

# YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR FUTURE

*The Campaign for the Ossipee Pine Barrens and Silver Lake Watershed*



Cook's Pond at Sunrise

*We need the tonic of wildness... We can never  
have enough of Nature.*

~ HENRY DAVID THOREAU



Ossipee Lake and Ossipee Pine Barrens from Jackman Ridge

ERIC ALDRICH PHOTOGRAPH

### **The Ossipee Pine Barrens: Like No Other Place in New Hampshire**

Take the short hike up to Jackman Ridge in Freedom and look around. Rising before you in the west are the Ossipee Mountains. On your left and right are the shimmering waters of Ossipee and Silver lakes. And spreading out between them are the flat, green forests of the Ossipee Pine Barrens: a place of beauty, solace and recreation; a natural filter for clean water; and a globally rare and increasingly threatened ecosystem.

This is a place shaped thousands of years ago, when the retreating Ice Age left behind a broad sandy plane, too dry and sandy for many plants. But thriving here is a forest of pitch pine and scrub oak, rejuvenated over the eons by fires sparked by lightning. It's a patchwork of pine woods and scrub oak: dense and tangled in some places, open and airy in others, with an inviting bed of blueberries.

The combination is perfect for birds seldom found elsewhere, like the Eastern towhee, prairie warbler, nighthawk

and brown thrasher. It's one of the last best places in New Hampshire to hear the song of the whip-poor-will on a summer night. Rare moth and butterfly species — some found nowhere else in New Hampshire — find food and breeding habitat right here.

Those sands deposited after the Ice Age made this area great for harvesting pine over the last two centuries, but poor for farming — hence the name “pine barrens.” But the sands are ideal for what lays below the surface: water. Lots of it. In fact, this is part of the largest stratified drift aquifer in New Hampshire, a critical source of clean drinking water for families and businesses in Freedom, Madison, Tamworth, and Ossipee. Forests over that aquifer ensure the soils' natural filtering ability and help safeguard an important source of clean water for the future.

People come to these forests for a brisk hike or a full bucket of blueberries on a summer day. They come to hear the whip-poor-will's mesmerizing song. They come for the exhilaration of a hunt or a snowmobile ride. They come

because it is a forest, a remarkable place, like no other place in New Hampshire.

### A Growing Threat to this Irreplaceable Forest

New Hampshire once had four pine barren ecosystems, some stretching down into the Merrimack River valley. But because of development and fragmentation those in the Ossipee area are now New Hampshire's only viable example of this globally rare forest type. Once thought to cover about 8,600 acres, there are only an estimated 2,500 acres remaining of the Ossipee Pine Barrens.

For almost two decades The Nature Conservancy has been the leading environmental organization working to protect the Ossipee Pine Barrens. Guided by science and with community support, we've conserved more than 2,300 acres of the area for future generations. Of this amount protected, more than 1,200 acres are pitch pine-scrub oak

habitat, much of it contiguous and some connected to other protected lands.

But the future of the Ossipee Pine Barrens is at risk. With only one-third of its original extent remaining, the Ossipee Pine Barrens faces the growing and urgent threats of development, gravel extraction and incompatible forestry. With the pace of land sales quickening and interest in development growing, time is running out to protect this irreplaceable forest.

### Seizing the Moment: The Campaign for the Ossipee Pine Barrens and Silver Lake Watershed

Right now, The Nature Conservancy has secured a window of opportunity to protect additional critical habitat, including precious lands around Cook's Pond in Madison. These lands are contiguous to previously conserved parcels and, if protected, will provide important connectivity for the habi-



Pale Laurel



Hermit Thrush



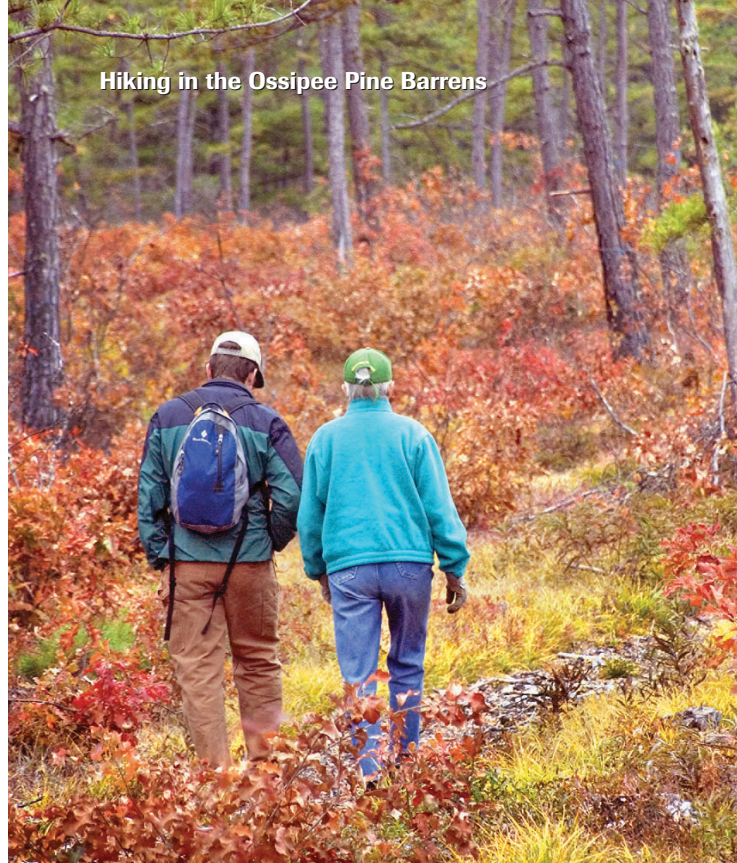
tat The protection of these parcels will ensure more than 6,000 acres of contiguous conservation land in the area. Further, protecting the land near Cook's Pond will ensure access to a popular canoe/kayak ride through pristine wetlands between the pond and Silver Lake.

*The Campaign for the Ossipee Pine Barrens and Silver Lake Watershed* seeks to raise approximately \$3.8 million to secure four properties totaling 616 acres. This goal includes purchase price, project costs and stewardship endowment. The Conservancy has submitted an application to the N.H. Forest Legacy Program for \$2.3 million. To fulfill the remainder of the obligation, The Nature Conservancy of New Hampshire needs to raise \$1.5 million in gifts and pledges by March 2007.

These tracts harbor irreplaceable pine barrens habitat, forests that safeguard clean water, and trails and ponds that provide wonderful recreational opportunities. Now is the time to seize the moment and save this forest. 🌲

DARYL BURNETT PHOTOGRAPH

Hiking in the Ossipee Pine Barrens



I'M WHAT IS CALLED A SENSIBILITIST, OR OTHERWISE  
AN ENVIRONMENTALIST. ~ Robert Frost

Once covering about 8,600 acres, only an estimated 2,500 acres remain of the Ossipee Pine Barrens. The Nature Conservancy has protected over a third of the remaining habitat (*see medium green-shaded areas in map at left*). Protection of the Ossipee Pine Barrens is critical, for not only is it the last viable ecosystem of its type in the state, it helps filter and protect vast supply of clean groundwater to the area. The current campaign will protect four tracts (totaling 616 acres) near Cook's Pond, Silver Lake and the West Branch River (*dark-shaded areas in map*). Due to the area's rapid housing and commercial development, threats are mounting against this irreplaceable habitat. With a window of opportunity open, now is the time to seize the moment to protect this habitat.

ERIC ALDRICH PHOTOGRAPH



Ossipee Pine Barrens



Pitch Pine

DARYL BURNETT PHOTOGRAPH

## Your Land, Your Water, Your Future:

There are three primary conservation goals of the campaign:

- Preserve a globally rare forest type as a healthy and functioning ecosystem, a habitat for rare or declining bird species and rare insects.
- Safeguard New Hampshire's largest stratified drift aquifer, a critical source of clean drinking water for families and businesses.
- Ensure that current and future generations have a place for recreation, including hiking, kayaking and canoeing, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling and nature observation.

## The Goal: A One-Time Opportunity

The Campaign seeks to raise \$1.5 million in private funding by March 2007 to complement \$2.3 million we hope to receive through public funding. The total project cost of \$3.8 million includes property purchase, project support costs and stewardship endowment

# CONFIDENTIAL PLEDGE FORM

Yes! I/we would like to pledge my/our support to *The Campaign for the Ossipee Pine Barrens and Silver Lake Watershed*.

I/we intend to make a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_. I/We understand that The Nature Conservancy is relying on pledges from supporters such as me/us to move forward with this project. I/We will honor this pledge by making payment as follows:

■ I/We have enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and/or ■ will make pledge payments according to the schedule below:

AMOUNT	MONTH/YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> STOCK	<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD	<input type="checkbox"/> AMERICAN EXPRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> DISCOVER
AMOUNT	MONTH/YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> CASH <input type="checkbox"/> STOCK	ACCOUNT NUMBER	EXP. DATE	SIGNATURE	
NAME (PLEASE PRINT)						
MAILING ADDRESS			CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
TELEPHONE			E-MAIL ADDRESS			

Does your employer offer Matching Funds? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please send to:* The Nature Conservancy, New Hampshire Chapter, 22 Bridge Street, Fourth Floor, Concord, NH 03301. If you have any questions, please contact Tiffany McKenna, 603.224.5853, ext 15, or [tmckenna@tnc.org](mailto:tmckenna@tnc.org).



Cook's Pond Stream

ERIC ALDRICH PHOTOGRAPH

**The Nature Conservancy in New Hampshire has:**

- Worked independently and with partners to protect more than 250,000 acres of ecologically significant land in New Hampshire since 1961.
- 7,500 members throughout the state.
- 30 preserves in New Hampshire.
- A high efficiency. In 2005, of all dollars spent, 97 percent went to conservation programs, two percent to administration and one percent to fundraising.

**THE NATURE CONSERVANCY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

22 Bridge Street, Fourth Floor Concord, New Hampshire 03301

603.224.5853 [nature.org/newhampshire](http://nature.org/newhampshire)



SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH