

# Landscapes

THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

SPRING 2015

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S.  
POSTAGE  
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Rockport ME  
Permit No. 30



101 Mount Battie Street • Camden, ME 04843 • 207-236-7091

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

Permanently conserving land to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay since 1986

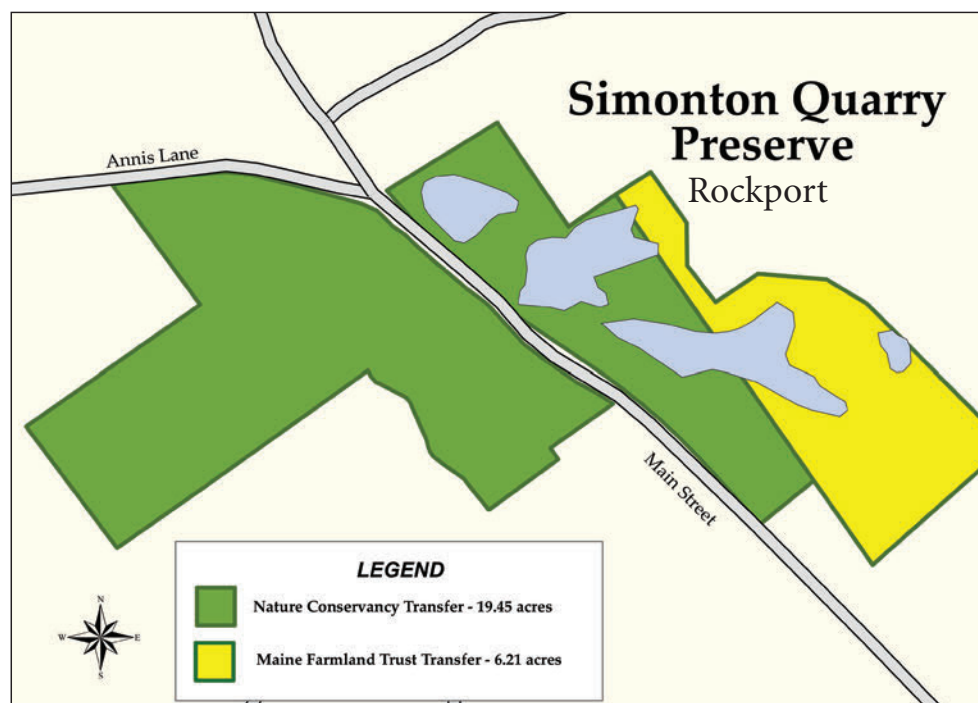


## A new beginning for the Simonton Quarry Preserve

**A**s 2014 wound to a close, three land trusts conducted two land transfers to create one bigger and better preserve in Rockport. First, the Nature Conservancy in Maine (TNC) transferred to us its Simonton Corner Quarry Preserve. Subsequently, Maine Farmland Trust transferred to us an adjoining property, known locally as the Maple Grove, so that its six acres could be added to the original preserve.

Conservation of the Simonton Corner Quarry Preserve was initially proposed in the late 1960s by A.H. Chatfield, Jr. of the Chatfield family that conserved Rockport's Aldermere Farm. It became a TNC preserve in 1972. The 19.5-acre property comprises most of three quarries, including Eells Quarry which is 180 feet deep at its deepest point. Spanning either side of North Main Street, the preserve also features frontage on the Goose River. The historic quarries once played a key role in Rockport's lime-quarrying past, with a train running from the open pits to the lime kilns on Rockport Harbor. This industrial history is still visible, if softened by the growth of surrounding forest in the many decades since.

The Nature Conservancy conserves land world-wide, and has protected over a million acres in Maine, including more than 75 preserves. Given the vast scale of their



conservation work, transferring this small preserve to us made sense. As the local land trust, we've been overseeing the preserve's stewardship for many years, so the ownership transfer won't change its general management or create any added burden on us.

"Coastal Mountains Land Trust has done a great job of helping us steward Simonton Corner Quarry over the past 15 years," affirmed Nancy Sferra, Director of Stewardship and Ecological Management for

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## Community supports new trails in Swanville and Northport

**W**e believe strongly that one of the best ways to engage people with the mission and work of land conservation is to invite them to explore a new preserve in their community. People seem to embrace a preserve once they've had a firsthand opportunity to get to know it by following a stream, finding an unusual plant, or learning a new bird call there.

This past year, people got very excited about two of our newest preserves. They were so enthusiastic that we quickly found ourselves off and running with development of two new trails that will make it even easier for people to enjoy these special places.

### Meadow Brook Preserve – Hawk-Fry Tract

Early last spring a group of volunteers, including some members of the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (BBWC), assisted Land Trust staff with an ecological inventory of the Hawk-Fry Tract of the Meadow Brook Preserve in Swanville, a property generously donated to us in September 2013 by David Hawk and Patti Fry. The purpose of the inventory was to put together a baseline for the benefit of future preserve management. Together, participants developed a detailed ecological description of the property, including a map of all natural community types, a list of plant species, observations of invasive exotic plant species, and notes about sensitive locations that might deserve special protection moving forward. This is the point where we generally take a year or so to plan and raise funds for the future management of the property, including any trail building.

At the Hawk-Fry Tract, however, our volunteer crew was so enthusiastic that we decided to go ahead with building a trail right away. Backed by generous financial support from BBWC and the Maine Community Foundation's Fund for Maine Land Conservation, a committed crew of volunteers quickly installed a 0.8-mile section of trail that wanders through the property to the center point of the greater Hurds Pond conservation focus area and offers beautiful views of Hurds Pond and the surrounding wetlands. As part of the trail

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# STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

## Special Thanks to...

■ **Susan Alexander**, our recording secretary ■ **Students in Camden Hills Regional High School's Rising Tide Program**, for assisting us with trail cleanup at Fernald's Neck Preserve ■ **Carol Chen**, for pro bono legal work ■ **Amy Faunce**, our Volunteer Coordinator ■ **Randy Fein and Susan Pierce of Artfull Gifts**, for their benefit support ■ **Kirk Gentalen**, for leading October's Mushroom Walk & Talk ■ **Dan Johnson**, for a chainsaw sharpening vise ■ **Doug Johnson of Johnson Arboriculture**, for a thorough Advanced Chainsaw Sharpening presentation and workshop

■ **Artfull Gifts**: Nan Borton, Hildy Ellis, Amy Faunce, Carol Harrell, Trudi Hennemuth, Leecia Price, Karen Vellekamp

■ **Baseline Documentation**: Rebecca Barlow

■ **Beech Hill Preserve Stewardship**: Hans Bengtsson, Dave Bronder, Phil Gaudet, Malcolm White

■ **Boundary Work**: Hans Bengtsson

■ **Ducktrap River Preserve Stewardship**: Hans Bengtsson, Phil Gaudet, Malcolm White

■ **Invasives Removal Work**: Aleta McKeage, Gary Gulezian

■ **Kites & Ice Cream**: Tom Campbell, Amy Faunce, Leecia Price

■ **Office Support**: Nan Borton, Mary Ellen Decato, Amy Faunce, Carol Harrell, Betty Killoran, Joan Merriam, Leecia Price, Diana Rigg, Brenda Squibb, Karen Vellekamp

■ **Office Landscaping**: Dave Bronder, Elizabeth Eudy, Phil Gaudet, Jeannie Hutchins

■ **Passy Greenway Stewardship Planning**: Helen Burlingame, Ron Harrell, Aleta McKeage, Dick Merrick, Denis Wang, Janet Williams

■ **Trail Work**: Hans Bengtsson, Dave Bronder, Elizabeth Eudy, Phil Gaudet, Gary Gulezian, Greta Gulezian, Ron Harrell, Dana Jenner, Tom King, Aleta McKeage, Dick Merrick, Bob Olfenbuttel, Skip Pendleton, Malcolm White

The above list does not include the names of our **Board and Committee members**, who contribute their time and energy to the organization in so many



Last fall volunteers from West Bay Rotary and the Camden Hills Regional High School Interact Club helped us out with trail work on Bald Mountain.

different and essential ways and for whom we are always very grateful!

■ **Adopt-A-Trail Sponsors**:

■ **Bald Mountain Preserve**: Camden Real Estate; the Montgomery Family ■ **Beech Hill Preserve**: Micki Colquhoun, Realtor; the Jochnick Family; Waterfront Restaurant ■ **Ducktrap River Preserve**: In Memory of Richard C. Hennemuth ■ **Fernalds Neck Preserve**: Sid & Elizabeth Eudy; Walter Kurchack & Stacy Thomas ■ **Harkness Preserve**: Camden National Bank; In Honor of Leon Gorman ■ **Hodson Preserve**: In Memory of Richmond Smith

■ **Place Settings Participants**: La Bella Vita at the Samoset, Peter Ott's on the Water, Saltwater Farm Cafe

■ **Take-A-Hike Sponsors**: Land Vest, Maine Sport Outfitters

■ **In-kind Business Donors**: Camden Printing, Francine Bistro, Good Deeds, Hedstrom Electric, Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors, Whitelancer Web Development

### Our Wish List

- leashes to loan at Beech Hill Preserve
- iPad
- digital camera (at least 16 megapixels)
- summer housing for our Stewardship Intern
- radio or iPod speakers for Beech Hill Blueberry Barn
- come-along winch for tree work

## Summer work opportunities at Beech Hill Preserve and beyond

### Stewardship Intern

We're looking for a dedicated individual to join our stewardship staff for up to six months to assist in stewardship of all our preserves, with a special focus on the Beech Hill Blueberry Farm. Responsibilities include organic blueberry farm and harvest management, trail work, habitat and invasives management, public outreach, and volunteer coordination. Applicants should be willing and able to work independently, use small power equipment, articulate the organization's mission to the public, and have an interest in land stewardship and sustainable agriculture. This paid, multi-faceted conservation stewardship internship will involve a full-time commitment from May through October (flexible start and end dates). Housing may be available if needed. Our past interns have gone on to promising futures, including work at other land trusts, and agricultural, forestry, and GIS graduate programs. So you never know where an internship with us might lead you!

### Blueberry Rakers, Winnowers, and Packers

The Beech Hill Blueberry Farm needs several



MARK WALLACK

motivated, energetic individuals for hand raking, sorting, and packing organic blueberries during the summer harvest. A four-week commitment is requested, starting in late July. Hours are irregular, dependent on the vagaries of nature, but rakers and winnowers can expect to work four hours/day, and packers six hours/day, five-six days/week.

**For complete descriptions of these job opportunities, please contact Jackie Stratton, our Stewardship Project Manager, at (207) 236-7091 or [blueberries@coastalmountains.org](mailto:blueberries@coastalmountains.org). We're hoping to hire soon, so please get in touch now if you're interested!**

## Coastal Mountains Land Trust

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**President:** James A. Krosschell  
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**Secretary:** Lys McLaughlin Pike  
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E. Daniel Johnson, Roger S. Rittmaster,  
Nicholas C. Ruffin, Darby C. Urey

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**Executive Director:** Doug Sensenig  
**Development Director:** Kristen Lindquist  
**Outreach & Administrative Coordinator:** Nora Hayes  
**Stewardship Director:** Ian Stewart  
**Stewardship Project Manager:** Jackie Stratton  
**Land Acquisition Coordinator:** Scott Dickerson

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Editor: Kristen Lindquist;  
Designer: Mirosław Jurek;  
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## When a tree falls in the forest

Over the course of the last two winters, our corner of Maine has experienced a series of dramatic—and very destructive—storms. High winds and heavy precipitation (be it rain, ice, or snow) have resulted in extended power outages, measurable economic losses, and extensive damage to trees. If you've visited any of our preserves over the last few months, you'll have noticed that they haven't been spared. Repeated blow-downs have blocked many trails, and debris has littered trailheads and parking areas. We're extremely grateful to the volunteers who worked tirelessly with us to clean up, remove blow-downs, and reroute trails when necessary. (Recent trail-clearing at Fernalds Neck Preserve alone, for example, required over 80 man- hours of hard work!)

Off the trails, however, you may have noticed that our management approach doesn't involve much forest cleanup, either after storms or as woods mature. Instead, we generally allow natural processes, including storm recovery, to unfold without human interference or alteration. By doing so, we're fostering conditions that allow for greater biological diversity. Storms and the "damage" they cause in our forests can thus be seen from a different perspective when viewed in this purely ecological light.

Storms play a key role in determining the

composition of ecological communities and are important for maintaining wildlife habitat. When trees are blown over by wind, the gaps created allow sunlight to reach the forest floor, providing the opportunity for previously overshadowed or younger trees to grow. More light reaching the understory also encourages greater richness in the plants growing there. When storms happen over and over, the result is a more differentiated, multi-aged forest that hosts greater habitat diversity than a single-aged forest.

Storms and windthrow also result in increased amounts of dead wood on the forest floor. This coarse woody debris is an important component of cover habitat for an array of forest creatures, including various insects, mice, frogs, and salamanders. Given recent management practices, Maine's forests today feature much less woody debris than the forests of old and, as a result, less wildlife.

So the next time you're hiking on one of our preserves and you come across a tree felled by a recent storm, try to see the productive, rather than destructive, effects of the weather. Take a moment to observe what positive processes might have already begun to take place: what seedlings have emerged, what new plants are growing, and what birds are singing?

## Members: It's a berry good time of year

Pre-order your Beech Hill blueberries now!

**Current members** are invited to participate in the popular blueberry pre-order program. Members may order ten-pound boxes of beautiful, MOFGA-certified organic Beech Hill Blueberries, and we encourage you to act quickly! Last year we met our pre-order quota in just a couple of weeks. As always, blueberry sales benefit stewardship of the Beech Hill Preserve.

The blueberry order form, which should be enclosed in this newsletter, has two sections: a pre-order section for ordering up to three boxes, which requires advance payment, and a waitlist request section for ordering more than three boxes of berries if they're available.

**Not a member?** If you are not yet a member but would like to pre-order berries now, please add a membership donation to your pre-order form (see details on the reverse side of the form).

If no order form is enclosed in this newsletter, email a request to [blueberries@coastalmountains.org](mailto:blueberries@coastalmountains.org) or call us at (207) 236-7091.

**Attention Juicers, Jammers and Vintners!**  
Interested in making blueberry juice, wine, or jam?

The Beech Hill Blueberry Farm will have a minimum of 1,500 pounds of B-grade organic lowbush blueberries for sale at a considerable discount during the 2015 harvest. Please contact Jackie Stratton at (207) 236-7091.





2015 EVENTS CALENDAR

Throughout the year we offer opportunities to explore and learn more about the landscape of the western Penobscot region. This year's calendar is still a work in progress, so for updates or further details on our events, please check our website and local newspapers or call us at (207) 236-7091. All events are free of charge.

*\* Indicates child-friendly event. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.*

**Naturalist Walks**  
**Various sites: check local papers or our website for information on the upcoming month's outing**  
**First Saturday of each month**  
Co-sponsored by Camden Conservation Commission Join Master Naturalist and Land Trust Board member Roger Rittmaster through the seasons for an exploration of the flora and fauna of various parks and preserves around our community.

**Walkin' on the Railroad: Explore the Passy Rail Trail**  
**Belfast**  
**Saturday, April 11, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM**  
Co-sponsored with the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition Walk from the Belfast Footbridge to the railroad museum and back on the newly emerging rail trail along the scenic Passagassawakeag River, about four miles total.

**Full Moon Astronomy Outing for Kids \***  
**Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport**  
**Saturday, May 2, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**  
Co-sponsored with the Camden Public Library Join children's librarian Miss Amy up at Beech Nut to learn about the night sky and observe the full moon by telescope.

**Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition's Bird Week**  
**Experience the wonders of spring bird migration—come birding with us at a different site each day of this week!**  
**Saturday, May 9 – Saturday, May 16**  
**Sat., May 9: Little River Trail, Belfast**  
**Sun., May 10: Sears Island, Searsport**  
**Mon., May 11: Meadow Brook Preserve, Swanville**  
**Tues., May 12: Chunn-Thanhauser Farm, Swanville**  
**Wed., May 13: Ducktrap River Preserve, Lincolnville**  
**Thurs., May 14: Hurds Pond by canoe, Swanville**  
**Fri., May 15: Passy Rail Trail, Belfast**  
**Sat., May 16: Goose River, Swanville**  
Confirm this schedule in May at [www.belfastbaywatershed.org/outings--programs.html](http://www.belfastbaywatershed.org/outings--programs.html).

**Wildflower Walk**  
**Ragged Mountain, Rockport**  
**Thursday, June 11, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
Co-sponsored with Georges River Land Trust We're teaming up with our sister land trust to seek spring wildflowers on Ragged Mountain along the Georges Highland Path via the Thorndike Brook trailhead.

**Celebrate the Summer Solstice \***  
**Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport**  
**Sunday, June 21, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**  
Make the most of the longest day of the year with an

evening walk up Beech Hill. Beech Nut will be open, and Arts on the Hill resident Gary Lawless will host a special solstice poetry reading.

**Fern Walk**  
**Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast**  
**Thursday, July 9, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
Co-sponsored with the Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District & the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition Join Hildy Ellis, District Coordinator for KLSWCD, on this interpretive walk to learn how to identify a variety of fern species.

**Insect Safari \***  
**Fernalds Neck Preserve, Lincolnville**  
**Friday, July 24, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
Co-sponsored with the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition State entomologist Kathy Murray leads this hands-on exploration into the fascinating world of insects. Suitable for insect lovers of all ages.

**Beech Hill Blueberry Picks \***  
**Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport**

**Members Only Free Pick**  
**Saturday, August 1, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
Our current members are invited to spend the day picking our MOFGA-certified organic blueberries. Not a member? Make a donation on site and join the fun!

**Public Free Pick**  
**Sunday, August 2, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
Come pick your own blueberries and enjoy the spectacular view on the one day our organic blueberry fields are open to the public.

**Annual Meeting**  
**Belfast Boathouse**  
**Tuesday, August 25, 5:00 – 7:30 PM**  
We invite all members to join us in Belfast to celebrate the year's successes and meet the Board and Staff. Light refreshments and local beer will be served. Guest speakers to be announced.

**Kites and Ice Cream \***  
**Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport**  
**Saturday, September 12, 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Raindate: Sunday, September 13)**  
Join us for our third annual kites and ice cream extravaganza! Each child will receive a free kite and an ice cream cone from Stone Fox Farm Creamery, courtesy of the Cascade Foundation. Supplies are limited to 100, so pre-registration is necessary.

**ArtFull Gifts**  
**Point Lookout, Northport**  
**Friday – Sunday, November 20 – 22**  
A portion of the proceeds from admission to this fine arts and crafts show will benefit the Land Trust. Visit [www.artfullgifts.com](http://www.artfullgifts.com) for more information.

**Early Winter Hike**  
**Long Cove Headwaters Preserve, Searsport**  
**Saturday, December 12**  
Co-sponsored with the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

2015 BEECH NUT OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

■ Saturday, May 23, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

■ Wednesday, June 10, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

■ Sunday, June 21, 6:30 – 8:30 PM (Summer Solstice)

■ Wednesday, July 1, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

■ Saturday, July 18, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

■ Saturday, August 1, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Members Free Pick)

■ Sunday, August 2, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Public Free Pick)

■ Saturday, August 22, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

■ Saturday, September 12, 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Kites & Ice Cream)

■ Monday, September 28, 5:30 – 7:30 PM (Full Harvest Moon)

■ Wednesday, October 7, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

■ Saturday, October 17, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



BRIAN WILLSON

You asked for it!

Saturday work parties are now a thing

Those who work Monday through Friday have complained about not being able to participate in our lively work parties, almost all of which happen on weekdays. We heard you—and now we want to put you to work! Join us on the trail and in the woods at one or all of our six Saturday work parties this year. The complete schedule will be posted on our website and shared with our volunteer email list:

- Saturday, April 18
- Saturday, May 16
- Saturday, June 6, National Trails Day

September, October and November's Saturday work party dates will be posted in our Summer Newsletter.

Volunteers needed!

Interested in volunteering with the Land Trust? Not sure how to start? Join us for one of our two orientation sessions designed to provide new volunteers with an overview of the Land Trust and the varied volunteer positions now available. Orientation sessions will be held:

- Wednesday, April 1, 5:00 – 6:30 PM, Coastal Mountains Land Trust Office, Camden
- Wednesday, April 15, 5:00 – 6:30 PM, Belfast Free Library



Currently we are recruiting for all volunteer positions:

- Outreach: Beech Nut Docent, Special Events, Office Projects, Youth Liaison
- Stewardship: Preserve and Easement Steward, Invasives Removal Team, Trail Monitor, Beech Hill Farm Hand

Volunteer job descriptions can be found on our website's Volunteer page: [www.coastalmountains.org/get\\_involved/volunteer.html](http://www.coastalmountains.org/get_involved/volunteer.html).

Introducing new board member: Darby Urey




“Ever since I can remember, being in the woods is where I’ve felt most at peace and connected with the world. My wife and I chose to relocate our family to the Midcoast largely because of the accessibility of the outdoors: the woods, trails, mountains, and waters. When I learned of the Land Trust and its incredible conservation efforts, I was determined to contribute in some way. I’m thrilled to be serving on the Board and working collaboratively towards conservation of our natural places.”

ARTS ON THE HILL SCHEDULE – June & July 2015

Poet and teacher Gary Lawless will be offering several interactive outings and projects to inspire poetry and creativity throughout his term as Artist on the Hill at Beech Hill Preserve, June 21 – July 28. Specific events may change and new events added, so please visit our website in June for more details about what he has planned for each of the following days he will be on the hill:

- Sunday, June 21, Summer Solstice Poetry Reading, Beech Nut, 6:30 – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday, June 23, Birding/Poetry Walk, Rockville Street Trailhead, 7:00 – 9:00 AM
- Wednesday, July 1, Beech Nut Open House, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Thursday, July 2, Full Moon Poetry and Tea Event, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Tuesday, July 7, Poetry Walk
- Tuesday, July 14, Children’s Poetry Walk
- Saturday, July 18, Beech Nut Open House, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Tuesday, July 21, Poetry Walk
- Tuesday, July 28, Poetry Walk/Blueberry Farm Tour



Memorial Gifts

1 September 2014 – 1 February 2015

*In Memory of Herb Belkin:* Anonymous

*In memory of Penn Brown:* Susan Fockler

*In memory of Don Gross:* David & Jan Terry

*In memory of John Knight:* Richmond & Nanone Knight

*In memory of Arthur Poulin:* Craig & Tracy Poulin

*In memory of John Weatherley:* Lawrence Morris

We permanently conserve land to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay.

Please visit us at: [www.coastalmountains.org](http://www.coastalmountains.org)

Also on Facebook at: [www.facebook.com/coastalmountainslt](http://www.facebook.com/coastalmountainslt)



Scan this QRC with your smart phone or email [info@coastalmountains.org](mailto:info@coastalmountains.org) to sign up for our bimonthly e-newsletter.

