



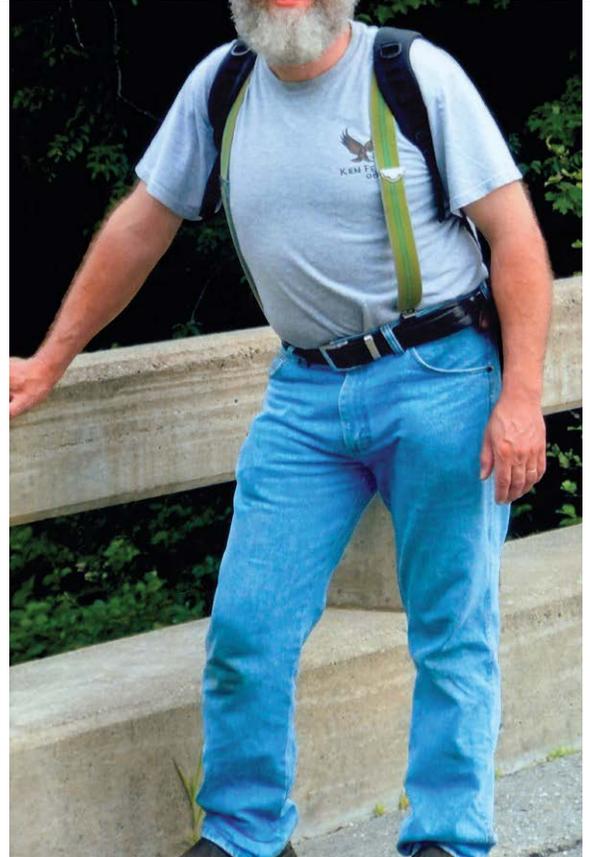
MOODY MOUNTAIN LEGACY

Barrows Conservation Easement conserves family land in Lincolnville



In August, the Land Trust purchased the Barrows Homestead Conservation Easement on Moody Mountain in Lincolnville with the generous support of two anonymous donors. The conservation easement protects 77 acres of open fields and forest land on the slopes of Moody Mountain. The property has been in the Barrows family since the 1950s; it was most recently owned by David Barrows, who passed away in 2020. David was a well-loved Select Board member and loyal town volunteer, as well as a 40+ year employee at Rankin's Hardware in Camden. The conservation easement will ensure that the land will remain as it has been, well stewarded and available for farming and forestry. Darlene Barrows, David's widow, said recently, "David would be tickled to know that this is happening."

Conservation of the Barrows property brings the total contiguous conserved land on Moody Mountain and around Moody Pond close to 900 acres. The Land Trust is pleased to be able to conserve additional land in this special part of our community, and to be able to honor David Barrows's legacy by preserving the land that he cared for so deeply over his lifetime.



In Memory of David Barrows

INVESTING IN LOCAL RECREATION

Bresnahan donation brings together Land Trust and mountain biking community



Earlier this year, Rick and Ann Bresnahan donated 95 acres of land on Ragged Mountain, south of Hosmer Pond, to the Land Trust to ensure that it remains a place for kids and families to get outside. Rick has long made this scenic woodland property along the Goose River available for use by neighbors as well as the local mountain-biking community. “In completing the gift of land to Coastal Mountains,” Rick said of the collaboration to manage the property, “I was impressed with their willingness to include the Midcoast Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association and Sidecountry Trails. The opportunity of a club and business working hand in hand with the Land Trust to further improve the land as well as its availability to others helps promote inclusion, not exclusion. It is a wonderful partnership that will benefit many for the years to come.”

This was the second donation of land that the family has made to the Land Trust on Ragged Mountain — they donated 132 acres in 2004. The property is notable for its mature mixed-hardwood forest containing several stands of

large pines, a cellar hole, and a network of historic farm roads.

This summer, two Land Trust interns completed an inventory of the property’s natural resources and the condition of its trails. In 2022, our goal is to improve a beginner loop that will be more accessible for new riders. By work-

ing with McNEMBA and Sidecountry Trails, we hope to improve and maintain the land’s network of trails. We thank the Bresnahans for their generosity, and the work of McNEMBA and Sidecountry Trails to make this unique preserve available to the mountain biking community.



Ian Stewart, Trevor Mills, Heather Rogers, Judy Wallingford, Rick Bresnahan, Andrew Dailey and John Anders celebrating collaboration

A CHANGING MAINE

From the Director

Maine's iconic coastal landscape has long been a draw for people seeking the outstanding quality of life that comes with living close to nature. In the mid-1800s, Maine's coastline saw the arrival of a huge number of outsiders or *rusticators* — largely families seeking an alternative to spending the summer in one of the many increasingly hot and congested urban areas of the Eastern Seaboard. Again, a century later, in the early 1970s, Maine, like many other parts of rural New England, experienced a wave of largely young, idealistic “back-to-the-landers” seeking to find a simpler and healthier alternative to life in the big city.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, our communities have experienced another historic wave of new arrivals. According to the Atlas Van Lines moving company, across the entire country, Maine ranked third in the total number of “inbound” moves in 2020. Correspondingly, our local real estate market has exploded, with median home prices jumping some 20-30% in a single year, as a wave of new people, suddenly able to work remotely, arrived, drawn by our small communities, extensive natural areas and trails, and public schools that have remained open.

At the Land Trust, we have been asking ourselves what this influx will mean for our communities and for our conservation work. Change can be alarming. We've wondered what impact rising real estate prices might

have on our ability to conserve land in our priority focus areas.

It is my opinion that change can and should be seen from a positive perspective. New people arriving in our communities bring enthusiasm, new perspectives and ideas, and much-needed talents. It is also clear to me that the recent arrival of so many people to our communities is in fact a ringing endorsement of our mission to protect the natural landscape and the character of this place. I can't tell you how many new residents have mentioned to me that they chose to make this place home because of how much they appreciate the landscape, its natural character, and the local preserves and trails.

As a Land Trust, I believe we should be excited by the wave of COVID-19-inspired arrivals and should try to take full advantage of the growing consensus amongst local citizens, both new and old, “from away” or not, to protect the natural landscape. We should embrace growth and make sure that it includes continued investments in the preservation of nature, open space, and public access and trails.

Best,



Ian Stewart

Putting Local Wood to Work

Maine has a rich history of logging and lumbering. With its many rivers for mills, previously cleared farmland, and lime kilns, the Midcoast is no exception. Even today, the tradition of managing forests is still alive and well, although hopefully in a far more sustainable fashion. Our fields have re-grown into stands of pine, birch, and maple. The slopes of the Camden Hills are covered in hearty oak and hemlock. Swamps grow cords a year of northern white cedar.

The Land Trust has multiple stewardship projects lined up for this fall and winter, all of which require wood! We have kiosks to build out of cedar and pine to provide information at newly acquired preserves, cedar bog bridging to replace composite decking on the Fernalds Neck trails, and heavy hemlock timbers to re-deck a large bridge at the recently acquired Mill Brook Preserve in Searsport.



Whenever possible, the Land Trust makes efforts to purchase wood locally, from family sawmills that source their wood locally. Lee Stover operates a bandsaw mill on his tree farm in Waldo, where he sustainably harvests timber and turns it into high-quality building materials, to live on for another age. Lee's family were the previous owners of our Stover Preserve, in Belfast, along the Passagassawakeag River, which they sold to the Land Trust in 2004.

We have used lots of local wood processors over the years to fill our stewardship needs. This year we purchased hemlock from NC Hunt Lumber in Jefferson, pine boards from Lee Stover in Waldo, cedar posts and shingles from CK Shingle in Liberty, and live-edge cedar planks from Tweedie Lumber in Thorndike. It is a pleasure to work with these local mills, buying quality local products, grown in our own back yard.

Partnership Fashions New Trail Near Belfast Rail Trail



In early 2021, a group of volunteers on the City of Belfast's Pedestrian, Bicycling, and Hiking Committee began a conversation about the redevelopment of the trails at the old Belfast ski area, locally known as *El Depot*, a City-owned property on City Point Road across from the Belfast Rail Trail. The goal was to bring some love to a little-used natural area close to town, remaking an underutilized hiking trail that the Land Trust built in the early 2000s, into a more accessible multi-use trail for mountain biking and hiking.

A joint project of the City of Belfast, the new Belfast chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (Belfast NEMBA), and the Land Trust, construction

of the new trail began in the spring. With the help of over twenty volunteers, and a dedicated trail intern, a new one-mile-long trail was finished in late summer and opened to bikers and foot traffic in late September. Located near the Land Trust's Stephenson Preserve, just off the Belfast Rail Trail, the trail traverses through 25 acres of woods that used to be a small downhill ski area in the late 1970s. Remnants of the old rope tow that pulled skiers to the top of the 200ft hill can still be found just off the new trail.

Chris Gardner, head of Belfast NEMBA and the owner of CG Bikes in Belfast, spearheaded much of the trail construction. Chris said about the need for this trail, "We saw the success of other

regional trail projects like the ones at the Thomaston Town Forest and Camden Snow Bowl, and wanted to add an accessible, beginner-friendly place to ride, close to Belfast. The local community has made this trail happen, being heavily involved in building it. The reaction to the trail has been very positive. The community is really excited to ride."

The new trail will be maintained by Belfast NEMBA with the help of Belfast Parks and Recreation. Directions from Belfast: From Main Street, drive north on High Street out of town, passing over Route 1. Drive 1.7 miles, passing the City Point parking area for the Belfast Rail Trail. Parking for the new trail is on the left, at a right-hand curve in the road. New signage will be installed along the City Point Road to direct users to the parking lot. The trail is open from sunrise to sunset to mountain bikers and hikers; dogs are allowed, but please keep them on-leash. Bikers, please go slow and pass hikers slowly. For more information visit www.nemba.org/chapters/bfnemba.

CHATFIELD CONSERVATION AWARD

Sturru-Shelley Conservation Easement



The Chatfield Conservation Award, in honor of Charles and Mary P. Chatfield, recognizes those who have demonstrated extraordinary dedication to conservation. This year's award is granted to Burt Sturru and Kim Shelley, for their extraordinary generosity in donating a 90-acre conservation easement on their property at the headwaters of the Ducktrap River. We are grateful for Burt

and Kim's love of their land, and for their foresight in conserving their land in perpetuity.

CONNECTING COMMUNITY & NATURE AWARD

Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition



The Connecting Community & Nature Award honors the individual or entity that has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to engaging the people of our community with the outdoors and the lands protected by the Land Trust. This year's award is granted to Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition for their many years of consistency and effort in sharing the

joy of being outdoors with people in the greater Belfast area and increasingly with local schools and children.

ZWARTJES VOLUNTEER AWARD

Phil Gaudet



The Zwartjes Volunteer Award is presented in honor of our first Board Chairman, William J. Zwartjes, to individual volunteers who have demonstrated extraordinary service. This year, Phil Gaudet was granted the award for his many years of loyal service as a member of the Land Trust's Wednesday work crew, preserve monitor at the Ragged Mountain

Preserve, and for his special interest in and assistance with various technology needs for our stewardship department.

ZWARTJES VOLUNTEER AWARD

Wayne Ruesswick



This year, Wayne Ruesswick was also granted the award for his years of service assisting with a wide variety of construction-related projects for the Land Trust including fabrication of the mini-version of Ragged Mountain for our Christmas-by-the-Sea parade float and the construction of the Thorndike Brook trailhead kiosk. Wayne was also a frequent participant in the Land Trust's polar plunge challenge fundraiser.

BOARD MEMBER COMINGS & GOINGS

Coastal Mountains Land Trust would like to welcome a new member and recognize the outstanding commitment and service of three Board members who completed their terms this fall:



Emily McDevitt joins the Board after serving as a volunteer member of the Round the Mountain Collaboration Campaign Committee and a liaison to the local trail-running community. Emily, who lives in Camden, is the founder of Trail Runners of Midcoast Maine (TRoMM) and enjoys running, hiking, and biking throughout the mid-coast. She considers herself a Trail Ambassador and is constantly connecting people and organizations that have a shared interest in getting people outside in healthy ways.



Courtney Collins is leaving the Land Trust's Board after nine years during which she served as the Chair of the Development Committee and a member of the Land Protection Committee. Courtney has agreed to continue to serve on the Land Protection Committee and to work to help grow the profile of the Land Trust in Waldo County.



Lys McLaughlin Pike is leaving the board after finishing her ninth year of Board service. Lys has never hesitated to remind the Land Trust Board and staff that "It is all about the land." She served as Board Secretary and a member of the Land Protection Committee. We look forward to engaging with her on land protection projects, especially on and around Moody Mountain.



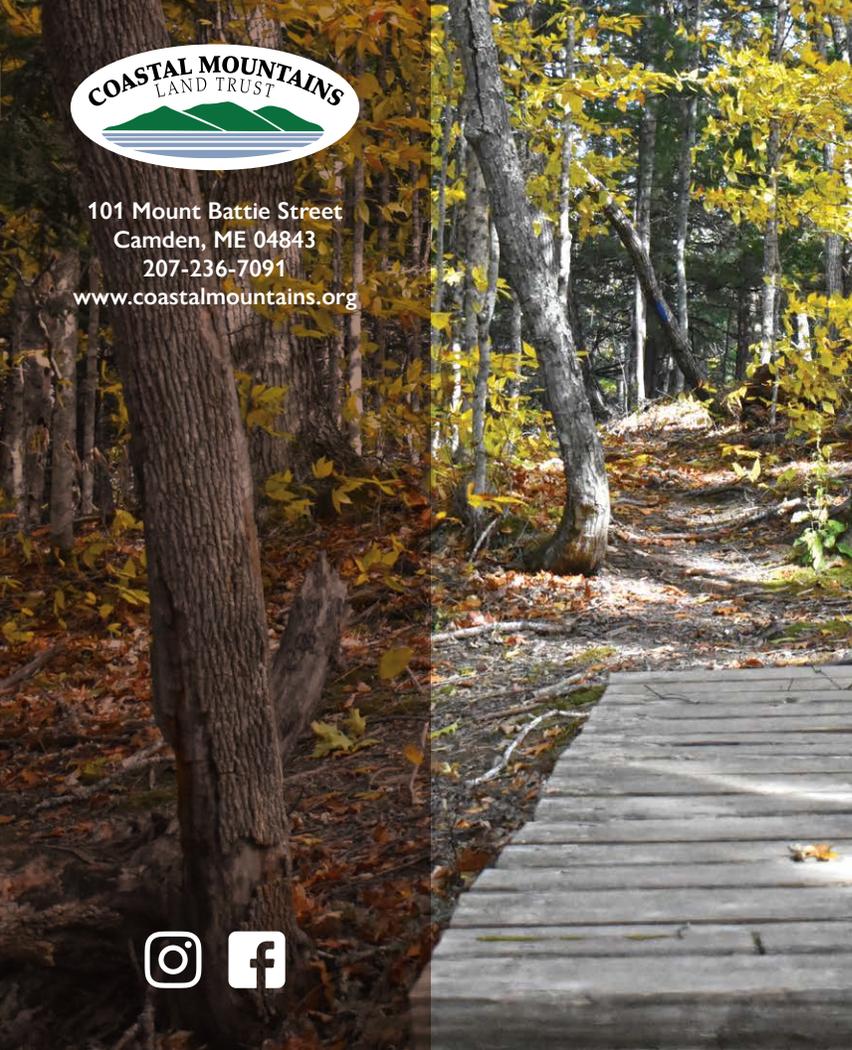
Darby Urey is leaving the board after six years of dedicated service. During his two terms, Darby brought tremendous enthusiasm for the land, outdoor recreation, and community to the organization. He served as Board Secretary and brought his legal skills to bear on questions raised by the Board and staff. We look forward to continuing to see Darby on the trails with his kids and mountain bike.



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NEW FACE AT THE LAND TRUST — LEAH TROMMER, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR



Leah Trommer recently joined the Land Trust as our first- ever Community Engagement Coordinator, a position dedicated to organizing community programs and volunteerism with local people and schools. She has been a guide for several Maine Outdoor Ecology Centers throughout the state and spent eleven years teaching at and

directing Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center’s Open-Air Classroom. She is also a Montessori teacher and worked for OUT Maine supporting LGBTQ+ youth.

Leah was recently selected to represent CMLT as she joins a small advisory committee through Teach ME Outside to create a model for capturing the collective impact of ecological education within the state, beyond individual program outcomes. We will let you know what is discovered regarding ecology education’s impact in our state.

Serving the communities of

Rockport, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, Northport, Belfast, Belmont, Morrill, Waldo, Swanville, Brooks, Knox, Searsport, Stockton Springs, and Prospect

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LANDSCAPES