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## Langley & Kennard Forest Conserved

*40 acres of prized land donated to SELT for people & nature*

[Lee, NH] — Throughout southeastern New Hampshire and southern Maine, you can see how families impacted communities by looking at place names. Ron Kennard of Lee is fascinated by his family name and their long history in the region. There are Kennard roads, a Kennard Hill, and now – thanks to his generous donation of land to the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT) – there is the Langley & Kennard Forest.

The new Langley & Kennard Forest is tucked behind the Lee Traffic Circle. Within a stonewall boundary, it features 40 acres of old fields, forest, and wetlands along the Oyster River. This land has long been a target for residential and commercial development. It is also identified by NH Fish and Game Department as one of the state's highest ranked habitats, providing critical resources for a diversity of wildlife and aquatic species.



Ron Kennard pictured in the Langley & Kennard Forest.  
Photo Credit: Jerry Monkman/EcoPhotography

Despite development pressure, Kennard strongly desired to protect the land and the animals that live there. He added, "I have no interest in making a profit for the sale of this land. In fact, I would be insulted if it were developed." Kennard also wanted to conserve the land in the memory of his father, William E. Kennard, and the Langley Family whose original homestead neighbors the Forest.

As properties transition throughout the region, Kennard and his extended family wanted to know the land would be open for people and wildlife to enjoy peacefully. To accomplish this, Kennard worked with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to establish Wetlands Reserve Easement on the property. The costs of the easement were covered by NRCS and the land was then donated to SELT, an organization dedicated to conserving land for people and nature.

Similar to other SELT-owned reservations, the Langley & Kennard Forest will offer public access along a loop trail accessed from Stepping Stone Road in Lee. With the property under SELT's care, Kennard hopes that the local community will continue to enjoy the property as much as he does.

Jeremy Lougee, Conservation Project Manager, worked with Kennard throughout the process and was impressed by Ron's perseverance and his desire to keep the land open and protected for people and nature.

Lougee concludes, "Kennard's years of commitment and stewardship have left an indelible mark on the land, and his generosity will be remembered and enjoyed by generations to come at the Langley & Kennard Forest."

To learn more about the Langley & Kennard Forest, visit [seltnh.org/gallery/langley-kennard-forest-lee](http://seltnh.org/gallery/langley-kennard-forest-lee).

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### About SELT

SELT is a nonprofit land trust with a mission to protect and sustain the significant lands in our communities for clean water, fresh food, outdoor recreation, healthy forests, and wildlife. Since 1980, the Southeast Land Trust has worked in 52 communities of southeastern New Hampshire to conserve nearly 19,000 acres of land through conservation agreements and ownerships. SELT is accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. For more information, visit [seltnh.org](http://seltnh.org) or call 603-778-6088.