

For Immediate Release--December 21, 2018



GILMANTON, NH—"The essence of rural character in Gilmanton," that is how many people feel as they approach the four corners of Meadow Pond, Loon Pond, and Stockwell Hill Roads. Now these 163 acres of scenic lands are conserved permanently, thanks to landowners Graham Wilson and Virginia Sapiro who donated of a conservation easement on December 20.

The landowners have carefully managed their pine-oak forestland, and allow a neighbor to tap their sugarbush. Waterfowl and other terrestrial and aquatic life find productive habitats along 4/5th of a mile of Academy Brook. Vernal pools, beaver ponds, mill ponds, and the surrounding expanse of forest augment the value of this land for wildlife. Gina tends fertile gardens on the property and you might have tasted her produce and bread at Gilmanton's Own Market.

Old timers know this property as the former location of a thriving 19th century Gilmanton landmark, Jones Mill. Millers used the power of Academy Brook to grind grain, manufacture clothes dryers, and make 73,000 shingles per day!

The landowners generously donated the conservation easement to permanently protect their land from development, subdivision, and mismanagement, no matter who owns it in the future. Five Rivers Conservation Trust guided the conservation process and is responsible for the perpetual monitoring of the terms of this conservation easement.

The Gilmanton Land Trust and private donors provided crucial financial assistance for necessary legal, title research and staff costs.

Five Rivers Conservation Trust is a non-profit organization that serves 17 towns and is based in Concord, NH. For more information, visit 5RCT.org.

