

Annual Cornish Conservation Award Recipients

The Annual Cornish Conservation Award will be presented to a Cornish citizen or organization involved in exceptional conservation practices and whose work might not be recognized elsewhere. Outstanding conservation practices which would be honored might be evident in one or more of the following areas: improvement or preservation of agricultural lands, open space or wetlands, intelligent management of forest resources, practical application of energy conservation technologies or the promotion of well planned community environmental projects.



1983 The Cornish Fair

Cornish Fair has preserved open space and has financially supported the sending of Cornish youth, teachers and adult leaders to the SPNHF Conservation Camps.

1984 Fred and Shirley Sullivan

Fred and Shirley have been effective stewards of their land. They have made continuous improvements. Their motto could be “if a project is worth doing it must be done right.”

1985 Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site

Throughout its existence Saint-Gaudens has been active and effective in preserving the natural beauty of the area and conserving the scenery, natural and historic objects and the wildlife so as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.

1986 Fred Weld

Fred is honored for his conservation practices in his logging operations.

1987 Bunny Barker

Bunny and Diz are recognized for their outstanding conservation practices and care of their property on Tiff Road.

1988 Harold Fox

Harold, at his Hi-Hope Farm, takes meticulous care of every aspect of his land, home, livestock, equipment. He is an example of what one person can do to promote conservation.

1989 Virginia Colby

Virginia is recognized for her initiative to preserve her Cornish property with a conservation easement so as to keep it in its natural state.

1990 Michael M. Yatsevitch

Mike has been a long time conservationist and has managed his land, particularly the forests, using the best practices available.

1991 The Fitch Farm

The Fitch family has for over 200 years demonstrated sound conservation practices on their Dingleton Hill farm.

1992 Linda Fuerst

Linda has done outstanding work on the nature trails around the school and used the trails effectively in teaching her students about their environment.

1993 Peg and Joe Meyette

Peg and Joe have demonstrated an ongoing commitment to conserving their land through careful management and the placing of a conservation easement on it. In addition, Peg has donated many hours to conservation minded organizations and teaching conservation and wildlife topics in schools.

1994 The Cornish Recycling Committee

Through their work on recycling this group has worked at improving and preserving our environment.

1995 Lolly and Danny Hilliard

Lolly and Danny have displayed exemplary stewardship in the care of their property.

1996 Larry and Jean Duval, Bob Alves and Dick Avery

These four individuals through their work with the Cornish Scouts introduced a generation of boys to the beauty of our Town and State while generating respect for the land and the importance of preserving our environment.

1997 Fritz and Anne Hier

This couple are honored for the careful stewardship of their property on Lovejoy Hill and their willingness to share its beauty and recreational offerings with the public.

1998 Cornish Road Crew

The road crew is recognized for keeping a balance between roads that are passable and still visually attractive. In addition they have given a lot of effort in helping make Cornish 's "Green Up" program such a success.

1999 No award given**2000 Joan and Paul Queneau**

For forty years Joan and Paul have shown dedicated and outstanding conservation work on their farm on Burr Road.

2001 Nancy Wightman

Nancy has served on the recycling committee for 23 years and many think of her as the mother of this committee.

2002 The Farmers' Market

Suzanne Lupien and Janice Orion were presented the award for their work on the farmers' market which is held in the Flat on every Saturday late May through October.

2003 The Town Forest Committee

This group has developed and implemented the conservation minded Town Forest Management Plan.

2004 Ros Seidel and her fourth grade class

Under Ros' guidance this group of Cornish fourth graders developed a "Valley Quest" on the CREA land that helps highlight and teach others about the area's environmental treasures.

2005 Cheston Newbold

Cheston has represented Cornish for many years on the Upper Valley Regional Planning Commission and the Joint River Commission as well as serving as a selectman here in Cornish. He has represented Cornish admirably. He has also cared for the Newbold property's tree farm, sugar stand, apple orchard, ponds and open spaces applying sound conservation practices.

2006 Helen Lovell

Helen has chosen to place a conservation easement on her Root Hill property where she has lived for over 50 years. This will protect it from development and, she hopes, prove to be a catalyst for others to follow her example and protect other lands.

2007 CREA Barn Committee

This committee has worked over a number of years to preserve the Elmhurst Barn which sits on the CREA property. It is now beautifully restored and ready to be used by the Town and its Citizens.

2008 Grace Bulkeley

Grace is recognized for placing an easement on 773 acres of her land. It preserves an entire hillside along 12A and extends an important wildlife corridor. This property represents the largest preserved property entirely within the Town of Cornish's boundaries.

2009 Nancy Wightman and Janice Orion

Nancy and Janice have been publishing "Consider This" Cornish's own monthly newspaper since the early 2000s. It has informed and entertained us and provided a vehicle for learning about our Town. It will be missed.

2010 Don Snowden

Don has made many contributions to the Town of Cornish. His energy, knowledge and enthusiasm has assisted many projects to completion. These include but are certainly not limited to the Town's Bat House, the CREA Barn, easement monitoring, trail and bridgework on CREA.

2011 Cornish Elementary School

In 2010 the elementary school retrofitted and upgraded the heating system by installing a wood pellet furnace. This project will reduce the school's carbon footprint.

2012 Troy Simino

Troy did an outstanding job overseeing the land swap of a 23 acre Town owned parcel with a Blue Mountain Forest 50 acre parcel that abutted a piece of Town owned land. Conservation easements were placed on both parcels.

2013 Scout Master Leo Maslan and BSA Troop 332

The Scouts have done numerous projects that support the Town. These include: Planting Elm trees at the Trinity Church, the New Fire Station, by the town office, and on the Cornish Recreation & Education Area (CREA). Also on the CREA land they have: built benches, planted bushes to attract turkeys, built a kiosk, built a new trail, lifted and repaired the old footbridge, built a viewing platform on the edge of the wetland, and completely rebuilt the new foot bridge. They have cleared trails in the Town Forest and on the CREA land and done upkeep in the Cummings Cemetery. They have built an outdoor classroom near the school.

2014 Upper Valley Land Trust

The UVLT was recognized for their work in helping to preserve the rural character of Cornish.

2015 Cornish-Plainfield Joint Energy Committee

The Cornish and Plainfield Energy committees was recognized for the work done in support of energy independence and the decrease in our communities' carbon footprint by successfully promoting the use of solar energy.

2016 Bill and Jenny Lipfert

This award recognizes the Lipfert's efforts in permanently protecting the southern entrance to the Town of Cornish along Route 12A by placing conservation easements on over 150 acres of land, on both sides of the road, and contiguous to the Town Forest. They also made and maintained trails on the property available for public use.

2017 Colleen O'Neill

Colleen received the award for her many contributions in preserving and enhancing the rural and scenic character of the Town of Cornish. Her property has been a Certified Tree Farm since 1979 and includes a beautiful trail network. She purchased a piece of property at the corner of Rte. 120 and Clark Camp Road allowing the land to stay in agricultural use. She is an organizer of the Cornish Quilters and the Cornish Hens And she Coordinates the Cornish Spirit Committee which has done so much in preserving and beautifying our Town.

2018 Linda Fuerst & Molly Young

Linda and Molly were recognized for their 17 years of coordinating the Four Winds Nature Program in our school. Linda was also recognized for her many years of service on the Conservation Commission and her years as Chair of the CREA Committee.

2019 Dale Rook

Dale was posthumously honored for his dedication to preserving the rural character and beauty of the Town through his years of service to many Town organizations, including his ten years on the Conservation Commission. A tree was planted in his honor at the fire station.

2020 Rickey Poor

From playing a major role in establishing the CREA property, to volunteering with the Four Winds program, and countless projects in between, Rickey has shown an exceptional commitment to protecting our natural resources and fostering education for our youth. She served as chair of the commission for a number of years and has been on more monitoring walks than any other member of the commission. She was given a painting by Jim Schubert of the CREA pond and barn.

2021 Caroline Storrs

Caroline received the award for her continued and much-appreciated efforts in organizing Green Up day—keeping the town a beautiful place to live. She was given a cartoon contributed by Harry Bliss.

2022 Larry Duval and Jim Fitch

Larry and Jim received the award for their continued efforts in managing and monitoring the wetlands in town with a particular focus on the CREA property. Their hard work allows continued access to trails and fields so that the community is free to explore.

2023 Ginny Prince

A devoted steward of the Town Forest since its creation 25 years ago, Ginny Prince received the Commission's award for exceptional conservation practices. She has volunteered countless hours of leadership, forest management planning, and the tough work of trail maintenance. Also, this year, due to the work and initiative of the Town Forest Committee, the Town Forest became a Certified Tree Farm.