

Gilmanton Conservation Commission

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EXCITING NEWS! The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests has purchased 30 acres in Gilmanton, NH which when combined with the Charles Kelley Memorial Forest lands will create a 310-acre conserved block. The property includes high-quality mature oak, hemlock and pine forest, as well as 1,000 feet of stream frontage.

To support the purchase, the Forest Society must raise \$80,000 by April 30, 2022. Please consider a donation to the project today.

Attached are photos of the article in the latest Forest Notes magazine and a copy of the donation form with a map of all of the land!

Keeping Forests as Forests in Gilmanton

In 1801, Dr. Benjamin Kelley purchased a 1.25 acre lot at the intersection of Province Road (now Route 107) and the road to Loudon (now Route 129). The son of a Revolutionary War captain, Dr. Kelley became the first trained medical practitioner to settle in Gilmanton. He built a homestead and operated it as an inn and stage stop while also making medical house calls on horseback.

Dr. Kelley and his son Charles expanded the family's landholdings to 400 acres of farm and forestland by 1850. The junction of routes 107 and 129 became known as Kelley Corners, and Kelley kids made up a large percentage of students in the one-room schoolhouse still located near this crossroads today.

Four generations later, siblings George and Harriet Kelley donated the lands handed down to each of them to the Forest Society, together creating the 152-acre Charles G. Kelley Memorial Forest that includes the hayfield across from the original homestead, seen from Route 107. They named the forest for their great-grandfather.

Now, the Forest Society has the opportunity to conserve land that passed down to another Kelley descendant by acquiring 30 acres located between the two properties that George and Harriet donated. Purchasing these 30 acres, which had been listed for sale, will protect a contiguous forest that also links with Gilmanton's Pine Hill Town Forest.

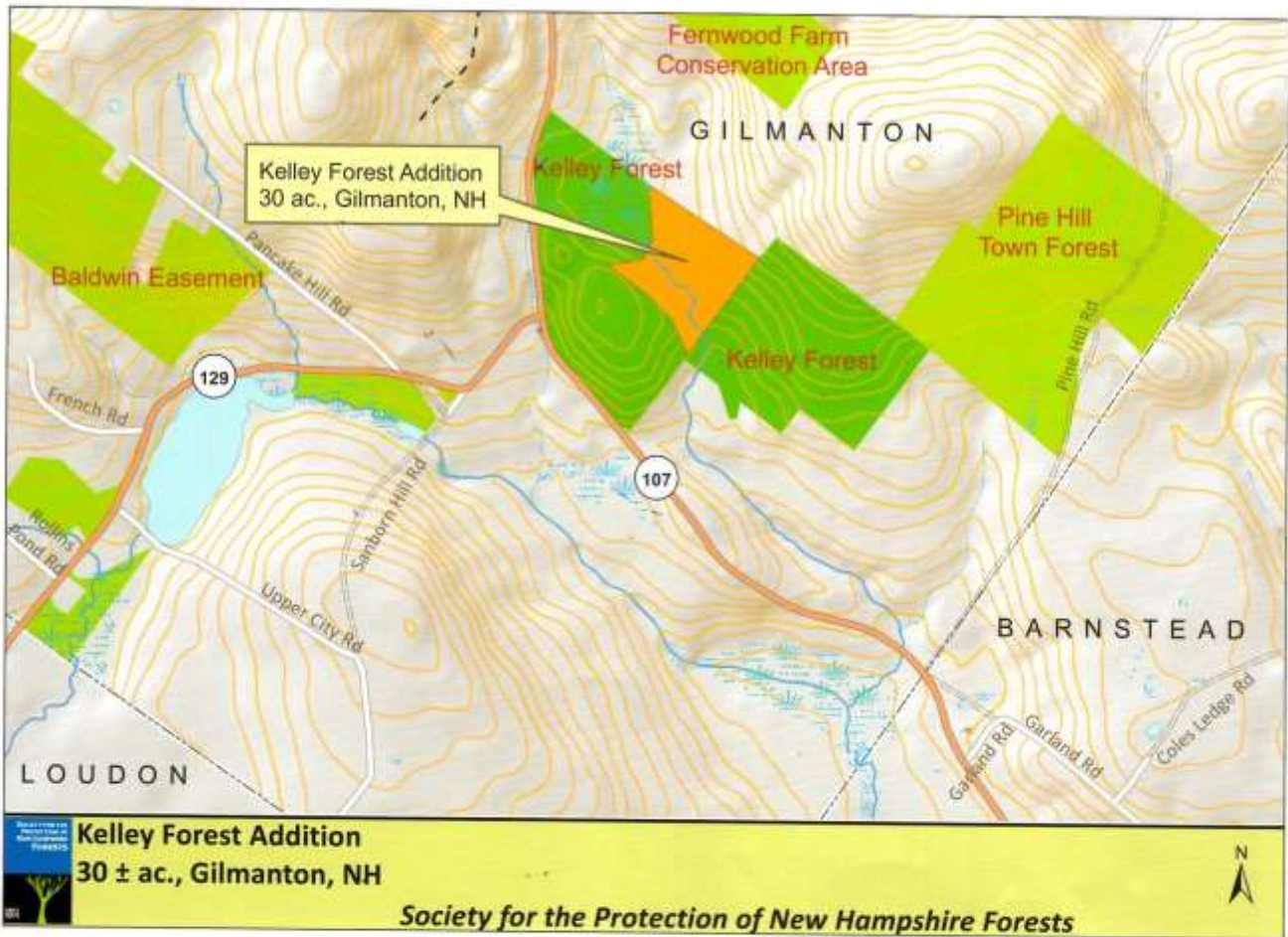
The property includes high-quality mature oak, hemlock, and pine forest, as well as 1,000 feet of stream frontage and part of a wetland complex located on the existing Kelley Memorial Forest lands. This area is the upper headwaters of the Suncook River, a tributary of the Merrimack River. The land will be managed for timber and wildlife habitat, and it is part of the field and forest landscape that gives this pocket of Gilmanton its quintessential rural village feel.



Managing Forester Wendy Weisiger studies a pine tree growing on the proposed addition to the Kelley Forest in Gilmanton.

Protecting contiguous forestland is one of the Forest Society's land conservation objectives, thus ensuring the integrity of wildlife habitat, water resources, and consistent forest management practices. This 30-acre project will create a 310-acre block of forest and fields, keeping Kelley Corners as scenic as it was when Benjamin Kelley

first arrived in 1801. To support the purchase price, costs, and a stewardship endowment, the Forest Society must raise \$80,000 by April 30, 2022. Please help us expand the Charles G. Kelley Memorial Forest with a donation to the project today, and plan a scenic drive through Gilmanton in the spring—it is beautiful! Y



YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE ADDITION OF 30 ACRES TO THE KELLEY MEMORIAL FOREST IN GILMANTON.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Town/City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____

VISA MasterCard Number: _____ Exp. date: _____ Security code: _____

Please mail the completed form to:

Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301

Or donate online at forestsociety.org/kelleyforest.

For more information, call Anne Truslow at 603-224-9945
or email atruslow@forestsociety.org.



**Thank you
for your help!**

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