

2019 Tudor Richards Award

Presented by Francie Von Mertens at the New Hampshire Audubon Annual Meeting, September 21, 2019.

Each year since 1983, NH Audubon has presented the Tudor Richards award to an individual or individuals who have worked tirelessly and effectively for conservation in the Granite State.

The recipient of the 2019 Tudor Richards Award is Ben Haubrich.

The list of Ben's volunteer work on behalf of New Hampshire's natural resources is long and continues to grow. It has been his lifetime work. Fresh out of UNH as a Parks Administration major, he was hired to head the Monadnock State Park, serving for 20 years. Next up he was regional parks manager; and then held another NH Parks and Recreation job administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund in Concord, among other desk tasks. This last job very likely inspired his early retirement and return to hands-on work for the natural world, this time as a tireless and effective volunteer—just what the Tudor Richards Award honors.

He has been a driving force behind the Frankestown Land Trust, perhaps the state's most impressive all-volunteer land trust. He does the work others shy away from: grant writing (and securing); creating baseline documentation for new easements and seeing that the 29 Frankestown Land Trust easements are monitored—including state LCHIP and ARM easements, which demand follow-up monitoring. Yes, it is desk work, but he's good at it.

The desk work doesn't get in the way of his outdoor endeavors for the Frankestown land trust – and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (the Forest Society), the Frankestown Conservation Commission, the Harris Center, the Monadnock Conservancy, and the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. He has served on the boards and or land committees for most of those groups as well as leading field trips for their members and the public.

Ben received the volunteer of the year award from the Forest Society for the ambitious trails he envisioned and created on Society land he stewards, and from the Piscataquog Land Conservancy for helping with the whole range of land trust work for 15 years.

Meade Cadot of the Harris Center and I nominated Ben for this award. When I saw he had been honored by the Forest Society as a top notch volunteer I thought "Rats! they got him first." But Meade pointed



Ben Haubrich (left) accepting NH Audubon's 2019 Tudor Richards Award from Francie Von Mertens.

Photo by Dyanna Smith.

out the obvious that I had missed. The Tudor Richards Award honors contributions more encompassing than any one organization. The sweep of Ben's land protection work, land stewardship, and—importantly—sharing his advocacy for and knowledge of the wild world as a field trip leader, is broad.

Ben is a modest man. He visits his 99-year-old mother in Delaware a lot these days, helping to manage her care. He credits her for his life's path, for taking him fishing, birding, exploring the natural world when he was young, growing up in Claremont.

It's my great pleasure, on behalf of NH Audubon, to present the 2019 Tudor Richards Award to Ben Haubrich.

