



*Celebrating 100 years of New Hampshire's working forests*

## **2009 President's Award Susan Bryant-Kimball**

When the Board of Directors of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA) streamlined the organization's award categories in 2008, it created the President's Award.

This honor recognizes outstanding work by a member of the NHTOA in a range of categories including media, legislation, education, membership promotion and recruitment, service to community, service to industry or cooperation/collaboration between organizations.

For her persistent and effective work on behalf of landowner rights, Susan Bryant-Kimball is the 2010 -- and first -- recipient of the President's Award.

Susan's roots in New Hampshire run deep, dating from the 1950s when her family spent summers at Bearcamp Pond in East Sandwich, not far from where she and her husband, Chip Kimball (see article about the Kendall Norcott Award recipient), live today. Susan graduated from Harvard University with a degree in Scandinavian linguistics; she also has a master's degree in speech pathology from Boston University.

Susan and Chip bought their first woodlot in 1984. Now they work as a team to manage the 1,200 contiguous acres they own in Sandwich and Tamworth. She and Chip are long-time members of the NHTOA. Susan has completed classes offered through the Professional Loggers Program.

The love and respect that Susan and Chip have for their land led Susan to organize landowners to ask the N.H. Attorney General's office for assistance in addressing trespassing by folks who flagged and mapped trails on private property without permission, in particular, the "Trail Bandit."

Eventually the Kimballs and other landowners in the Ossipee Mountains, comprising about 15,000 acres, posted their properties. Their signs state the reason -- because unauthorized trails had been marked, cleared and mapped without the landowners' permission.

"Susan was determined to resolve this trespass issue," said Jasen Stock, NHTOA executive director. "She contacted other landowners and got them involved, and she pulled the Attorney General's office, N.H. Fish and Game, and the N.H. Bureau of Trails into the discussions."

After many meetings and discussions among the landowners, the NHTOA and state agencies, the "Trail Bandit" agreed not to mark, map or locate trails on private land without permission from the owners.

"Susan brought this particular trespass issue to the attention of the NHTOA," said John Caveney, president of the board of directors. "She did the research, got state agencies involved and, as a result of the publicity, raised awareness that landowners do not have to tolerate inappropriate uses of their property.

"We are delighted to honor Susan for her work on behalf of landowners with the 2010 President's Award," Caveney said.

By Ann Davis