



## Conserving Our Rocky Shore

*9-acre donation protects shoreline and section of Rockport's most scenic public walk*

**L**ate in 2019, Coastal Mountains Land Trust received an extremely generous anonymous donation of nine acres of land on the west side of Rockport Harbor, establishing our new Rockport Shore Preserve. The preserve protects over six hundred feet of shorefront on the eastern side of Rockport Harbor, and a large portion of the Beauchamp Point Road that so many residents and visitors enjoy walking, running,

and biking on already. We're thrilled to know that this special part of Rockport will remain undeveloped and accessible for all.

The nine-acre preserve includes land on both sides of Beauchamp Point Road. The upland portion of the property has a lovely mixed forest interspersed with bold, rocky outcroppings. The preserve abuts our existing Dodge Ledges Conservation Easement, which also conserves both sides along Beauchamp Point Road, including the ledges, a location many know as a fantastic swimming spot!

In the future, we may build a trail on the upper portion of the preserve for walkers and hikers to expand on the existing recreation opportunities at Beauchamp Point.

The Land Trust is also working with Gartley & Dorsky Engineering and Prock Marine to remove an existing dock on the property to restore the shorefront to its natural condition.

This gift and the previous Dodge Ledges Conservation Easement guarantee that the east side of scenic Rockport Harbor will remain undeveloped forever and available for the public to enjoy.



*Beauchamp Point Road as it passes through the property.*



## Seven Organizations, One Midcoast Trails Map: *Take a Hike!*

For years, we have provided a trails brochure called *Take a Hike* to inns, hotels, and the Chamber of Commerce that included four of our most popular preserves and trails in Camden and Rockport. Last year, we staged a Trails Challenge (and we will again this year!) that encouraged participants to track their miles on ANY trail in our service area. In doing so, we spent a lot of time sharing about other trails in our region.

With *Take a Hike* in need of a reprint, we thought, let's create a map that includes all Midcoast trails.

And everyone said yes: Camden Hills State Park, Georges River Land Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust—Aldermere Farm & Erickson's Fields, Merryspring Nature Center, Pen Bay Hospital, and Tanglewood 4-H Camp and Learning Center. Each of us has a goal to engage people on the land for

health and nature appreciation. Our trails are always open (except the State Park—they have a gate fee). Providing a free map with the many choices for outdoor experiences is a way to engage the whole community, residents and visitors, while promoting our combined efforts to protect natural areas and offer low-impact recreation. Look for one this summer and go take a hike!

## Six 5K Events, One City: RunBelfast 2020



RunBelfast is a collaboration of five local groups that share promotion, equipment, race day support, volunteer efforts, and sponsorship for a summer race series around the city of Belfast from June through October. The partners include P.A.W.S. Animal Adoption Center, Waldo County YMCA, Rotary of Belfast Maine, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, and Rolli's Bar & Grill (for Shriners Children's Hospital).

With endorsement and support from Belfast Parks & Recreation, 2020 will be the third year of this series and we continue to see growth in each event and the series. Our goal is to stage the best possible community events to grow participation, which will lead to increased revenue for the charities.

Each race requires a minimum of 15–20 volunteers. Many of them work at multiple events because they have made friends or simply enjoy getting out and meeting people.

As organizations that rely upon membership, volunteerism, philanthropy, and community goodwill, this race series offers a fun way to get involved. We are grateful for series sponsorship from Damariscotta Bank & Trust all three years as well as Waldo County General Hospital—Journey to Health. We have participants under 10 and over 75. Families, babies in strollers, dogs on leash, walkers, and groups of friends all participate. Join us! You can register now at [runbelfast.org](http://runbelfast.org) for the series or the individual events that fit your summer schedule.

## Blueberries for all—but Not for Sale

Blueberries are a wonderful part of Maine's culture and our Beech Hill Preserve. Whether picked by hand at a free pick or enjoyed by the box from our farmstand, our berries have been a wonderful way for us to bring people closer to the land and to each other.

In 2020, we are excited to continue the tradition of blueberries at Beech Hill, but in new ways. We have decided to shift our

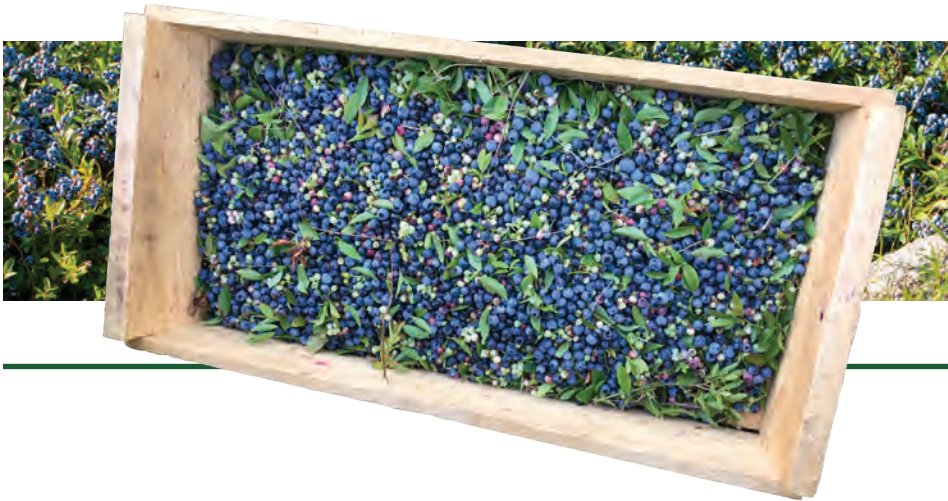
approach—instead of harvesting berries for sale, we will open up the fields to as many people, kids, and families in the community as we can. As a result, *we will not be offering our annual member pre-order box program or farm stand sales at the preserve.*

Please join us between the last week in July and the third week in August for one or more of the many community harvest

activities we are planning. This year's blueberry harvest season will most likely include:

- More community free picks,
- A member Rake-Your-Own day,
- A volunteer-led rake for food pantries day
- Blueberry farm raking and processing tours for kids and youth groups,
- 'Blueberry Tales' with the Camden Public Library, and
- 'Arts-on-the-Hill'—there will be a few concerts in August but be sure to mark your calendars for August 19. A mystery band performance that you simply do not want to miss!

Thank you for your understanding and support!



## Volunteer Profile: Bob Olfenbuttel

"I've always felt completely at home in the woods", explained Bob when asked about his love of volunteering with Coastal Mountains Land Trust. "I moved to Camden from Ohio nine years ago and was so impressed with what the Land Trust was doing to conserve not only for future generation but for current ones. I rediscovered in the Maine woods what I knew as a kid—nature teaches naturally. Nature is healing because it is real. We're just one other animal on this earth. When kids are exposed to nature, innate connections and curiosities are given an opportunity to be discovered within themselves."

Bob was in the Air Force for 20 years, using his degree in astronomy at a naval observatory where he read radar returns from

the Soviet Union but of his volunteer work with the Land Trust, he says, "The skills I've learned are too numerous to count, including trail building and bog bridging. Skip Pendleton (volunteer) was a huge influence and a terrific teacher. Volunteering is the great equalizer, egos are dropped. The synergy with other people is what it's about."

His most memorable day was putting a bridge across Ramsey Brook at the McLellan Poor Preserve. "It took a lot of creativity and a tremendous amount of planning. The local snowmobile club pulled the bridge through the woods where it was pushed and pulled and shifted into place. A terrific accomplishment!" We are proud and grateful that Bob is a member of our Land Trust family.





# Round the Mountain under Construction

*New bridge, trailhead, and trail construction highlight 2020 projects on Ragged Mountain*

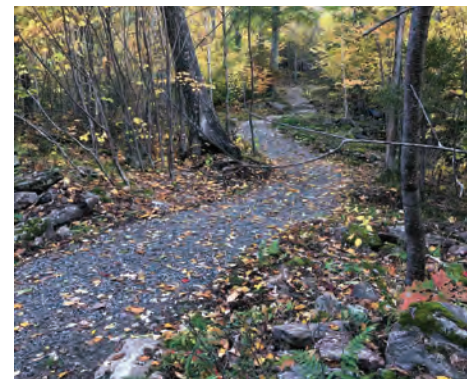
Last December, with the successful completion of the 500-acre Grassy Pond Conservation Easement, our second easement with Maine Water Co, as well as the acquisition of seven additional parcels, Coastal Mountains Land Trust reached its goal of conserving over 1,500 acres of land on Ragged Mountain. With these land protection goals now fulfilled, the Land Trust is excited to focus on construction of the Round the Mountain Trail. We aim to complete phase 1 of the project: a 5.5-mile section between Camden and Hope, installation of a trailhead and improved access at the Camden Snow Bowl, and design and construct a second trailhead at Thorndike Brook near the Rockport/Hope town line off Hope Street, before the end of 2020.

Last year, Off the Beaten Path (“OBP”) Trailworks completed the first three miles of the trail on the western side of Ragged Mountain. This year, under an agreement with the Town of Camden, the Land Trust will establish a new trailhead and make improvements to the existing Kuller/RTM Trail to lessen the grade and make year-round access, particularly for young mountain bikers and Nordic skiers, easier. The Round the Mountain Trail project will then begin again

from the edge of the Snow Bowl through the notch between Ragged and Spring Mountain. Once this section is complete, the contractors will connect Hope Street to the trail just above Thorndike Brook.

The Thorndike Brook Trailhead will include a 16-car parking lot, a kiosk system with trail and interpretive information, and a seating area acknowledging the generosity of those who helped make conservation of these mountains possible. The trailhead also hosts a ¼-mile wheelchair-accessible path that winds through a meadow with stunning mountain views, beyond which we will install an aluminum bridge across Thorndike Brook.

Please watch for progress reports as the year goes by. Our goal is to celebrate in late summer or early fall, with a formal opening of the trail in the spring of 2021. The trail needs to settle over the course of an entire winter following construction. We are so grateful to the many members of the Land Trust community who helped us raise more than \$5,000,000 in support of the Round the Mountain project. Today, we are less than \$250,000 away from reaching our final goal in support of the construction and stewardship of this amazing trail.



## Trails Challenge— 15,000 miles, help us raise \$15,000— log your miles!



Now an annual event, the Trails Challenge encourages the community—visitors and residents—to get out on ANY trail in our service area (Rockport to Prospect) and enjoy a walk, ride, run, or hike! Log your miles on our website ([coastalmountains.org](http://coastalmountains.org)) and each mile is matched by a business sponsor contribution—up to \$15,000/miles! Kick off is July 15 and we wrap it up on August 19 on Beech Hill with a mystery band concert that you simply will not want to miss.

But we need you to get out there and clock those miles. Every mile counts because every dollar counts as we raise the final \$250,000 to finish the Round the Mountain Trail on Ragged Mountain, under construction now.

Thank you sponsors: Onion Foundation, Lyman-Morse at Wayfarer Marine, Strout + Payson and Side Country Sports. Interested in sponsoring? Please call Kathy Young, 236-7091, to get involved!

## CERTAINTY IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

**As I write these words, it is** clear that we are just beginning to understand the consequences of the COVID19 crisis for our country and our community. Never, in my lifetime, have things felt so at risk and so uncertain.

And yet, when I turn the news off and join my kids and dog for a walk outside, everything seems strangely unchanged. The trees are readying for spring, streams are flowing, and birds continue to sing. Getting outside is terrific medicine and in the current situation, one of the best ways we can keep ourselves healthy, both mentally

and physically. Nature reminds us that things do go on and will get better.

Whatever the outcomes of this surreal moment in history, I am certain that our community will pull together and come through stronger. I look forward to finding ways for the Land Trust to contribute and welcome your suggestions. I believe the Land Trust will continue to become much more than conserving acres of land. At its best, the Land Trust fosters a vision of what kind of place we want to live in and what kind of community we want to be a part of.

On behalf of everyone on the board and staff, I wish you and your loved ones the best and hope that you are holding together during these difficult times. Take some time to get outside each day and breathe the fresh air. To inspire you, our staff has brainstormed a list of ten of their favorite places that you might consider exploring, listed on the back of this newsletter.

Stay well and be in touch,



Ian Stewart

## Life on Main Stream, 1840–1870s Revealed at Stockton Springs Preserve



Over the ten years we have managed the Main Stream Preserve in Stockton Springs, we have noted historical relics, including foundations, apple trees, several mill sites, and lilacs blooming in the middle of nowhere. This is no surprise since rural Maine has been inhabited for thousands of years by the Abenaki, and four hundred years by settlers. The Stockton Springs Historical Society and the property's descendants described this 250-acre property as the site of a bustling mill community run by the Roberts family.

Born in 1803 in Brooks, Sylvanus Irish Roberts was an early abolitionist, an organizer of the Waldo County Republican

party, a supporter of the Union in the Civil War, and Waldo County Sheriff in 1855. The Roberts family included a widowed wife Mary Jane Thompson, and a second wife Remember Warren, along with eight children, Orpheus, Daphne, Urbana, Laurens, Lloyd, Lucullus, Jane, and Dexter. Sylvanus, who died in 1872, and many members of the Roberts family are buried in the Dickey-Roberts cemetery on the Sherer Road.

The Roberts family operated a saw mill, stave mill and shingle mill on Main Stream, employing up to nine people full-time with an annual product value of \$5,100, a 2019 equivalent of \$167,754.

After 1840, the mills created enough commerce that Sylvanus built a schoolhouse and store at the intersection of Old County and Harris Roads, forming the Roberts District of North Stockton, then known as "The Turnpike". Several house foundations still exist along the old roads; some still have blooming lilacs, daylilies and apple trees. The bridge abutments and dam stonework remain, but the roads that once existed are now only depressions in the woods.

US Agricultural Census for the Roberts Family in 1870: 100 improved acres, 300 acres woodland, 200 acres other, 1 horse, 4 milch cows, 4 oxen, 5 other cattle, 10 sheep, 1 swine, 10 bushels flint corn, 30 bushels oats, 14 bushels barley, 50 lbs wool, 9 bushels peas/beans, 40 bushels Irish potatoes, \$50 orchard products, \$100 market garden products, 400 lbs butter, 30 tons hay.

With support from Ed Meadows Conservation Trust, we will install an interpretive sign at the preserve.





101 Mount Battie Street  
Camden, ME 04843  
207-236-7091  
[www.coastalmountains.org](http://www.coastalmountains.org)



View across the 500-acre Grassy Pond Conservation Easement, completed December 2019, to Ragged Mountain

## Getting Outside!

Our organized spring events have been postponed until further notice. There is so much concern, calamity, and caution regarding a virus that has shut down communities but also brought them together, albeit virtually! And through this pandemic situation, the land remains as a refuge, a retreat, a way to refresh and let the stress of uncertainly slip away. In fact, based upon our parking lots and social media posts, we notice a big uptick in people visiting our trails and preserves to get some exercise and fresh air! You should too! If the parking lot is full at the preserve of your first choice, please go find another. Here are a few suggestions:

Download the digital version of the Land Trust's trail guide! Visit our website [coastalmountains.org/get-outside](http://coastalmountains.org/get-outside).

Please post photos of your favorite Land Trust places, trails and preserves on Instagram—[#coastalmountainslandtrust](https://www.instagram.com/coastalmountainslandtrust)! And tag yourself and friends on Facebook!

### Top 10 Micro-Adventures for You (& Your Family) To Enjoy Recommendations from the staff of Coastal Mountains Land Trust

- 10 Picnic at Knight Pond in Northport: St. Clair Preserve, Northport (Jack)
- 9 Find the old gravel loader on the Ducktrap River Trail: Ducktrap River Preserve, Lincolnville (Jackie)
- 8 Sit on Skip's bench on the Passagassawakeag River: Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast (Kathy)
- 7 Locate a cave on Ragged Mountain: Ragged Mountain Preserve (Jack)
- 6 Skip a rock into Penobscot Bay from Ducktrap beach: Murray Preserve, Lincolnville (Heather)
- 5 Shoot a panoramic photo of the Coastal Mountains: Hatchet Mountain Preserve (Ian)
- 4 Drop a good luck pebble off the bridge on the Belfast Rail Trail, Belfast (Kathy)
- 3 Crown yourself and enjoy the stone throne overlooking Rockport Harbor: Harkness Preserve (Polly)
- 2 Find the "Howe" (stone inscription) on Howe Hill—via Hodson Preserve to Rheault Conservation Easement Trail—Hodson Preserve, Camden (Ryan)
- 1 Chase a moose (or at least find moose scat): Main Stream Preserve, Stockton Springs (Jackie)

**Serving the communities of**  
Rockport, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville,  
Northport, Belfast, Belmont, Morrill, Waldo,  
Swanville, Brooks, Knox, Searsport,  
Stockton Springs, and Prospect

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** Judy Wallingford  
**Vice President** Thomas R. Moore  
**Secretary** Darby C. Urey  
**Treasurer** E. Daniel Johnson

Roy J. Call, Courtney Collins,  
Gianne Conard, Landis Gabel,  
David D. Noble, Lys McLaughlin Pike,  
Roger Rittmaster, Nicholas C. Ruffin,  
David Thanhauser, Malcolm White

#### STAFF

**Ian Stewart** Executive Director  
**Kathy Young** Development Director  
**Polly Jones** Office Manager  
**Jackie Stratton** RTM Project Manager  
**Ryan Gates** Stewardship Project Manager  
**Heather Rogers** Land Protection Coordinator  
**Jack Shaida** Land Protection Specialist



LANDSCAPES