

# 50th Anniversary COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE



## CELEBRATING FIVE DECADES OF THE *HARRIS HEARSAY*

### Our Mission

A donor-supported nonprofit organization, the Harris Center for Conservation Education is dedicated to promoting understanding and respect for our natural environment through education of all ages, direct protection and exemplary stewardship of the region's natural resources, conservation research, and programs that encourage active participation in the great outdoors.





# Harris Hearsay

*News of the Harris Center and Our Work in the Community*



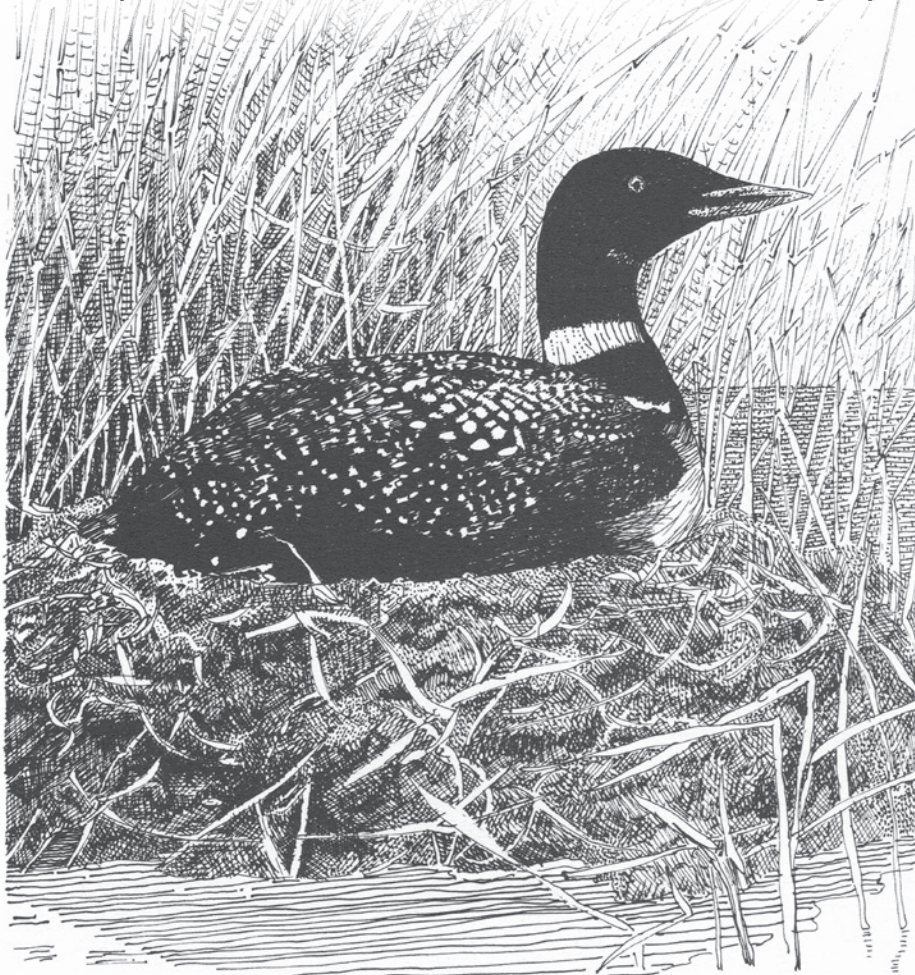
## Tracking the Decades

**T**ime flies — since the Harris Center began in 1970, since the first *Harris Hearsay* (Winter 1978-79, Vol. 1, No. 1), since I was editor for about a decade. Back then, the only editing of Meade Cadot's Director's Report was cutting out a couple of exclamation points (!).

The *Hearsay* has come a long way, along with the Harris Center, still so rich with volunteers as well as an impressive staff — energizing communications and outreach, the *Hearsay* included. I suspected that Meade came up with the “Hearsay” name for the newsletter. (Longtime director dating to the earliest years, he confirms that he did.) The Harris Center will never lose its personal “hearsay” touch of earlier decades, while it continues to so capably address challenges of the day, expanding programs as those challenges expand. So many volunteers are part of the Harris Center story celebrated this 50th year. A volunteer's rewards are many. Lucky us.

~ Francie Von Mertens

Francie is profiled in our “50 Faces for 50 Years” feature at [harriscenter.org/50-years](http://harriscenter.org/50-years).



### In this Special Issue...

**Editor's Note:** In honor of our 50th Anniversary, we looked to our archives for articles that tracked the story of the Harris Center's work through the years. We've reprinted a few here as a tribute to the five decades of *Harris Hearsay*s that brought us to this milestone. And to the guest editors and fine artists who blazed the trail, thank you for leading the way! ~ Margaret Baker

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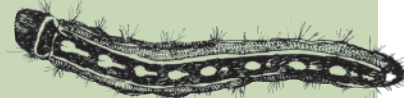
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1978 to 2010

Back issues of the *Harris Hearsay*, beginning in 2012, can be found on our website at [harriscenter.org/reports-newsletters](http://harriscenter.org/reports-newsletters).



**[harriscenter.org](http://harriscenter.org)**



# The Backwoods Millionaire

by Eleanor Briggs, Harris Center Founder

Who do you know who has spent more of his life outdoors than under a roof, who was struck by lightning and survived, who can tell by looking at tracks in the snow what was on a female fox's mind when she stopped next to a beaver dam, who at the age of 71 looks like Superman compared to the rest of us who are half his age? Does John Kulish come to your mind? John — with his unique haircut, unplaceable accent, outrageous sense of humor, and contagious belly-laugh — is hard to forget. But the man who once remarked, "Bogs are related to me. I love the smell of them," has now retired after ten years of teaching in the ConVal District. Luckily for all of us interested in experiencing our connection with the earth, John remains an active part of the Harris Center.

When John became the Harris Center's first staff member in 1970, he began the outdoor education programs for students and adults which form the foundation of our work. The programs grew; in 1971 John taught the first field course at ConVal High. His students visited the rich natural area behind the school several times a week. There they learned about the plants and animals which share this part of the planet with us. More important, they learned how we affect each other. . . . They were memorable experiences for all because John made us aware of "what is all around us, something beautiful and a part of every one of us. We should not ignore it because once it's gone, we will never get it back."

How did John Kulish become the John Kulish we know today? He was born in Gardner, Massachusetts, in April of 1911. There he grew up and went to school. As a child he was fascinated by birds, patiently watching and following them in the summer until he found their nests. At ten, he discovered a dead porcupine; not knowing what it was he lugged it five miles to his home. Before his parents made him bury it, a neighbor told him what it was. Each winter John studied the tracks in the snow; he had to find out what made them. The cottontails were the first he learned. He set snares and caught some, which his mother cooked. By the 6th grade he was trapping muskrats. Trapping an animal he didn't recognize, he showed it to an old trapper across town who said it was a mink and offered John \$10 for it. This was fortune to John but he didn't want to give up the pelt, so the trapper showed him how to skin it. Later a fur buyer bought the mink for \$25. . . . While a junior in high school, John had five pelts which he refused to sell for \$150 because he was still studying them. It was 1929, and when the stock market crashed the pelts became almost worthless.



After graduation, John tried to join the Navy but during peacetime in a depression there are no openings in the Navy. . . . So he took to the woods. . . . He was a guide during deer season. Hunting and trapping were steady jobs, and the family always had enough to eat.

Then came Pearl Harbor, and suddenly the Navy had room for John. . . . An advanced gunner assigned to the 40 mm guns on the USS Teton, John recalls that "when the guns go, it would blow the buttons off your shirt." He didn't know until the spring of 1946 that those guns had also blown a large chunk off his hearing range.

In Jaffrey with his wife, Aino, John continued to track and trap fur-bearers after the war; their pelts supported him and his growing family — for by 1948 they had two daughters, Johanna and Heidi. During that period he learned a great respect for the bobcat whose eyes and ears were so good that John never actually saw one until after he had trapped it. When John finally understood the bobcat, he felt he had "reached the peak around here."

In 1958 John came out of the woods; he stopped hunting, trapping, and guiding. He had learned everything he could about animals, and too many people were crowding into the woods. Wildlife became scarce. John began work to protect the animals. His testimony in Concord was crucial in repealing the outdated bounty on bobcats. Along with Meade Cadot and others, John fought in 1977 to establish a moratorium on trapping fisher and bobcat. This led to a greatly reduced season on both.

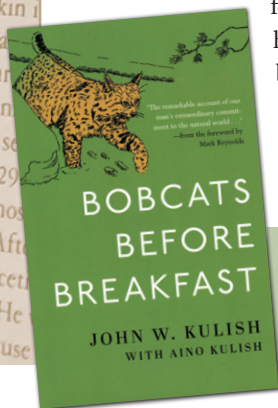
By 1960 John was teaching at Sargent Camp. . . . His field and camper craft courses proved to be valuable and popular. . . . Then Alexander Magoon, a local writer, suggested John write a book about his experiences. John declined at first but was eventually persuaded, and his *Bobcats Before Breakfast* was published.

John still leads hikes and canoe trips. "The reason I go on hikes is to be with the creatures I have studied." All of this is part of John's desire to encourage a land ethic among us. He believes that in our culture, land is thought of as money, and now we are running out of this key natural resource. He is disturbed at the rate of growth in southern New Hampshire. He feels the Harris Center is significant because "they really mean what they are doing, trying to educate us to become conscious of what we have."

In his lifelong pursuit of nature, John has found deep satisfaction and peace. . . . "Why do people want to spend their time in the country?" he asks. "Everyone needs it. I am wealthy. I know that makes me happy." ♡

Eleanor and John are both profiled in our "50 Faces for 50 Years" feature at [harriscenter.org/50-years](http://harriscenter.org/50-years).

◀ In celebration of the Harris Center's 50th Anniversary, Stackpole Books has reprinted John and Aino Kulish's 1969 memoir *Bobcats Before Breakfast*, with a new foreword by Mark Reynolds. To get your copy (\$17), contact Miles Stahmann at (603) 525-3394 or [stahmann@harriscenter.org](mailto:stahmann@harriscenter.org). For more information, visit [harriscenter.org](http://harriscenter.org).



# Earth Day Every Day

by Marian K. Baker, Teacher-Naturalist

“This is the first time I’ve ended a regular teachers’ workshop day encouraged and eager to teach,” was a comment received from a longtime high school teacher who attended the workshop which the Harris Center offered last month.

Cliff Lerner and I led the only Earth Day workshop in the state for high school teachers. We shared our ongoing work on water testing of the Ashuelot and Contoocook Rivers, as well as mentioned briefly other possible projects such as wetlands field studies and vernal pool investigation. (Vernal pools are the small, temporary woodland pools in which a number of amphibians, such as spotted salamanders, go through important stages in their life cycles.) Teachers were interested in doing research or field work that would start during Earth Day week and ultimately develop into ongoing projects, promoting student awareness of the earth and its problems.

As I graded the student lab reports from our recent testing of the Contoocook River for coliform bacteria, the following comments written by students reminded me how important our work with the schools is:

*“Through this experiment I’ve become more conscious of the environment. In the past I haven’t paid much attention to it.”*

*“I never thought about polluted water in our town.”*

*“Water — even if clear and inviting — can be deceptively dangerous!”*

*“It is important for volunteers like us to do this research. It may not be totally accurate but it does make a difference.”*



This spring as we tested the river in the nine towns which send students to ConVal High School, most of the results indicated swimmable (Class B) water. I am impressed by how

much our river has been improved since we first started testing five years ago. The raw sewage that once entered the river fairly regularly now does so rarely. It is encouraging to learn that we, individually — whether teenagers or adults — make a difference.

The latest batch of data we collected on the river showed surprisingly low amounts of coliform, until we remem-

bered that the samples were collected after several days of rain, when the snows were also going through the usual spring melt-off.

By the time this article is in print, I’ll be in East Africa delivering environmental packets from several high school biology classes here in rural New Hampshire (Hillsborough, Peterborough, and Jaffrey). The packets will be delivered to high school biology classes located in rural Western Province of Kenya. This environmental exchange packet program has already begun to broaden the experience of some of our high school students, who now realize that automobiles are not a necessity in other countries and that Kenyans can teach us how to recycle almost everything. I’ll be bringing packets back from Kenyan students after Earth Day is officially over. As a result of this interchange, the good effects of Earth Day — such as broadening our viewpoint and increasing awareness of our connections with the rest of the earth — will continue the rest of the year.

May we all begin to treat our earth better, every day of every year. May Earth Day continue every day! ~



Marian is profiled in our “50 Faces for 50 Years” feature at [harriscenter.org/50-years](http://harriscenter.org/50-years).



# Wol's Nest Enchanted

by *Susie Spikol Denehy, Teacher-Naturalist  
and Wol's Nest Camp Director*



Each summer for over 30 years, the quiet rooms of the Harris Center have been transformed from a still and tranquil old estate into a rumbling inferno of children, bubbling out from all corners of the Center. Down come the newspaper articles that cover the walls of the Center, and up go owls drawn by kids and countless other pictures of animals. Away go the maps and out come the moose antlers and snake skins that cover the "Please Touch" table. The usually serene halls ring with the voices of children. Outside, kids explore the frog pool, investigate the old apple field, and search for big boulders, porcupine quills, and orange newts on the Dandelyon Trail. All this activity can mean only one thing: Wol's Nest is in session!

During the month of July, children ages 6 through 11 come to the Harris Center's summer program for a chance to jump into nature, make new friends, climb mountains, swim in clear lakes, and, of course, eat blueberries. Silly songs about the wishy washy washer-woman and purple stews fill the air. Games galore get everyone



giggling from tag games to quieter games like the one about the dragon who guards a precious bag of jewels from the sticky fingers of the other players. Wol's Nest shimmers with activity like treasure hunts, shelter building, and frog catching. Wol's Nest seems like a great way to spend the summer.

In fact for the past eight years, that is exactly what I have been doing with much of my summer. Wol's Nest. From running through the cool spray of the sprinkler, catching frogs and even kissing a few, hiking to the peaks of Skatutakee and Thumb Mountain, I have delighted in all that Wol's Nest has to offer. At times it has almost been like being a kid again, when summers lasted for ages and the world was a ripe berry just waiting to be tasted.

Summer seems to be invented for children. At camp I see them stretch into themselves, enjoy the pleasures of the world around them, and sink their soul into experiences like canoeing or hiking or just rolling through the tall grass. One year, near the start of my Wol's Nest career, a child shared



with me that she loved camp because she could just be herself. I think I know what she means!

Eight years as a Wol's Nester. The stories I could tell! I've watched children start as gentle young Owls, our youngest campers, and return year after year to graduate as confident and bold Eagles, our camp seniors. I have witnessed the metamorphosis of the shyest child into the exuberant child who has so much to share at the end of the day. I have even heard about two people who recently got married at the Harris Center who actually first met at Wol's Nest. On the Hancock Conservation Commission, I sit next to a former camper.

I have also seen myself transformed from a camp counselor responsible for 10 children into a camp director responsible for the whole show. I see Wol's Nest bringing a special light like a firefly to the landscape of July.



This summer is my last at Wol's Nest. I have loved the ride, reveled in the experience, and can sing way too many silly songs. But it's time for me to do something different with my summers. Maybe I will write more, or take a few science classes, or actually have time to weed my garden. Whatever it is, I know I will never forget these Wol's Nest summers when I had the chance to roll through the tall grass and run with a pack of summer-streaked kids as if I, too, was one of them. ➤

**Susie and several Wol's Nest Alums are profiled in our "50 Faces for 50 Years" feature at [harriscenter.org/50-years](http://harriscenter.org/50-years).**

# The SuperSanctuary: A Dream Come True

## Highlights via Excerpts from 27 Years of the *Harris Hearsay*

by Meade Cadot, *Naturalist Emeritus*

**Summer 1983:** Spoonwood is a special place. No lake of its size in the state has a wilder, more completely development-free shoreline. Public access is by Lake Nubanusit only, although the goshawk, otter, and fisher have other ways. More than 20 acres of Spoonwood's shorefront property was recently marketed by a large Boston-based real estate and development company. . . . The money needed is \$25,000 — for us, a big chunk of change. But the other landowners agreed that if we made the purchase, they would restrict their land. In effect, we would be buying protection for the entire shoreline. I'm happy to report that in less than two months we have raised more than 80 percent of the \$25,000 needed.

**Spring 1985:** In February, Eleanor Briggs made the grand announcement of her easement donation of 2,000 acres. Encompassing all of Skatutakee and Thumb Mountains and thousands of feet of shoreline on Hunts Pond and Lake Nubanusit, this is the largest easement ever given in New Hampshire.

**Winter 1986:** The Spoonwood saga continues! As we had fervently hoped, Barry and Renn Tolman accepted our offer for the Greengate-Spoonwood Pond property, and all 420 acres are forever secure from development, as is the rest of Spoonwood Pond.

**Fall 2000:** It was up on high for aerial photos of the newly expanded SuperSanctuary — in particular, 745 acres of spectacular wild land around Cobb Hill in Hancock and Harrisville, abutting the Briggs Preserve. The land is being donated by Jane Peele Greene and will be named the Sidney M. Williams Woods in honor of her father. . . . And thanks to six friends of the SuperSanctuary, two abutting tracts are also being acquired — 69 acres on Jaquith Road in Hancock and 126 acres in Harrisville with over a mile of frontage on Lake Skatutakee's North Pond. In sum, 940 acres is our largest fee addition ever. . . . The SuperSanctuary has passed the 10,000-acre milestone.

**Winter 2004:** A joint effort of the Nelson Conservation Commission and the Harris Center has enabled the purchase of a conservation easement which limits development on the 225-acre Hammond property with its 2,800-plus feet of road frontage to four single family residences. And it completely protects the Black Brook Swamp and stream valley and the ridgeline that parallels it.

**Spring 2004:** Thanks again to the 180 contributors who enabled us last fall to purchase from Pratt Family Homes the hundred acres in Hancock along Route 123 across from Willard Pond Road.

**Fall 2004:** Thanks to generous friends of the SuperSanctuary, the Harris Center is buying 233 acres that abut land protected by the Merrill family at the Hancock-Harrisville town line, including the summit ledges on Doone Mountain and about a 3,000-foot stretch of Jaquith Brook. This year's efforts bring the total land directly protected by the Harris Center to 8,700 acres and the entire SuperSanctuary to 12,500 acres.

**Fall 2005:** Down the road from the Harris Center and very visible from Route 123, we have added to the protected land at Rye Pond. The property includes a short trail to Picnic Rock. . . . Over on the Contoocook, Elsie Van Buren has donated a conservation easement on her Still Pond Farm. The easement protects frontage on both the Contoocook and Ferguson

Brook and links protected lands along these streams such that there is now a 940-acre block of contiguous conserved lands between the Contoocook and Route 202.

**Summer 2006:** The Robb Reservoir area not far up Route 123 is part of 1,617 acres in South Stoddard. The tract begins at Rye Pond, and contains all of Robb Reservoir and a full 4.5 miles of the Contoocook River's North Branch. . . . In 1983, Elizabeth Babcock completed giving the Forest Society the then 3,600-acre Peirce Reservation, which directly abuts the Robb Reservoir tract across Route 9. In the 1980s, three projects were in the planning stages, two of which the Harris Center strongly supported and assisted: Protecting almost 1,000 acres of what now is French Family land between the Robb Reservoir tract and NH Audubon's Willard Pond Sanctuary, and permanently protecting the then 11,000-acre Andorra Forest through a conservation easement gift to the Forest Society.

The project we did not support was the proposal to develop the Robb Reservoir tract, beginning with an 81-lot subdivision on the reservoir itself. Test pits were dug and road system laid out, but fortunately the Stoddard Planning Board did not support the proposal either. By the mid-1990s the developer's option expired and plans were tabled. Between the mid-1980s and mid-1990s moose and bear populations were rebounding and began again to depend on the Robb Reservoir tract's extensive riparian wetlands.

Also during that period The Nature Conservancy led the charge to protect the Loverens Mills Atlantic white cedar stand and its environs, abutting along the tract's northeast end. . . . Robb Reservoir was of the highest priority for protection. . . . Here is the lowland river and wetland link that connects and complements more than 30,000 acres of protected, but mostly upland, habitat.

**Spring 2007:** Otter celebrate! Robb Reservoir is secure. These 1,632 acres will be the largest addition to this regional block of protected lands since the printing of the very first SuperSanctuary map in 1985, and they connect the SuperSanctuary with some 20,000 acres of protected land north of Route 9. Our canoe/kayak trip on Robb last April saw four Bald Eagles circling right overhead. The eagles represent four keys to this very successful project: a national NGO (Trust for Public Land), private individual donors, state and local government, and the federal government (the Bald Eagle is its symbol!).

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) is truly to be commended for picking up the baton from David Houghton at the helm of NH Audubon, who was successful in both negotiating with the landowners and initiating the effort to secure federal funding.

One hundred-plus mostly local folks made donations to TPL and the Harris Center totaling \$400,000-plus. Kudos here go to fundraising chair Stephen Froling and to his extremely effective committee, including George Cahill, Don Healy, Don Stokes, Charlie Levesque, and Stoddard native

*Continued on page 7. . .*



▲ **Protecting Spoonwood Pond was the first big land protection challenge for the Harris Center.**



# Celebrating the Year of the Salamander, Part II

by Brett Amy Thelen, Science Director



▲ A spotted salamander makes its way across North Lincoln Street in Keene during the spring amphibian migration.

**Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC)** — a national coalition of biologists, land managers, and individuals dedicated to the conservation of amphibians, reptiles, and their habitats — has designated 2014 as the Year of the Salamander, a time to illuminate, educate, and celebrate all things salamander. In salute, here are a few stories from the Harris Center's salamander files:

## Salamanders Can Help You Get Into a Good College

Every spring, the Harris Center's citizen science program trains volunteers to serve on Salamander Crossing Brigades at amphibian road crossings throughout the Monadnock Region. These heroic volunteers count migrating amphibians and safely usher the animals across roads during one or more "Big Nights" each spring.

Sarah and Emily Wilson — a mother-daughter team from Keene — first joined the Salamander Crossing Brigades when Emily was in 4th grade, nearly a decade ago. Sarah recalls, "I still remember our first night out, when we got out of the car and a wood frog was hopping across the road right in front of us!" It quickly became a springtime tradition: "Emily and I would go out even when we weren't 'called.' If it was maybe just a little rainy, or the temperature wasn't just right, we would go out anyway. And those were wonderful nights. Often we were the only ones out, and we would talk as we walked back and forth on the road, and listen to the peepers and wood frogs that had already made it safely across the street to their vernal pools. . . . It gave us some wonderful mom-daughter time."

As the coordinator of this project, I've had the pleasure of watching Emily grow up with the Salamander Crossing Brigades, one rainy evening at a time. On school nights, her mother would insist on leaving the

crossing site early enough to get a good night's rest, but Emily was always reluctant to go, ever on the lookout for salamanders. And I'll never forget the year Emily showed up behind the wheel of the family station wagon — logging hours for her driver's permit while transporting her mother to the amphibian crossing. Suddenly, she was no longer a kid! When the time came to apply to college, Emily wrote her application essay on her salamandering, and it did the trick!

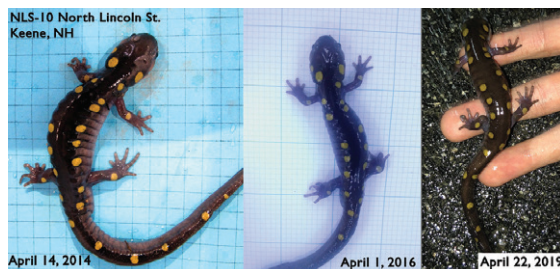
This year saw the advent of a new twist on the Wilsons' springtime tradition: instead of walking side by side, Sarah and Emily texted back and forth about the first spotted salamander of the season. Sarah was at North Lincoln Street in Keene, as always, but Emily was at Smith College in western Massachusetts, where her passion for salamanders helped open the door to a whole new adventure.

## Salamanders Are One of a Kind

In addition to their stop-you-in-your-tracks-and-then-tell-everyone-you-know-about-it charisma (see *Celebrating the Year of the Salamander: Part I* in the Spring 2014 *Hearsay* at [harriscenter.org](http://harriscenter.org)), spotted salamanders are one of a kind: that is, each individual adult spotted salamander has its own unique spot pattern.

This past spring, we piloted a project to photograph the spot patterns of spotted salamanders encountered at the North Lincoln Street amphibian road crossing in Keene, and we were able to identify five individual salamanders on their migrations both to and from their breeding wetland. This new, minimally invasive "mark-recapture" technique could potentially provide meaningful information on year-to-year survival of the spotted salamanders that must cross roads to reach their breeding pools. In the words of one of our Salamander Crossing Brigade volunteers, it's also *way cool*. 🐸

Brett is profiled in our "50 Faces for 50 Years" feature at [harriscenter.org/50-years](http://harriscenter.org/50-years).



◀ **SPOT PATTERN COMPARISON:** This spotted salamander was first photographed heading to its breeding wetland near North Lincoln Street (Keene, NH) on April 14, 2014. It was subsequently carried across North Lincoln Street by Salamander Crossing Brigade volunteers on both April 1, 2016, and April 22, 2019. Same exact salamander, all three years!

*The SuperSanctuary: A Dream Come True*, continued from page 5

Geoff Jones. As for state and local government, support was amazing: \$40,000 from the NH moose license plate program, \$250,000 from LCHIP, and \$50,000 from the small town of Stoddard through a unanimous town meeting vote (thanks largely to Geoff Jones and an anonymous challenge grant).

The pivotal \$3 million from the Forest Legacy Program enabled the state to purchase a conservation easement ensuring that the land will be protected but open to the public.

**Fall 2007:** Westward ho! In Nelson, Wally Francis is adding to the 115 acres of land already under easement an additional 114 acres with frontage on both Silver Lake and Lead Mine Road, resulting in an 885-acre block of protected lands. And finally, 30 acres have been acquired next to our existing Rye Pond land, which will create the 150-acre Virginia C. Baker Natural Area. Virginia's support of the SuperSanctuary is without equal. With help and encouragement from her son, Lee, and daughter, Marsha, she helped the Harris Center protect hundreds of acres in Harrisville, Hancock, Nelson, and Antrim.

**Fall 2009:** The first annual Lee Baker Land Lover Award goes to Francie Von Mertens, who has led and supported many projects throughout the region with the Harris Center, NH Audubon, Town of Peterborough, and others.

**Fall 2010:** In February, thanks to the Silver Lake Land Trust, we purchased a conservation easement from Buckingham, Brown, and Nichols, protecting its historic Camp Marienfeld, 192 acres on the lake straddling the Harrisville and Nelson town lines. In August, two more properties were protected through the bargain purchase of easements from Paul Geddes — first on his 33-acre historic Seaver Farm, which stretches from the shore of Silver Lake to Seaver Reservoir, and then on his 54 acres in Nelson with frontage on Silver Lake. Harris Center easements now protect more than 550 acres around the lake with more than 7,900 feet of shore frontage.

So, yes. Sometimes dreams actually do come true. The SuperSanctuary is now about 30,000 acres, with land in Antrim, Hancock, Greenfield, Harrisville, Nelson, Peterborough, Stoddard, and Windsor. Astounding! ~

**Meade is profiled in our "50 Faces for 50 Years" feature at [harriscenter.org/50-years](http://harriscenter.org/50-years).**

**Be part of our future.** Donate to our 50th Anniversary Fund or make a bequest or planned gift:

[harriscenter.org/50th-anniversary-fund](http://harriscenter.org/50th-anniversary-fund)



[harriscenter.org/bobcats-forever-legacy-society](http://harriscenter.org/bobcats-forever-legacy-society)



**Many thanks to our outstanding *Harris Hearsay* guest editors, artists, and photographers** (listed chronologically from winter 1978 through spring 2010):

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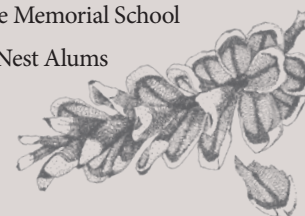
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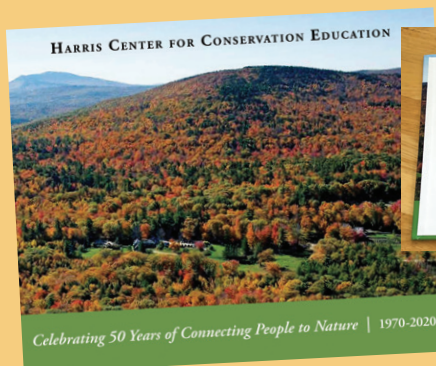
#### STUDENT ARTISTS

**From local schools and Harris Center programs**

South Meadow School (Peterborough)  
Hancock Elementary School  
Symonds Elementary School (Keene)  
Benjamin Franklin School (Keene)  
Peterborough Elementary School  
Nelson Elementary School  
Wheelock Elementary School (Keene)  
Fuller Elementary School (Keene)  
Harrisville Wells Memorial School  
Dublin Consolidated School  
Nelson Elementary School  
Sullivan Elementary School  
Rindge Memorial School  
Wol's Nest Alums



**50th Anniversary Commemorative Issue 2020** *Illustrations (with apologies to those we were unable to credit):* Page 1: Barbara Smullen, bobcat. Pages 1, 4, 7, mailing panel, and cover: Janet H. Bleicken, loon, tent caterpillar, dragonfly, pine cone, Saw-whet Owl, pine bough and mouse, spring flowers, oak leaf, paw prints, nest with egg. Page 3: David M. Carroll, hatchling spotted turtle. Page 6: Brett Amy Thelen, spotted salamander (top photo). Page 7: Jane El Simpson, ladybug.



**Celebrating 50 Years (\$35)**

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