

## LAND TRUST RECEIVES GRANTS TO SUPPORT VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

(CAMDEN)--Coastal Mountains Land Trust has received two grants to strengthen its volunteer program: a grant for \$3,750 from the Maine Community Foundation's Knox and Waldo County Funds, and another for \$7,500 from the Quimby Family Foundation.

'Our conserved lands have grown steadily over the years, and now total more than 9,000 acres of farms, forests, mountains, and waterfront, featuring 25 miles of public trails,' said Scott Dickerson, executive director of the Land Trust. 'The amplification of our volunteer corps made possible by these two generous grants is crucial to sustaining these valuable natural assets in our communities.'

The Land Trust, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, relies on more than 100 volunteers to help carry out its stewardship program--including trail and boundary work, invasive plant removal, and monitoring of conservation lands--as well as assisting with other essential tasks such as membership mailings, the annual blueberry pick, and various fundraising events.

"We wouldn't have gotten where we are today without volunteer support," Dickerson said. "And we need to make our volunteer program even stronger to carry that success into the next 25 years and beyond. We are extremely grateful to the Maine Community Foundation and the Quimby family for recognizing the importance of this need."

The grant funding will enable the Land Trust to increase its capacity to better train and retain volunteers, as well as to implement a more coordinated system of recruiting and tracking volunteers. A key aspect of this program is the recent addition of a volunteer coordinator, Amy Faunce. A volunteer herself, Faunce has been working closely with staff to better organize volunteers and maximize their efforts. Faunce is currently focused on coordinating volunteers for the Land Trust's Run for the Hills 10K in Belfast, an important annual fundraiser that wouldn't be possible without volunteer support.

Since 1986, Coastal Mountains Land Trust has permanently conserved 9,012 acres to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay. For information on becoming a Land Trust volunteer, please visit our volunteer page or call (207) 236-7091.