The manner in which I came to establish my summer home at Newbury was very simple. I was greatly pleased with the air, the water, and the scenery. I have nowhere found a more beautiful spot. – John M. Hay

• Preservation and protection of the estate buildings and grounds.
• Nearly one mile of protected shoreline on Lake Sunapee, the only such stretch on the Lake.
• The protected forests of the former Hay Estate represent an excellent example of "Transition Northern Hardwood Forest"— Beech, Birch, Maple, and large Hemlock & Pine.
• The historic Main House, Gatehouse, and grounds are carefully preserved through our ongoing maintenance program and special projects.
• Beech Brook, which runs from Sunset Hill to Lake Sunapee, is on land that was part of the original Hay estate. Lake Sunapee Protective Association (LSPA) uses Beech Brook as a baseline for measurement as the watershed of the brook is almost completely contained by nature.
• The Fells is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Preservation Project of the Garden Conservancy. It is also a 2011 NH Milestone Project of the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

Service to the Community

For more information, please ask for a "Ways You Can Give" document, or request a confidential meeting with a board member or Susan Warren, Executive Director, at 603-763-4789 x4 or treasurethefells@thefells.org.

Thank you for joining with us to enrich our community!

The Fells Historic Estate & Gardens
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The Fells is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, to which all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
THE LEGACY

The Fells was the summer home of John Milton Hay, an American writer, diplomat, and Secretary of State (1888-1905) who served Presidents Lincoln, McKinley, and Roosevelt. Hay and his family spent summers here from 1891 until his death at The Fells in July, 1905. The Fells is the only remaining home from John Hay’s adult life.

John Hay acquired nearly 1,100 acres of farmland and built The Fells in 1891. His son, Clarence, took ownership of The Fells after his father’s death in 1905. Clarence and his wife, Alice, transformed The Fells by adding a variety of renovated gardens, engaged in conservation efforts, and completed various renovations and new buildings – including the Honeymoon Cottage.

In 2008, The Fells was acquired from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the generosity and support of the local community. This was a very important step for The Fells, to have a non-profit entity take control of the property.

Since then, The Fells has flourished. We’ve greatly increased membership and visitation, implemented many capital improvements, added important education programs and events, built new trails, and expanded an extremely strong landscape and maintenance program that has this Lake Sunapee gem looking beautiful. The Fells has become one of the Sunapee Region’s premier locations for members and visitors to enjoy social, educational, horticultural, and ecological events and programming.

— Judd and Kathy Gregg, 2014

THE VISION

It is now time to implement the next phase in our Master Plan to enhance this “special and unique” place that has become an integral part of the fabric of the Sunapee area. Our goal is to make The Fells a recognized center for discovery, education, community service, and volunteerism. This next phase will:

- Improve and enhance the visitor experience
- Open new frontiers for involvement and a stronger bond with our current Fells community
- Provide new learning and exploration opportunities
- Encourage more people to visit The Fells more frequently
- Provide additional income to solidify long-term financial stability

The construction of an Education & Events Pavilion is an important centerpiece of the plan. It will be used as a teaching center for children and adults, and provide a sheltered site for numerous and varied events. This will further allow for more revenue-generating private and public events like weddings, showers, speakers, concerts, family reunions, and birthday parties.

The restoration and preservation of our 1914 Prentice Sanger–designed ‘Honeymoon’ Cottage on the shore of Lake Sunapee. The cottage is an important and historic building that is in need of stabilization before further damage occurs. Our vision for the future is to continue restoration as funding is available with a long term goal of utilizing it as a venue for exhibits, events, workshops or artists in residence.

A new Wildflower Trail will be parallel to the current driveway, and will provide a safe, peaceful, dust-free stroll to the estate – especially for young children who want to wander and explore. It will also provide an opportunity for visitors to engage with nature, wildflowers, and other plants and trees.