

NEW HAMPSHIRE

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The Nature Conservancy's first project in New Hampshire was conserving 400 acres between Lake Nubanusit and Spoonwood Pond in Hancock and Nelson. © Eric Aldrich/TNC

A legacy in the Granite State

Celebrating 65 years of local conservation during TNC's 75th anniversary

This year, The Nature Conservancy is celebrating 75 years of conservation work around the world. In New Hampshire, we have an additional milestone to celebrate. It has been 65 years since TNC first put down roots in the Granite State, beginning a story shaped by bold ideas, local partnerships, dedicated staff, generous donors and a deep love of place.

Our local story began in 1961 along the shores of Lake Nubanusit in Hancock and Nelson, where we helped protect more than 400 acres of land. It was TNC's first project in New Hampshire, and it set the tone for what would come next. Conservation here would be hands-on, science-based, deeply personal and closely tied to the landscapes people cared about.

In the years that followed, our work spread across the state, from protecting

rare pitch pine and scrub oak woodlands in the Ossipee Pine Barrens and conserving working forests in the North Country to safeguarding inland Atlantic white cedar swamps and deepening conservation efforts along the Seacoast. Rivers soon became a focus as well, including work along the Connecticut River and its tributaries to improve water quality and reconnect wildlife habitats.

Over time, how we work has evolved, too. Protecting special places grew into restoring degraded ones. Land conservation expanded to include climate resilience, flood mitigation, forest health and public access.

On the coast, long-term involvement in Great Bay deepened our role in restoration, research and collaboration around our state's incredibly unique inland estuary. From supporting volunteers raising baby oysters to

working with oyster farmers to place their “uglies” on restored reefs, each project added another layer to our understanding of how land, water, wildlife and communities are all connected.

Throughout it all, partnership has remained central. Progress has come through collaboration with landowners, towns, businesses, agencies, volunteers and supporters across the state.

Sixty-five years after that first project at Lake Nubanusit, The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire continues to innovate, learn, adapt and show up for the places that matter most. We're so grateful to have you supporting us along the way. To explore more stories, milestones and moments from across the decades, visit nature.org/nhhistory.



Northern long-eared bat © T. Travis Brown; The forest at Surry Mountain Preserve © Joe Klementovich

Signals in the dark

Three college students show what bats can teach us about forest health

On warm summer nights at Surry Mountain Preserve, small devices strapped to trees record sounds that most of us never hear. Those recordings became the focus of a recent research project led by three students from Southern New Hampshire University.

Liberty Furr, Audrey Brecheen and Michael Bates worked with The Nature Conservancy to survey bat activity at the preserve as part of their academic work. With guidance from faculty advisor Dr. Katharine York, the students set out to better understand which bat species are using the forest and how bats respond to different habitat conditions.

The scale of the work was impressive. Using acoustic detectors, the team utilized special software called SonoBat to listen to and process more than 32,000 bat calls, carefully reviewing and organizing the data over several months. Their analysis confirmed the presence of multiple species at Surry Mountain, including little brown bats, big brown bats, hoary bats, and northern long-eared bats, a federally endangered species.

The students completed a detailed analysis of these recordings, and helped turn raw data into valuable information that can be applied directly to stewardship at the preserve. By looking closely at how bats are using different parts of the forest, the students added an important layer of understanding to ongoing conservation work at Surry Mountain.

“This analysis gives us a clearer picture of how wildlife is responding to the forest as it changes,” says Stewardship Coordinator Myrilla Hartkopf. “Having this level of detail will be incredibly helpful as we continue managing Surry Mountain for climate resilience and work to support the full range of species that call this forest home.”

For the students, the project provided hands-on experience with real conservation challenges. For TNC, it brought new perspective and valuable insight into an evolving approach to forest management.

Curious to learn more about what happens on the lands we steward? Visit nature.org/nhlands.

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© TNC in Massachusetts

Catch up on *Nature is the Solution*

Have you listened to *Nature is the Solution*? Created by our colleagues in Massachusetts, this nine-episode podcast series from this spring features Nature Conservancy experts and partners sharing their optimism about climate solutions. We're thrilled that in April, the series won a People's Choice Webby Award in the sustainability and environment category. Thank you to our partners, listeners and community for the incredible support.

If you haven't tuned in yet, all episodes are available online and on the platforms where you get your podcasts. You'll journey from the coast to the mountains, looking at what resilience really means for ecosystems and for people, and how working together builds a future where we all can thrive.

We're proving that hope and innovation, as well as nature itself, are key to solving the challenges ahead. Listen today at nature.org/naturepodMA.