

*A land trust conserving ribbons of green in southeastern New Hampshire.*



# BEAR-PAW PRINT

ALLENSTOWN · BARNSTEAD · CANDIA · DEERFIELD · EPSOM · HOOKSETT · NORTHWOOD · NOTTINGHAM · PITTSFIELD · RAYMOND · STRAFFORD

## About Us

For over 25 years, Bear-Paw has been cultivating a resilient network of wild and working lands to sustain connections across communities of people, plants, and wildlife.

Bear-Paw works to conserve unfragmented open space through partnerships with private landowners, towns, and local, state, and federal organizations. We do this primarily through holding conservation easements, which allow for agriculture, forest management, and recreation while limiting subdivision and development.

We envision a region in which our communities and lands are diverse and thriving, people are nourished by their connection to the outdoors and each other, and we are collectively stewarding the wild and working lands for future generations.

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## Preserving a Piece of Your History

### Join the effort to conserve Coveland Farm.

As I glide along Bow Lake in my kayak, my heart sinks at the sight of houses dotting the shoreline where lush green forests once thrived during my childhood. Each passing year seems to rob the loons of their nesting spots and deprive children of the simple joy of cooling off in the lake due to cyanobacteria warnings.

But, rewind the clock a few decades and you will have witnessed a vastly different landscape along the shores of Bow Lake. Back then, the shoreline was a testament to nature's beauty, a lush green forest. Today, Coveland Farm is a picturesque reminder of the past, with upland fields populated by sheep leisurely grazing beneath the open sky. Perhaps you've walked by or stopped at the farm stand, all while taking in the breathtaking view of the mountains that grace the opposite side of the lake.



*What a view! Did you know that this same view also provides more than 300ft of forested shoreline that protects Bow Lake from pollution and provides loons habitat for their nests?*

This land holds a story that spans five generations of the Young family, who have been lifelong stewards of Coveland Farm. However, before Rick and Maggie took the reins of this historic property, it faced a steady erosion of its acres, sold off bit by bit to accommodate the ever-expanding reach of new houses. Today,

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# Join Bear-Paw for our Fall & Winter Events!

For more information and to register please go to [www.bear-paw.org/news-events](http://www.bear-paw.org/news-events).

## Winter Tree Identification

January 27

## Annual Meeting

February 17 with Dr. Pamela Hunt from NH Audubon!

## Winter Tracking

March 2

## Easement Monitor Training

April 6

## Beginning Bird Workshop

May 17

## Natures Mindfulness

July 12

## Wetland Wonders

August 16

## Haunted Hunt

October TBD



For nature-based kid's activities and outdoor educational resources, visit our website! We have compiled a list of resources for kids of all ages.

# Will You Leave a Legacy?

**Remember Bear-Paw in your will or trust.**

You understand the importance of preserving land not only for today but for the future as well. It's easy to overlook the "tomorrow" component, which is what will happen to protected land one hundred years from now. We want to ensure that the open spaces you work hard to protect stay open and that our organization remains healthy and viable. That's why we invite our members to include us in their estate planning. This is a creative process that allows you to support the causes you care about even after you're gone.

**By naming Bear-Paw as a beneficiary in your will or trust, IRA, or insurance policy, you can leave a legacy that lasts for generations to come.** To make this process easier, we formed the Leaving Tracks Legacy Stewards in 2007, and since then, many of our members have included us in their estate plans.

Your support helps make the "tomorrow" possible and ensures that Bear-Paw can continue its mission to preserve land for years to come. Thank you for considering us in your estate planning.



These Legacy Stewards are all working towards a common goal of preserving nature's beauty! From left to right: Mimi Jost, Bonnie Beaubien, Al Jaeger, Dana Hochgraf

**Are you thinking about leaving a legacy, or have you already remembered Bear-Paw in your will? We want to know! Please reach out to us at 603-463-9400.**



# A Shared Love for Nature

## Honoring Family Through Conservation

By Frank Mitchell

Pat Cassier's childhood was full of outdoor adventures. Growing up, his family was sustained by wonders of the great outdoors. Together, they cast their lines for fishing, hunted, and relished the simplicity of gathering wild berries. Their connection to the land became a deep-rooted legacy, one that you can surely relate to.

Pat and his wife Sandy decided to honor their roots by working with Bear-Paw to create memorial forests. In July, the Cassiers expanded their conservation legacy by generously donating a conservation easement on a 47-acre parcel on Candia Rd in Deerfield. The Fred and Amanda Morrisette Memorial Forest pays homage to Pat's maternal grandparents.

The Fred and Amanda Morrisette Memorial Forest is made up of forty-seven acres of high-ranking forest and wetland habitats. The parcel is close to other conservation lands, providing a corridor for wildlife. It is dotted with black gum trees, a rare and coveted sight in New Hampshire. This forest, with its 400 feet of road frontage, preserves the rural charm of its surroundings. Pat knows this will benefit not only wildlife but people who hunt, fish, and forage or who just want to "walk a green patch of woods and see wildlife."

**If that sounds like you, you'll feel an immediate connection to how the Cassier family views their role in conservation as a collective legacy.** Pat encapsulates this sentiment perfectly: "I want to leave green space to leave the world a better place." Together, we can make the world a greener, more vibrant place for all living beings.

The Fred and Amanda Morrisette Memorial Forest is conserved forever! This project was made possible thanks to the Town of Deerfield, the Cassier Family Land Trust, and all of YOU who support Bear-Paw's mission to conserve wild and working lands.

*Rue Teel explores the gnarled bark of one of the precious black gum trees protected by this conservation easement. Your contribution helped protect this stunning natural habitat and the countless species who call it home.*





# A Legacy of Love for Conservation

## Shirley Brownell: A Trailblazer for Environmental Stewardship

By Harmony Anderson

In the quiet embrace of spring, Bear-Paw lost one of its dearest friends. Shirley Brownell, a remarkable soul who lived to the age of 96, left behind a legacy of unwavering support and a deep commitment to the preservation of our natural world. Her story serves as an inspiration to all of us, demonstrating the incredible impact that you can have on our community and our environment.

Shirley, affectionately known as “Shirl,” spent the last two decades of her vibrant life actively championing the cause of Bear-Paw. Alongside her beloved husband, Bob, she was an early advocate for the idea of ensuring that their property remained untouched by development. In a visionary move, they placed a 48-acre Bear-Paw conservation easement on their property in Strafford, setting a powerful example when many were still unfamiliar with Bear-Paw and land protection methods.

However, Shirley’s commitment went beyond this significant gesture. She and Bob generously supported Bear-Paw’s mission throughout the years, recognizing the critical importance of preserving our natural landscapes. Their support extended to our annual auction fundraisers, where they offered a week at their lakeside cottage as a cherished auction item. Your participation in these fundraising efforts helped us raise vital funds for our conservation initiatives.

Shirley was not content with merely opening her heart and wallet to our cause. She actively participated in our initiatives, including the “Flamingo Flock” fundraising campaign to protect the 1000 acres on Evans Mountain in Strafford. Her enthusiasm and dedication served as an inspiration to all, encouraging more of you to join our mission.

One could often find Shirley on miles-long group walks through our conservation lands, a testament to her unyielding spirit. She fearlessly embraced these adventures, often being the oldest participant, and her presence helped spread awareness of our region’s natural beauty and the urgent need to safeguard it for future generations.

Shirley’s commitment to conservation knew no bounds, even in her later years. At the age of 90, she enthusiastically joined the campaign to save Bennett Island on Bow Lake from development. Bear-Paw organized a fundraising swim to the island and back, offering two options: half a mile or a full mile around the entire island. Which challenge did Shirley take on?

*Shirley is a true conservation hero! She regularly committed to community events and accomplished an incredible feat – a one mile long swim to protect an island on Bow Lake with Mark West! Because of Shirley and supporters like you, Bennett Island is conserved forever!*



Without hesitation, she chose the mile-long swim. Remarkably, she completed the swim without ever seeking a

moment’s rest from a following kayak, and her remarkable effort raised the most funds among all the swimmers.

As we bid farewell to Shirley Brownell, we remember her as a cherished friend and a beacon of inspiration. She leaves behind a legacy of both financial and physical support for land protection. Her enduring friendship and her triumphant swim will forever be etched in Bear-Paw’s memory with profound gratitude.

Shirley’s legacy reminds us that, like Shirley, you play a part in preserving the natural wonders that surround us. Let her story serve as a reminder that your individual efforts can shape a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come. Join us in honoring Shirley’s memory by supporting ongoing conservation efforts and be a part of a legacy that truly makes a difference.

Let her story serve as a reminder that your individual efforts can shape a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come. Join us in honoring Shirley’s memory by supporting ongoing conservation efforts, such as the preservation of precious lands like Coveland Farm, and be a part of a legacy that truly makes a difference.

# Lessons on the Land You Protected

## A child's connection to nature shapes their world

By Kelly Dwyer

A warm breeze ruffled the young child's hair as he squatted by the large plastic tub filled with murky water and decomposing vegetation scooped from the nearby vernal pool.

Staring intently into the tea-colored water, he patiently waited for aquatic invertebrates to emerge from the brown mound of leaves deposited from the pond net into the tub.

"A hellgrammite!" he exclaimed, his voice exploding with excitement. Gently, he ladled the centipede-looking insect larvae into a plastic cup, proudly making the rounds of the other "Investigation Stations," ensuring every child and adult had an opportunity to study this insect. As the naturalist teaching this class, I felt a rush of emotions—pride, excitement, and hope.

Hope for our children and their future. Hope that they can have the same experiences many of us had growing up. Splashing through the shallows of a pond in the summer, trying to catch a slippery frog. Traipsing through the sun-kissed sweet hay fields, feeling the tickle of the tall grasses on our arms. Finding a cool spot under the dense hemlock bough on a sultry August afternoon.

Hope for the wild areas and wildlife. **These engaged children had this opportunity to explore the pond and vernal pool of a spectacular piece of conserved land because people like you, our members and donors, understand the value and importance of protecting habitats for future generations.**

I imagine many of you fondly recall the unique wild places that enchanted you as a child and probably still do today!

These experiences shaped your commitment to conserving and protecting our state's beautiful landscapes. The diversity of NH's habitats, our farms, forests, and wetlands, are intricately woven into the health of our water and soil, essentially our health and well-being.

Your support of Bear-Paw's mission and land protection means our children and grandchildren will have special and wild places to explore and develop their own conservation values.

Your generosity matters and has a positive and lasting impact. As a naturalist and environmental educator, I feel privileged whenever a child experiences that magical connection with nature, knowing this moment leaves an indelible memory.

As a Bear-Paw board member and donor, I am grateful for your role in creating a legacy for future generations of people and wildlife.



*This young explorer is eager to explore and understand the natural world around them! Your support makes these workshops possible and has a huge impact on the learning and development of future generations.*



## Thank You to our 2023 Business Sponsors

**Kitz Farm**



**Personal**  
Financial Strategies

Is your business interested in helping save important natural areas, protecting plants and animals, and making a positive impact on climate change? We'd love for YOU to join us on this amazing adventure! Become a sponsor by reaching out to us at [info@bear-paw.org](mailto:info@bear-paw.org).

## Preserving a Piece of Your History continued from page 1

only 13 acres of the original farm remain, and this story repeats itself as wild and working lands across the country are lost to development year after year.

What sets Coveland Farm apart, and why does it matter? The answer lies in the 300-foot shoreline that still stands as a forested guardian, playing a critical role in protecting Bow Lake from pollution. Rick and Maggie understand the significance of preserving what's left of their family's legacy, not just for themselves but for the entire community. They value clean water, flourishing wildlife, and local food, and it's likely you do too.

Rick Young reflects on the changes he's witnessed, saying, "I've watched the shoreline buffer continue to shrink over the years. I'm stuck in the past, but I know change is inevitable. I can leave this earth easier if I know this property will be undeveloped."

"Rick is absolutely right," says Krystal Balanoff, Bear-Paw's Executive Director "The health of our lakes depends on having a healthy forested buffer in what is known as the Protected Shoreland Area. It acts like a sponge to filter pollutants, keeps the water cool, and holds the shoreline in so it doesn't collapse from the stress caused by storms and motorized recreation." But, Bow Lake has lost most of its shoreline buffer to development and is starting to show serious signs of distress in the form of potentially toxic cyanobacteria blooms.

Rick and Maggie's vision is to safeguard their family farm and Bow Lake's last line of defense for future generations. By preserving this historic property, you contribute to conserving one of the longest remaining stretches of undeveloped shoreline on Bow Lake.

**There is hope.** You can be a part of the solution by helping Bear-Paw conserve this property forever under a Conservation Easement.



*This past summer, the whole Bear-Paw team learned about historic haying practices used on Coveland Farm. Your support preserves knowledge like this. And yes, it was as fun as it looks!*

**Will you join in the effort to conserve this remarkable family farm property and protect Bow Lake?**

**Give today at [www.bear-paw.org/coveland-farm](http://www.bear-paw.org/coveland-farm) and help protect Coveland Farm, and your beautiful view forever.**



# Our Bookkeeping Superstar!

## Wishing a Happy Retirement to Bob Cote



The wizard behind Bear-Paw's bookkeeping is retiring after five incredible years of dedicated volunteer service. It's with great joy and nostalgia that we celebrate Bob Cote's time as our bookkeeper. He didn't just balance the books; he brought an unmatched level of enthusiasm and dedication, turning our finances into a true passion project.

Bob's efforts made it possible for Bear-Paw to continue conserving the lands you all love. We are deeply grateful for his unwavering support of our mission. Bob tackled the numbers with the same fervor as a bear on a honey hunt, ensuring that every penny was accounted for. We all know how much love and care Bob poured into this role. From making sense of the messiest receipts to implementing the Finance Committee's requests for details, Bob truly was our financial superhero.

But, as we all know, even superheroes need a break. Bob's shoes will be tough to fill, but we have a plan. Bear-Paw will be contracting with a professional accounting service to oversee our finances. As our organization has grown, so has the complexity of our finances. It's a natural part of the journey, and we're excited about the new chapter ahead. However, we'll never forget Bob's dedication helped us reach new heights.

**Please join us in thanking Bob for his invaluable service to Bear-Paw.** Bob, we hope your retirement is filled with joy and we wish you all the best in this new chapter of your life. Thank you for five incredible years, and remember, once a Bear-Paw family member, always a Bear-Paw family member. *But we promise not to ask you any more questions about Quickbooks!*





*Bob enjoying some sunlight and warmth at the Trevi Fountain in Rome, one of the beautiful countries he visited in between making sure your generous contributions had the highest impact on land conservation. We can't wait to see where Bob's travels bring him next!*

## Connect with Bear-Paw

You can stay in the loop with Bear-Paw all year round! We keep you in the know through e-newsletters and social media, making sure you see the real-time impact of your support.

- Website: **[www.bear-paw.org](http://www.bear-paw.org)**
- Monthly e-newsletters: sign up on our website
- Follow us on social media

 Facebook: Bear-Paw Regional Greenways

 Instagram: @bearpawregionalgreenways



## Board OF DIRECTORS

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**Susan Sicard**, Candia

## Staff

**Krystal Balanoff**, Executive Director  
**Kaitlin Deyo**, Conservation Manager  
**Leslie Randall**, Operations Coordinator

**ILLUSTRATIONS**  
**Al Jaeger**



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**Will You Leave a Legacy? – page 2**

**Join us for Winter Tree Identification –**

See our Events on page 2!

**We need  
your help!**

See page 1

I appreciate anything you can do to save my  
home at Coveland Farm on Bow Lake.

—Bo, Resident Sheep



*Wildlife Habitat*


## **Land Protection** UPDATE

Land Under Bear-Paw  
Easements **8,458 acres**

Bear-Paw Preserves  
(owned land) **2,357 acres**

Total land  
protected **10,815 acres**

## **Follow Us**

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