, Mount Grace's first completed project. Mount Grace was able to buy the 365-acre forest despite having only \$13 in its bank account after overwhelming community support led to local businesses guaranteeing the loan.



1989

First Property

Mount Grace opens Fox Valley Conservation Area (CA) – our first public access recreation area in Phillipston.

1990

Arthur Iversen

Myra Iversen donates land that becomes the core of our 565-acre Arthur Iversen Conservation Area in Warwick.

2000

The Farm School

Mount Grace helps the Gordon family protect the farm that now serves as the core campus of the Farm School.

1999

A New Home at Skyfields

Margaret Power-Biggs bequeaths Skyfields Arboretum to Mount Grace, establishing our headquarters.

1997

NQRLP Begins

The North Quabbin Regional Landscape Partnership begins, bringing together conservation-minded organizations in the region.

1996

Forest Legacy

Mount Grace completes its first Forest Legacy project, protecting the Hutchinson property in Petersham.



2015

Stopping the Pipeline

The proposed Tennessee Gas pipeline through local forest and farmland, including Poplar Mountain and other Mount Grace protected lands, sparks intense opposition leading to the pipeline being scrapped.

2016

Q2W & Quabbin Heritage Partnership

This year saw the completion of the last of 39 interconnected projects conserving 3,000+ acres in Petersham, Athol, and Phillipston.

2014

Leyden Working Farms Initiative

Leyden neighbors team up to protect 700 acres and help Warren Facey conserve Bree-Z-Knoll Farm, the town's sole remaining dairy farm.



2022

National Excellence Award

Mount Grace earns the 2022 Land Trust Alliance Excellence Award recognizing our partnerships with Indigenous stakeholders and climate work.



Credit: Elizabeth Solaka

2017

Mormon Hollow

The Mormon Hollow working lands corridor project conserves 700 acres in Wendell and Montague, including working farmland and forests along the banks of Mormon Hollow Brook.

2021

Land Forever Campaign

Launches a \$3.5 million capital campaign to create the Leigh Youngblood Conservation Opportunity Fund.

2020

Sunset View Farm

Mount Grace protects Sunset View Farm to ensure it remains affordable, productive, and in the hands of farmers.

2019

Norcross Hill

Partners to conserve 500+ forested acres in Templeton, including Norcross Hill Wildlife Management Area.

Chaubunagungamaug Nipmuck Partnership

*Ite Santana, chairperson of CBNI, with
Jenn Albertine and other land trust
partners at the CBNI reservation.*

About 2 years ago, during a reservation clean-up day with Nipmuc/k-led NGOs, we were introduced to the Tribal leadership of the Chaubunagungamaug Band of the Nipmuck Indians (CBNI). Since this time our relationship has grown to become one based in trust, reciprocity, cross-cultural learning, and a shared understanding. This collaboration with a Tribal government has reinforced our work with Nipmuc/k-led NGOs; we all recognize the importance for land trusts, Nipmuc/k Tribal governments, and Nipmuc/k-led NGOs to work together to support the Nipmuc/k community and care for the lands we collectively steward.

Working with the CBNI Tribal government has strengthened our approach to land justice at Mount Grace, emphasizing the ways land trusts and conservation practices can affect Tribal sovereignty. This reciprocal relationship helps ground our work more deeply through a better understanding of the historical and modern-day struggles of a Tribal Nation existing under occupation of a foreign colonial government and the impact of land dispossession. This is steering us to include Tribal government priorities in our land conservation work, as they share the collective voice of the people they serve.

Together, we are working on projects to address the needs and priorities of CBNI. The lack of land base has been difficult for their sovereignty and

continued cultural existence. We applied for and received the first Massachusetts State Tribal Land Acquisition Grant and we are working to return 90-acres of forest and farmland in Naquag (Rutland) to CBNI stewardship. We are also assisting CBNI-led efforts to reclaim an important ceremonial site and secure capital funding to build the first Nipmuc/k community cultural center for the entire Nipmuc/k community to have office space and gathering/community space to revitalize their community and culture.

We also work with CBNI's Nipmuc Cultural Hunt and Fish (NCHF) to carry out its core mission to revitalize traditional food harvesting practices. NCHF contributes to the food sovereignty initiatives of the Nipmuc/k community through habitat stewardship, wild game hunting and processing, and fishing—supporting Tribal efforts to reclaim their Foodways and Lifeways. We are developing a blanket Cultural Respect Easement with CBNI to formally recognize the inherent rights of Nipmuc/k citizens to hunt, fish, and gather on land stewarded by Mount Grace. CREs also extend these rights to protect cultural practices. Finally, we are working with CBNI to fund the capacity building of their Tribal Council to serve and support its people. We are excited to continue to grow our partnership and build upon the work already started.



Margaret Power Biggs Society Profile: Joanne McGee

This is an excerpt from Caitie Dwyer-Huppert's conversation with Joanne and Bill McGee about Joanne's conservation work from Hawaii to Northfield.

Joanne: "When our family moved to Northfield in 1981, we wanted to be involved in town government. People loved the fields and forest here, but I don't think the town had thought enough about the conservation of its land. To be able to apply for conservation grants, the town needed an Open Space Committee and an Open Space and Recreation Plan."

Bill: "Joanne was the driving force in coming up with the plan. Then she got elected to the selectboard which made me the 'first husband' in town for a while. She was working as a librarian at the time. Food had to be on the table at 6:20. At 6:40 she was out the door."

Caitie: "What prepared you to be such a mover and shaker?"

Joanne: "My father and brother were on the Select Board, and my father was the longest-serving tree warden in Massachusetts. My mother was a library trustee, and my sister was on the School Committee. Political participation on the local level is kind of a gene I have."

Bill: "I think you have to talk about Brush Mountain."

Joanne: "Our Committee's first conservation project was Brush Mountain where the New England Trail crosses Gulf Road. Twenty-six acres at the trailhead were to be sold as two house lots. Because the land was in the Chapter 61 program, the town had the opportunity to make the first offer, known as the 'right of first refusal.' I asked Mount Grace to take the 'right of first refusal' which a town can ask a land trust to do. Mount Grace bought and held the land, and we applied for a grant to cover 63% of the cost."

Bill: "You had to stand up in front of the town meeting and guarantee that you would raise the rest of the money to protect the land."

Joanne: "I did. But Mount Grace helped me find the right foundations to apply to. As a grant stipulation, you need to assess the land's historic significance. I found nothing at the Massachusetts Historical Society, but a neighbor told me that the homestead was owned in the 18th century by Calvin Swan, a free black man. He was a sawmill owner and carpenter and active in antislavery societies throughout Franklin County. At that time, the top of Gulf Road was a vibrant community with a school and a Methodist church that had broken away from the national denomination over its antislavery stance."

Bill: "You raised all the money."

Joanne: "We raised the money from a lot of people around here who were delighted to support the project. And we bought the land from Mount Grace."

Today the New England Trail goes through this protected land, and a loop trail leads to the original cellar holes and an interpretive sign about Calvin Swan. Since this project, Joanne has collaborated with her community on conservation and stewardship, including Mount Grace's Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary, and continues her leadership on the Open Space Committee. Joanne served on the Mount Grace Board from 2017 to 2025.

If you would like information about joining the Margaret Power Biggs Society, please contact David Kotker at 978-541-1767 or kotker@mountgrace.org.

Making Conservation Possible

GRANTS RECEIVED

Tortuga Foundation <i>Purpose: Staff Capacity Expansion</i>	\$80,000
Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut <i>Purpose: Regional Food Systems Support</i>	\$50,000
Norcross Foundation <i>Purpose: Land Justice Program</i>	\$25,000
Lillian Lincoln Foundation <i>Purpose: Operating</i>	\$25,000
onX Access Grants <i>Purpose: Couch Brook Forest Project</i>	\$25,000
Bemis Impact Fund <i>Purpose: Operating</i>	\$15,000
Hollis Declan Leverett Memorial Fund, Bank of America, N. A., Trustee <i>Purpose: Stewardship</i>	\$10,000
Ron Ansin Foundation <i>Purpose: Operating</i>	\$2,500

Gifts were received In Honor of...

- All children and creatures on this planet
- Buck Shope
- Bug, the cat
- Doris Aylward & Suki Noble, Labrador Retriever Club of Greater Boston
- Karro Frost
- Kolya Partan
- Leigh Youngblood
- Mick and Al and all of us
- Red Fire Farm
- Robin Symonds
- The hardworking Mount Grace Staff
- The Village School

Gifts were received In Memory of...

- Adrienne LaRoche
- Al Ross
- Charles Riley
- Diana Tandy and Myra & Arthur Iverson
- Dr. Pat Ward Kingman
- Fred and Murray Mock
- Grampian Punkwudgie Pow
- Greg Cardinal
- John Williamson
- Jon Hardie
- Karl Bittenbender
- Margaret C. Urquhart
- Mick Huppert
- Mike Idoine
- Mimi Hellen Jones
- Moses
- My Barre Ancestors
- Patricia Russell
- Peter Talmage
- Richard J. Chaisson

Meet our 2026 TerraCorps Members



Emily Volmar

Emily graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst with a B.S. in Natural Resources Conservation. She has experience as a park ranger

and conducting field research. Her capacity building projects include developing ArcGIS Storymaps for the website and conducting ecological assessments for a new management plan she is writing.



Delana Gonzales

Delana graduated from the University of Florida with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation and a passion for herpetology. She brings

experience in endangered amphibian and reptile conservation and is currently developing and implementing a spring herpetological inventory on a newly acquired property to support long-term monitoring.



Spring & Early Summer Events

Brightwater Bog Walk

Friday, May 29 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Brightwater Bog, Shutesbury

Join Dave Small to search for early season dragonflies and damselflies in a unique Shutesbury bog. Learn about this fascinating habitat on a guided walk co-hosted by Mount Grace, Kestrel Land Trust, and the Athol Bird and Nature Club (ABNC).

Dragonfly Field Trip

Saturday, May 30 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

Eagle Reserve Conservation Area, Royalston

Join Dave Small to search for early-season dragonflies and butterflies at Eagle Reserve in Royalston on a guided walk co-hosted by Mount Grace and ABNC.

Guided Bird Walk at Guiney

Saturday, June 6 | 7:00 – 9:00am

Guiney Memorial Forest, Royalston

Join Mount Grace and ABNC's Ernie Leblanc for a birding walk at Guiney Memorial Forest. Explore habitat-managed areas while looking for nesting birds along a one-mile walk on logging roads.



**SCAN FOR OUR FULL
EVENTS CALENDAR**

Moth Ball

Friday, June 19 | 9:00pm – 12:00am

Skyfields Arboretum, Athol

Join Dave Small and Mount Grace staff for a nighttime "Moth Ball" at Skyfields Arboretum. Learn about moths during a short presentation, then explore meadows and pollinator gardens to observe moths at light stations.

Forestry for the Bees: How to Help Pollinators While Managing Your Woods

Saturday, June 27 | 11:00am – 12:30pm

Location TBD

Join Mount Grace and UMass PhD candidate Aliza Fassler to explore forests and learn how pollinators use them. Discover how forest management, including log landings, can support bees on this short, educational walk.

Dog Days BioBlitz: A Family-Friendly Citizen Science Event

Sunday, June 28 | 1:00 – 3:00pm

Paul C. Dunn Woodland Preserve, Ashburnham

Join Mount Grace for a family-friendly BioBlitz! Help find and photograph plants, insects, and wildlife while contributing to citizen science. Enjoy a fun, all-ages scavenger hunt exploring the biodiversity around us.



Mount Grace Land Trust
1461 Old Keene Road
Athol, MA 01331

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 183
Greenfield, MA

THANKS TO OUR SPONSOR



Noëls Nursery

Landscaping & Garden Center

Build Your Soil—Grow the Noël Way

Monday-Saturday: 8-4:30

Sunday: 9-4

77 Tully Road
Orange, MA

Find us on



This spring, your support takes root.

Support Mount Grace's Spring Appeal—
your gift will be matched up to \$125,000!

Help protect land today!

Scan the QR code or visit
mountgrace.org/donate to give.

