



INSPIRED BY A LIFE ON THE BROOK

Babb donation to create community preserve in Searsport

Last December, Jim and Linda Babb, who have lived along Searsport's Mill Brook since 1976, reached an agreement with the Land Trust to bargain-sell 25 highly scenic acres that will become the Mill Brook Preserve. Located within walking distance of the Searsport Elementary, Middle, and High School campuses, the Land Trust was thrilled to have the opportunity to see this special place protected, given its outstanding natural beauty, the quality of the brook, and the potential for the land to serve as a future outdoor classroom for students of all ages.

When asked to reflect upon why he and Linda wanted this land to be permanently conserved, Jim, who is the Editor Emeritus of *Gray's Sporting Journal*, sent along the following excerpt of his writing:

"I was born into a family of fly-fishers and have made my living writing about it. Over the past 30 years I've fished from the Arctic to Patagonia, from Scotland to Midway Island. But my true love is fishing for herring-size brook trout on nameless little streams. Dozens are within a short drive of my house, but my favorite is only a two-minute walk from the back door.

I fish it only two or three times a season, its sparse population of brook trout too fragile to be caught and released repeatedly. But throughout the year I walk its length, prying into its secrets with eyes, not flies, muttering to it like Tolkien's Gollum: What has it got in its pocketsssss, my preciousssss? Nice little fishesss, yesssss.

After the spring run of worm-drifters subsides I have this little stream and its many neighbors mostly to myself. Half a century ago I shared these small

neighborhood streams with others of like mind. But today's fly-fishers prefer prestigious name-brand waters where they compete elbow-to-elbow like bond traders, seemingly less interested in experiencing the wilderness than in having experiences in the wilderness.

In the days before fly-fishing schools made instant experts of everyone, most of us caught our first trout on small streams. Our full-immersion baptism in a miniature, self-contained ecosystem taught us not only how to fly-fish for trout, but why we would want to.

Small-stream trout lead hardscrabble lives. Floods and droughts make reproduction iffy, and unprincipled fishing quickly decimates populations. The Maine law books have various complicated solutions, but I have another: Keep no more than four trout per body of water per year, none smaller than 8 inches—the threshold of full flavor development—and none bigger than 10, because killing larger trout is short-sighted plundering of very shallow gene pools.

Although some small streams can hold surprisingly large fish, they're more likely to average between 6 and 12 inches. If that sounds insignificant compared with the two-foot brook trout from the Rapid River or the East Outlet of the Kennebec, it is. That's the point. Fishing alone on a nameless stream isn't really about catching fish. It's about fishing."

We are extremely grateful to Jim and Linda for their generosity of spirit, willingness to work with the Land Trust, and openness to making this place available for the schools and community to enjoy.

THREE STEPS FORWARD IN WALDO COUNTY

Projects completed in Northport, Lincolnville, and Stockton Springs

There was a time, not long ago, when our Land Trust was new to Waldo County. Today, however, with over half of the organization’s preserves located between Lincolnville and Prospect, we respond to more landowners and land conservation opportunities here than anywhere else. This spring, we are proud to have completed three exciting projects in Northport, Lincolnville, and Stockton Springs.



Land Protection Program Director Heather Rogers and Susan Conard

Piper Stream Preserve

In April, Susan Conard and David Randall generously donated 19+ acres of their land along Piper Stream in Northport. As Susan explained, “We did this because we think it’s a beautiful piece of property and we think it should be in a situation where people can enjoy it and it stays preserved.” We couldn’t agree more. Abutting a 546-acre conservation easement held by Maine Farmland Trust on the former Greenlaw Farm, the new Piper Stream Preserve protects a lovely stretch of its namesake stream. In the future, the preserve will have a small parking lot installed and a trail established for the public to enjoy this special place. Thank you, Sue and Dave, for your generosity and care for your land.



Town of Lincolnville/Ducktrap Conservation Swap

In May, the Land Trust finalized an exchange of land with the Town of Lincolnville that resulted in the permanent protection of two properties in the Ducktrap River watershed. With permission from an anonymous donor, a spectacular 4.34-acre beach property on Penobscot Bay was transferred to the town. In exchange, a 68.8-acre property with over 3,000 feet of river frontage on the Ducktrap River was transferred to the Land Trust. The project received overwhelming support from the citizens of Lincolnville at a town vote held in July of 2020. Lincolnville Town Administrator David Kinney shared that, “We were thrilled to partner with the Land Trust and viewed the exchange as a win-win for all involved. The exchange preserves the Ducktrap River, the river’s wild Atlantic sea-run salmon, and other significant habitat, while also expanding public access opportunities to Penobscot Bay. We look forward to enjoying these beautiful places for generations to come.”

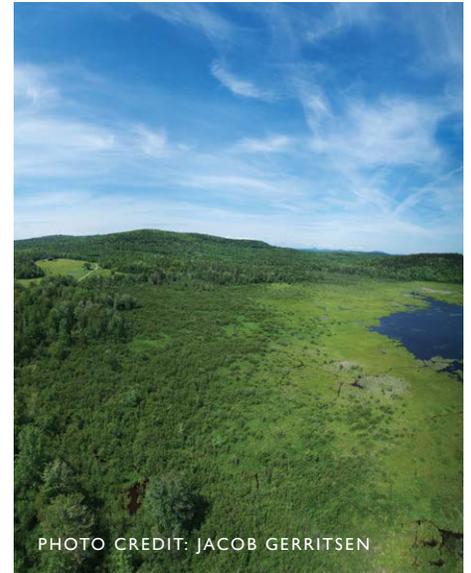


PHOTO CREDIT: JACOB GERRITSEN

Mount Tuck—Haas Tract

This spring, buoyed by a \$15,000 grant from the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Land Trust was able to add a second 50-acre parcel to 100 acres previously acquired on the summit of Mount Tuck in Stockton Springs. The project was endorsed by the staff of the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department and was funded because it protects important wildlife habitat while expanding public access in a community without many formal trail systems. Today, we are one step closer to conserving over 217 acres on Mount Tuck and beginning construction of a summit trail later this year.

Please consider helping to support the Mount Tuck campaign.

We have \$75,000 left to raise

in order to meet our goal of protecting this beautiful mountain and prepare it for you to visit!



Sucker Brook

LAND PROTECTION HIGHLIGHTS

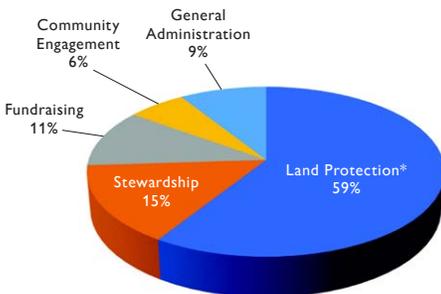
Last fiscal year the Land Trust conserved 187 acres of land, including three properties on Meadow Brook on the north side of Hurds Pond in Swanville and a large property on Tilden Pond that protects the headwaters of the Ducktrap River. Notably, all four projects were either partially or completely donated to the Land Trust through the generosity of the landowners. Land conservation has and will always depend on the commitment of people who have cared for the land and want to see it protected forever.

STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

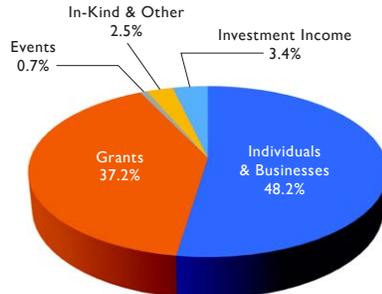
Construction of the first five and one half miles of the Round the Mountain Trail dominated the work of our stewardship department last year. Working with OBP Trailworks to begin construction of the largest trail project in the organization’s history, we learned a tremendous amount along the way. Stewardship volunteer work crews meet and work weekly all year long throughout our preserve system maintaining trails, marking boundaries, and managing invasive plants. A huge thanks to the 50+ preserve, easement, and trail monitors who provide annual reports.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

While COVID-19 wreaked havoc on our typical events calendar, the Land Trust worked hard to make sure that its trails were more accessible than ever for the community to enjoy. At year’s end, our estimate was that trail use doubled over the course of the year. We also managed to reorganize our annual free blueberry pick with proper social distancing guidelines, and hosted over 1,500 people to pick berries over a two week stretch. Partnering with the Camden Library, we also joined the “zoom-verse” and pulled together a terrific series of on-line lectures covering topics ranging from bats to birds to offshore wind energy.



PROGRAM EXPENSES



PROGRAM INCOME

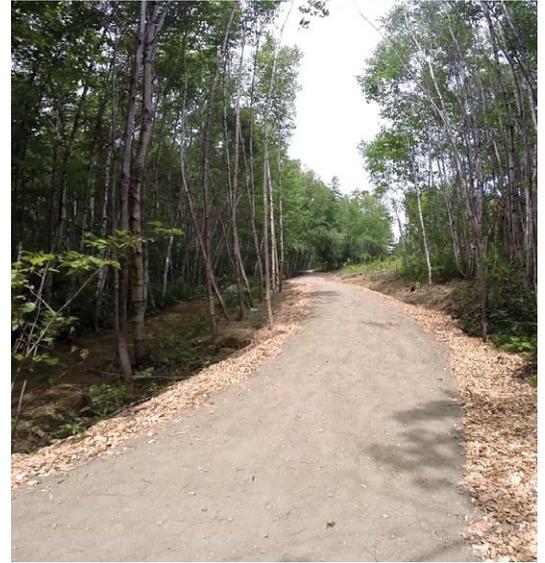
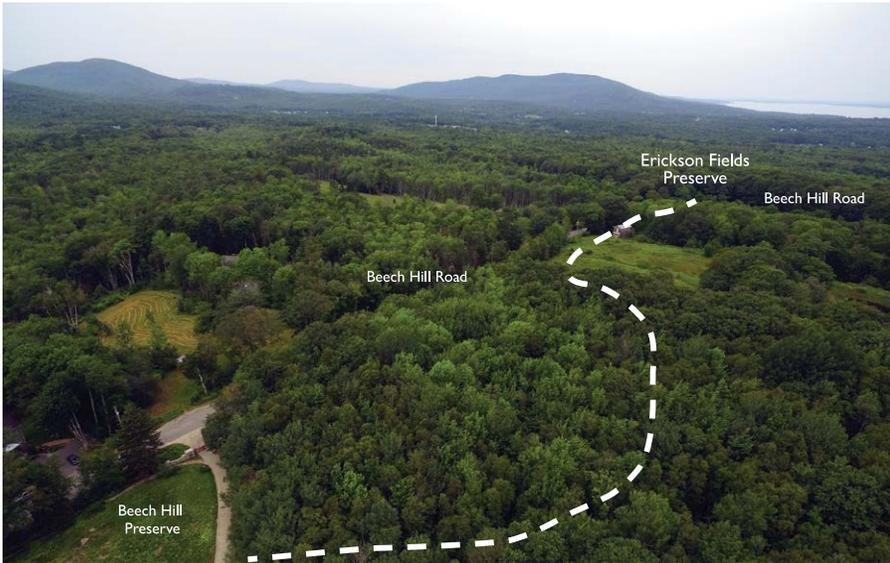
* Land Protection: this number represents the combined cost of land acquisition expenses and the assessment of ‘land impairment,’ which is the value of the permanent conservation restrictions placed upon the lands we’ve protected.

**2021 Espy Land Heritage Award Winner—
Our Own Susan Alexander!**



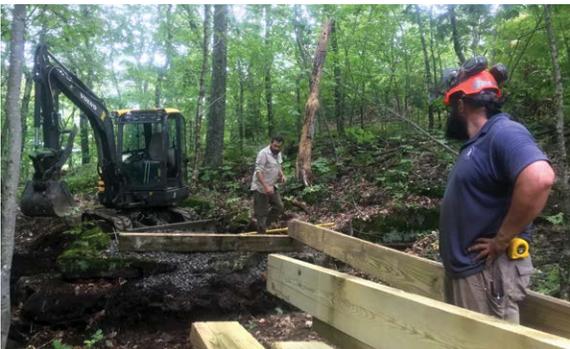
In April, Susan Alexander, our recording secretary (of 35 years!), was selected by Maine Coast Heritage Trust to receive the 2021 Espy Land Heritage Award. Each year, this award is given to an individual, organization, or coalition for exemplary conservation efforts in Maine. Susan, a volunteer extraordinaire for nearly four decades, has provided steady support for countless land conservation initiatives and organizations as a board member, committee member, editor, and recording secretary. After becoming Coastal Mountains Land Trust’s first official member in 1986, Susan served as one of our first Board members, holding the position of Board secretary, and attended an early national land trust conference in Philadelphia that inspired the growth and development of the organization in its earliest days. To this day, Susan continues to take incredibly detailed minutes of our monthly Board meetings. Her 35 years of service provide an incredible history of our organization. She also is considered the “go-to” editor and proofreader of many of the Land Trust publications—including this newsletter! Congrats, Susan!

GETTING READY TO DRIVE THE GOLDEN SPIKE



In June, the Land Trust engaged Town4Trail Services to begin construction of the half-mile section of trail that will link together the Beech Hill and Erickson Fields Preserves. The goal of the project is to create a single barrier-free trail corridor from Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Erickson Fields Preserve parking lot on Route 90 in Rockport to the summit of Beech Hill. We hope to have all work completed by September and plan to host a celebratory trail opening thereafter—stay tuned! We hope that this project can serve as a model for future efforts to continue to make our immediate communities more walkable.

Round the Mountain We Come



For the third straight season, we are pleased to welcome back Off-the-Beaten Path ("OBP") Trailworks to Ragged Mountain as they continue construction on the Round the Mountain Trail. This year, the crew is working to extend the trail around the north end of Ragged Mountain to the property donated to the Land Trust by the Bok family in 2019. This section of trail involves the second substantial climb on the mountain and will require some thirty wooden structures! Although the trail will be closed to visitors during construction, watch for a special invitation for members to tour the project area while it is under construction in July.

Boot by Boot—Counting Our Visitors

How many people use our trails, you ask? A common question. Thanks to a grant received last winter from L.L. Bean, our stewardship program was recently able to purchase five TRAFx infrared trail counters. These counters will allow us to better understand the usage patterns at our preserves, helping us to tailor our management to serve users more effectively.

Stewardship volunteers Phil Gaudet and Chip Stratton took the project to a whole new level by custom designing and building special cases to hold and protect the trail counters in the field. In April, they installed the counters on our trails—three count foot traffic and two count vehicles, including bikes, at various preserves. These counters don't take pictures or record any data aside from the date and time at which a user passes the camera. We plan to conduct some user surveys to help us better understand our visitors and engage in constructive conversations about using our preserves. With summer just around the corner, we are excited to have data to show us just how busy it will really be.



GETTING BACK TO IT

From the Director

With summer arriving and the challenges of the past year increasingly behind us, it is wonderful to feel the general excitement about life “returning to normal.” I know how much we all appreciate the ability to go out to dinner, to plan a trip to see family, or to gather with friends again. At the same time, however, I can’t also help but recognize in myself, amongst our members and the community at-large, a desire to do more than just return to normal. Difficult times, like those we’ve experienced, have a way of making one see and face problems. They instill a desire to take action. More than ever before, I’m noticing how much people want to contribute, give back, and make a difference.

With this in mind, I would like to invite you, as a member, to consider a number of ways that you can make a difference through your involvement with the Land Trust. As grassroots, people-driven organizations that are focused on local, community-based projects, I’ve always thought that Land Trusts are a terrific way to organize the energy of people wanting to make a difference.

#1: Join us outdoors this summer & invite someone new with you. There’s no better way to learn the value of conserved lands than experiencing them yourself. By introducing someone new to a Land Trust trail, preserve, or event, you will help us grow support for the next preserve to be acquired, trail to be built, or rare plant to be protected. Included with this newsletter, please find a new Summer Guide that we hope will inspire you to get out on the land. Go on your own, join us for a hike, or attend one of the many fantastic events on offer.

#2: Volunteer. The Land Trust has a huge variety of volunteer opportunities for people interested in donating their time and expertise. Help maintain a trail, fundraise for an outdoor classroom, monitor a preserve, assist with an event, participate in an ecological inventory, serve on a committee, lead a clean-up... and many many more. Give us a call or visit our website to learn how to get started.

#3: Invest in a shovel-ready project. More than ever, the Land Trust has far more opportunities to acquire land, engage with schools, build trails, and restore habitat than it can possibly fund. We continue to be extremely strategic in how we allocate the finite staff and financial resources we have available. Should you wish to help make something exciting happen—you can! Join me for a visit at the office, or better yet a walk, and I’d be thrilled to describe to you the menu of many different things you could help us make happen in the year(s) ahead.

Enjoy your summer, get involved when you have time, and give us a shout when you’d like to make something happen.

Best,



Ian Stewart



NEW FACES AT THE LAND TRUST

Ben Thereyl

Development & Communications Coordinator

We are pleased to welcome Ben as our newest full-time staff member. A native of Wisconsin, graduate of Colby College, competitive Nordic skier, and poet, Ben most recently worked as the Political Director for Congressman Ron Kind’s campaign in Wisconsin. As an avid outdoorsman and trail user, Ben is looking forward to getting to know our members and the community while exploring our preserves and trails.



Dillon Mulhern

Pendleton Stewardship Intern

Born and raised in Durham, New Hampshire, Dillon moved to the midcoast in April 2020 and graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a double major in Neuroscience and Behavior, and Communication in December of 2020. While studying at UNH, Dillon helped with Habitat Restoration research at the Jackson Estuary Laboratory in New Hampshire where he found his passion for the preservation of natural communities. Dillon will be working with the Land Trust and numerous partner organizations on trail and preserve stewardship projects in Waldo County through mid-September.



Anthony Romano

Stewardship Intern

Anthony, a native of Hallowell, Maine, and student at St. Michael’s College in Vermont, joins the Land Trust’s stewardship program for the summer through the generous support of Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s Rockefeller Internship Program. This summer, Anthony will be focused on assisting with trail and preserve management projects throughout Knox County.

FOND FAREWELLS

Two long-time Land Trust staff members have moved on to new adventures. Jackie Stratton, our former Stewardship Projects Manager, has launched Waterways Guiding (waterwaysguiding.com), a business that leads guided canoe trips for groups and individuals in Northern and midcoast Maine. Kathy Young, our former Development Director, has begun work as the new Executive Director for the Woodlawn Museum, Gardens and Park (woodlawnmuseum.com) in Ellsworth. We thank them both for their strong service and wish them all the best.



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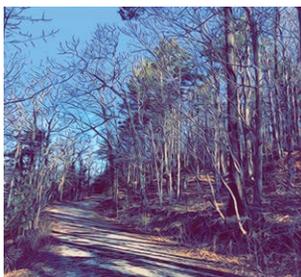
REMEMBERING TWO CLOSE FRIENDS OF CONSERVATION



Irwin "Bud" E. Spalding Jr.

Over many decades, Bud and his wife Sonia have been loyal members and volunteers for the Land Trust. After founding the Land Trust's stewardship program in the late 1980s, Bud organized the Land Trust's

volunteer monitoring program and continued to serve as a regular participant in Land Trust events in a myriad of ways. Always dedicated to the work of the growing organization, Bud made a practice of stopping by several times a year to say, "Keep up the good work." His attention to detail and enthusiasm will be missed.



Charles W.H. Dodge

As long-time members, supporters, donors of two incredibly important conservation easements, the Dodge's Ledges (1999) and Cedar Swamp (2002) easements, Charlie and his wife Marylee

were central to many of the Land Trust successes over its first three decades. Anyone who walks the well-trodden way around Beauchamp Point in Rockport can appreciate the incredible legacy that Charlie and his family have created for the community. Charlie always brought intelligence and good humor to his involvement with our Land Trust, and will be greatly missed.

DODGE LEDGES EASEMENT

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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