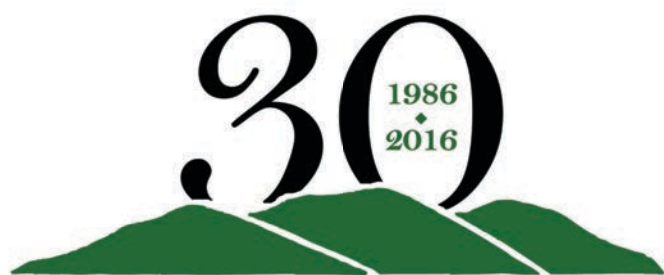


# Landscapes

SPRING 2016

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

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



COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST  
101 Mount Battie Street · Camden, ME 04843 · 207-236-7091



## Partners in Conservation 30 Years of Land Protection

The story of Coastal Mountains Land Trust's first 30 years is the story of what a community can do when it comes together to protect its sense of place. Stretching from the Camden Hills to the mouth of the Penobscot River in Prospect, Western Penobscot Bay is defined by the wildness of its mountains, the depths of its forests and lakes, and its many connections to the sea. Since 1986, when a small group of people gathered in a Rockport garage to talk about the future of Beech Hill, our Land Trust has led efforts to protect land that is important to our community: the farm on the hill, the view to and from the mountain, and access to the pond down the road. Along the way, we have protected more than 10,000 acres of land that span 15 towns from Rockport to Prospect. We've conserved the mountains that surround our towns and villages such as Mt. Battie, Hatchet, Bald and Ragged, and the rivers and streams that flow through to the bay, including the Ducktrap and the Passagasawakeag. We've built over 40 miles of trails, conserved 32 miles of shoreline and riverfront, and protected a wide range of ecological habitats. In total, this organization has taken significant strides towards ensuring that the unique character of our corner of the world will continue to be defined by woods, mountains, shorelines, rivers, and natural spaces. Our success protecting land is only possible because of the dedication of many extremely generous people, collaboration with strong partner organizations, a focused commitment to planning, patience, and a willingness to think and dream big.

A shared commitment to protecting the natural and scenic character of our community has been critical to the work of the Land Trust. Countless individuals from Maine and "from away" have built an organization that can adeptly identify and acquire land worth protecting. Over the years, more than 100 Board members have volunteered their time and strategic guidance. Many others have supported the Land Trust in myriad ways. Finally, beginning with the founding role of Grace Cutting and Jane Watson Stetson in establishing the Beech Hill conservation easement, more than 107 families, individuals or organizations have permanently conserved their land through a donation to the Land Trust.

Our success is also attributable to the many partnerships we've enjoyed with sister conservation organizations, towns, donors, and government agencies. We are firmly committed

to the idea that we can accomplish more together than apart. We have collaborated with Maine Coast Heritage Trust (which helped found our organization), The Nature Conservancy, the Land for Maine's Future program, and the more than 24 organizations that formed the Ducktrap Coalition which conserved 84% of the river's shoreline. The Land Trust continues to benefit from the collaborative support of community organizations, town governments, and community-minded individuals.

Most critical to our land protection program has been our ability to sustain a consistent effort, guided by a long-term vision, to identify and focus on the highest-priority conservation areas. Our strategic focus areas have included the Ducktrap River Watershed, Passy Greenway, and Bald and Ragged Mountains. From our earliest days we have focused on identifying those lands with the highest conservation value. Once identified, we have proactively approached the land owners, communicated our belief of the land's importance to the community, and started a conversation about options to preserve the land in perpetuity. This strategic approach has allowed us to get the most out of scarce financial resources while maximizing the protection of those places that sustain

wild species and the natural habitats upon which they and our sense of place depend.

Finally, protecting over 10,000 acres of land has only been possible because of our organization's willingness to be bold and think beyond an individual parcel or project. Our goal of protecting important resources at a landscape scale has frequently challenged us to think beyond what seems easily feasible. Originally formed as the Camden-Rockport Land Trust, we have expanded our area of service to include 15 towns throughout Knox and Waldo Counties. Again and again, when faced with projects that required large fundraising efforts and years of hard work, our Board, organization, members, and partners have risen to the occasion to make incredible things happen. Instead of seeing an enormous challenge, we have seen an extended opportunity.

Coastal Mountains Land Trust is excited about announcing the next set of opportunities for land conservation in the region. When we do, we will continue to count on the strong support of our community and partners, to protect this place we call home.



1987 press clipping from the signing of our first project.



### 30 YEARS: 30 PRESERVES Breslin-Richenaker Preserve

#### Pitcher Pond, Northport

This anniversary year we celebrate the acquisition of our 30th preserve – the Breslin-Richenaker Preserve on Pitcher Pond in Northport. Made possible through a bequest from Elizabeth Breslin, this Preserve is significant because it protects 300 feet of shoreline on Pitcher Pond and adds to the neighboring Newman Preserve. Accessed via the Newman Preserve on Northport's Beech Hill Road, the mile-long trail brings visitors to the Breslin-Richenaker Preserve where they can enjoy the picturesque view of Pitcher Pond. Pack a picnic lunch to enjoy by the water after your hike!



Camden Rockport Middle School Students selected the Land Trust as the winner of their 2016 "Penny War," donating \$500 towards the stewardship of our preserves and trails!

# Looking Back, Looking Forward

## Note from the Executive Director

AS I REFLECT ON THE LAND TRUST'S GROWTH OVER 30 YEARS, THERE ARE MANY accomplishments worth remembering. Overall, however, no matter the project, I am struck by a common pattern that has not changed in three decades: each Land Trust project happened for two basic reasons. First, the community shared a basic desire to hold on to something. Second, there was a private landowner willing to talk with the Land Trust about how keeping that something might be possible.

This year, in each issue of *Landscapes*, we plan to take a look at the history of the Land Trust's major programs: Land Protection, Stewardship, and Community Engagement. This issue celebrates 30 years of land protection. In keeping with this theme, it is fitting that we are able to announce the creation of our 30th preserve – the Breslin-Richenaker Preserve.

As we celebrate our 30th anniversary, the Land Trust is also working hard to ensure that we continue to invite, attract and engage the community in our work. We want people to explore our Preserves, volunteer on our trails, and enjoy being on the land. To this end, we are proud to launch a new website that provides greatly improved access to information about the Land Trust ([www.coastalmountains.org](http://www.coastalmountains.org)). This mobile-friendly site encourages you first to Get Outside, providing users with information about how and where to access the land we've conserved, how to volunteer, and when to attend our next event. We're also planning an exciting calendar of outings and talks in the coming year. We hope you will join us for a walk or talk sometime in the near future.

Thank you so much for your continued support,



# A History of Firsts

## 1st Summit



ELLEN CURTIS

### Mount Battie

Camden's most iconic peak became the Land Trust's first protected summit thanks to the forethought of the Mount Battie Association, a local group that purchased the 58-acre parcel in 1899. The land was gifted to the State Park in 1984, at which time a conservation easement was placed on the property to ensure it would remain protected for future generations. The easement preserving the stunning view of the 780-foot summit, originally held by Maine Audubon, was transferred to our Land Trust in 1994

## 1st Focus Area

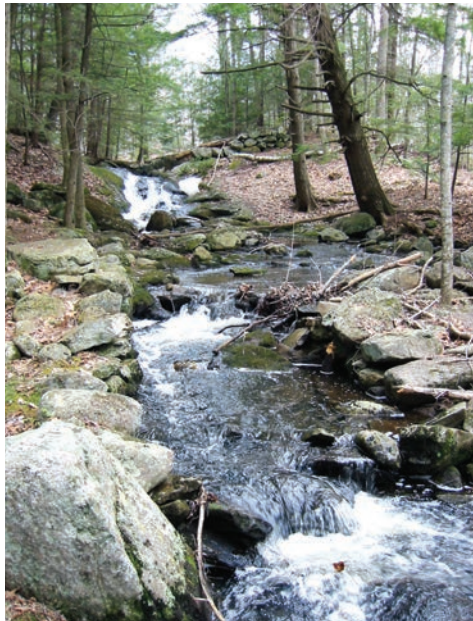


TIM SHAW

### Ducktrap River

In 1995, working in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Land Trust developed a GIS-based conservation planning process to identify its first large landscape-scale conservation focus area. The Ducktrap River Focus Area identified all of the land within 250 feet of the Ducktrap River and its three main tributaries as highest priority for conservation. The Land Trust, with members of the Ducktrap Coalition, have conserved 3,168 acres, accounting for 84.2% of the Ducktrap River's shoreline.

## 1st Preserve



### Hodson Preserve

This beautiful 35-acre forested preserve located along Molyneux Road in Camden was gifted to the Land Trust as our first preserve in 1992 in memory of Richard S. Hodson.

## 1st Preserve in Belfast Bay Watershed



### Stephenson Preserve

Ralph Stephenson of Belfast gifted eight acres of forested hillside above the Passagassawakeag River in Belfast in 2000. A delightful small stream cascades through the southern portion of the Preserve which is part of the Passagassawakeag Greenway.

## 1st Project over 500 acres



### Welliver Forest Easement

In 1999, painter Neil Welliver donated a conservation easement on 515 acres of forest in Northport and Belmont. With 367 acres in Belmont and 148 acres in Northport, the forever wild easement will protect this large, relatively unfragmented forest which also helps protect the Ducktrap River, as tributaries to the Ducktrap run across the property

## 1st Coastal Island Protected



JOSH POVEC

### Sears Island

In 2009, we facilitated negotiations that led to the permanent conservation of 601 acres on Sears Island in Searsport.

## New Faces at the Table



**DAVID D. NOBLE,**  
BOARD MEMBER

David Noble is a retired trial lawyer with wide experience in civil and criminal litigation. A graduate of Duke Law School, David is married to Gayle Elizabeth Noble, a clinical social worker. They have four adult children who live in Colorado, Illinois, Ohio and Maine. David was admitted to the Bar in Ohio and the District of Columbia and has worked for different firms from 1966-2002, primarily in Ohio, as well as having a solo practice. When in Camden, David and Gayle live on Megunticook Lake and appreciate the efforts of the Land Trust to conserve important areas of this region.



**JEFFREY COLQUHOUN,**  
BOARD MEMBER

Jeff Colquhoun has had an eclectic career that includes teaching dental hygiene in the Army, captaining a charter sloop, and working as a Wall Street investment banker. Art has been a steady practice and profession throughout these varied roles. He moved to Maine in 1987 and has served as a trustee with the Maine College of Art, the Historic Preservation Board, as a Castine selectman, and as co-chair of the Camden Downtown Business Group. He follows in the footsteps of his wife, Micki Colquhoun, who served on our Board from 2007-2010.



**POLLY JONES,**  
OFFICE MANAGER

Polly grew up in Chicago and attended the University of Wisconsin. Most of her career has been spent working in the roller-coaster world of nonprofits, and she is thrilled to have landed on the Coastal Mountains Land Trust team. Polly moved to Maine 20 years ago from Portland, Oregon--trading rain for snow--and couldn't be happier, loving all the four-season outdoor activities Maine has to offer. She plans the summer of 2016 to be - Mt. Katahdin: The Reckoning.



## ADOPT-A-TRAIL

Show someone you care, show everyone you love the outdoors!

With over 40 miles of trail across 30 preserves, we have an opportunity for you to feature your company's

commitment to conservation or celebrate someone you love by sponsoring a trail in honor of your business, family, or in memory of someone special. Consider this unique way to market your company or recognize your family and friends. Your sponsorship will be recognized at the trailhead kiosk and will be noted on the Preserve Guide illustrating that specific trail. We will be distributing our Preserve Guides to members and they are available as pdf downloads from our website later this year.

Sponsorship support through the Adopt-A-Trail program contributes to the stewardship of our Preserve and trail system. Please contact [kathy@coastalmountains.org](mailto:kathy@coastalmountains.org) for more information about which trails are 'available for adoption'.

## In Memory/In Honor



**Jerry Savitz,  
1940-2015**

Jerry Savitz passed away in December 2015. A Belfast entrepreneur and businessman best-known as the owner of Darby's Restaurant, his list of endeavors and interests was extensive. Among these, he was a dedicated Coastal Mountains Land Trust Board member from 2004-2011. "Great Board members sit in quiet consideration of all sides of any issue," said Scott Dickerson, former executive director, "then they calmly offer their thoughts to advance the discussion. And they act as wonderful ambassadors for the organization, speaking about their commitment to fulfilling the mission. A creative sense of humor is also a fine attribute. Jerry Savitz did all of that, and much more, when he joined the Land Trust Board as a very early member from Belfast, and I immensely enjoyed working beside him."

The affection people had for Jerry is best demonstrated by the generosity of the gifts we received in his honor. One collection was particularly special – a monthly supper club gathered and all contributed in Jerry's memory with a sweet note describing how much they appreciated him and that he is sorely missed.

### *In Memory of Jerry Savitz*

Allen Insurance and Financial  
Anne Abercrombie  
Sidney and Martha Block  
William and Diana Eastty  
Josiah Huntoon  
Meredith Lang  
Michael and Jean Lenderking  
John and Dorothy Lloyd-Still  
Michael and Karin Marshall  
Douglas and Susan Mayer  
Juliet Baker and Paul Mazur  
Kenneth and Deborah Mitchell  
Lilias Outerbridge  
Galen and Barbara Plummer  
Mary and Robert Rackmales  
Victoria Sears  
Marcia Ladd-Spears and Geoffrey Spears  
Sharron Walsh  
Joan Whitlock

*In memory of Penny Binswanger:* Ben Binswanger

*In memory of Peggy Wolfe, for Peggity's Path:*  
Laurie and Jim Druyor

*In memory of Bruce White:* Kathy White

*In honor of Cary Slocum and Glenn Montgomery:*  
William Armstrong

## Coastal Mountains Land Trust

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Roy J. Call, Courtney Collins, Jeffrey Colquhoun, E. Daniel Johnson, David D. Noble, Roger S. Rittmaster, Nicholas C. Ruffin, Darby C. Urey

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**Ian Stewart,** Executive Director  
**Kathy Young,** Development Director  
**Jackie Stratton,** Stewardship Project Manager  
**Alden Mead,** Stewardship Project Manager  
**Scott Dickerson,** Land Acquisition Coordinator  
**Polly Jones,** Office Manager



# Beech Hill Blueberries

## What does it take to manage our farm?

**B**eech Hill Preserve in Rockport contains 30 acres of MOFGA-certified organic blueberry fields managed by Stewardship Project Manager Jackie Stratton. The Land Trust also hires a seasonal intern to help support the Blueberry Farm, in addition to 5 - 9 local people who harvest and sort the berries.

What does it mean to be an organic farm? Simply that we do not use any pesticides or herbicides to manage the growth of weeds and shrubs that are not blueberries. To avoid the chemicals but still have a solid yield, we regularly monitor and maintain the fields in the following three ways:

- Our blueberry fields are flail-mowed every other year. Flail mowers consist of dozens of small rotating blades that cut vegetation very close to the ground, like a close shave. Blueberries only produce fruit on new plant growth during the second summer after mowing, and our two-field rotation allows us to always have a field to harvest, either on top of the hill along the main trail, or at the bottom of the hill towards the ocean.
- Three times each year staff walk through the fields with a weed-wacker, pruning all plants that grow above the blueberries.
- Every six years, we take soil samples and spread pelletized organic sulfur through the fields, decreasing the pH and making the soil less hospitable to grasses and other native plants, allowing the blueberries to thrive.

Using metal-tined rakes, we hand-harvest approximately 9,000 pounds of berries over four weeks, alternating each summer between the two fields. The berries come to the barn in boxes that include blueberries, leaves, blackberries, and stems, and are processed using a winnower. This mechanical process blows leaves and sticks, drops small berries, and removes clumps before sending the berries along the conveyor belt where 1 - 3 people visually scan the berries and remove crushed or clumped berries by hand before they fall into the 'clean box'. This intensive process enables us to sell fresh berries in quarts, pints, and 10-pound boxes within 1 - 6 hours after harvesting.

The fields have been managed for wild blueberry production on and off for the last several decades. We are proud to continue this agricultural tradition on Beech Hill, and are delighted to offer our members and the public the freshest wild blueberries around.

### ATTENTION BLUEBERRY CUSTOMERS!

This year, Blueberry Order Forms will be coming in the spring membership appeal.



15 volunteers with 200+ in the audience celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a splash during the Winterfest Polar Plunge on January 30.

30

1986  
2016

Coastal Mountains Land Trust

Protecting Land for our Community, forever.

Get Outside

Land Conservation

Who We Are

News and Documents

Ways to Give

Donate

Restore

WELCOME TO COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

We are a nonprofit land conservation organization, founded in 1986, that seeks to permanently conserve land to benefit the human and natural communities of Western Penobscot Bay.

Take a Hike

Attend an Event

Volunteer

Explore our New Website! Visit [coastalmountains.org](http://coastalmountains.org)

A special thanks to all those who helped us prepare our new site including Hessler Creative (design help), Brian Willson (graphics), and Susan Alexander (editing).

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Over the last five months we have recorded 356 hours of volunteer service. Stewardship volunteers have worked at the Bald Mountain, Beech Hill, Main Stream, Ducktrap River, St. Clair, McLellan-Poor, and Hatchet Mountain Preserves as well as on the Town of Camden’s Camden Riverwalk trail project. Some of the projects recently completed include view and trail clearing, trail scouting and blazing, preserve maintenance and kiosk installation, boundary marking, and stone wall moving. There were also a few inside jobs including an art show and some mailing projects in addition to the first annual Polar Plunge. As well, volunteers have donated things we needed, responding to the Wish List! Again, thank you thank you thank you.

Special thanks to the following individuals for their time and efforts on our behalf:

Susan Alexander; Ray Andresen; Jon Bahrt; Hans Bengtsson; Henry Bohm; Linda Bohm; David Bond; Nan Borton; Dave Bronder; Melissa Bronder; Camden Hills Interact Club; Chris Campbell; Patt Chen; Cloe Chunn; Jeanine Crockett; Mary Ellen Decato; Ken Donoghue; Hildy Ellis; Amy Faunce; John French; Phil Gaudet; Gary Gulezian; Greta Gulezian; Judy Hale; Carol Harrell; Jack Henry; Jeannie Hutchins; Dan Johnson; Mary Keller; John Krueger; Wendy Krueger; Lynn Luzzi; Joan Merriam; Joan Mansigian; Bob Olfenbuttel; Skip Pendleton; Dan Reeve; Roger Rittmaster; Karen Vellekamp; Alexa Wagner; Tim Webster; Malcolm White; Tracy Wickwire; Janet Williams; Elisabeth Wolfe

In-Kind Donations

EBS Building Supplies; Robert Olfenbuttel; Brad Hennemuth; Dan Johnson; Sara Shute

Volunteers Required: we could use your help and you get to play outside!

Volunteers are vital to our ability to manage and maintain the 10,000 acres of land we conserve across 15 communities. Spring orientation and information sessions are planned for those who are interested. You will learn about all the different roles and responsibilities and be able to find your niche in our team of dedicated helpers. For more information, contact Alden Mead at [aldenm@coastalmountains.org](mailto:aldenm@coastalmountains.org)

Want a volunteer opportunity with a great view?

We are recruiting for Beech Nut Docents for Beech Hill Preserve in Rockport. These volunteers serve as on-site hosts at Beech Nut, the stone hut at the top of the preserve during the open house days held June through October. Contact Jackie Stratton for more information at [jackies@coastalmountains.org](mailto:jackies@coastalmountains.org)



TIM SHAW

SPRING & EARLY SUMMER EVENTS SCHEDULE

Visit our website for more detailed information.

**April 2, Saturday, 10 am – noon;** Coastal Mountains Nature Program - Barks & Buds at Merryspring Nature Center, Camden

**April 13, Wednesday, 5:00 pm;** New Volunteer Orientation at the Belfast Free Library

**April 20, Wednesday, 5:00 pm;** New Volunteer Orientation at the Land Trust office, Camden

**May 3, Tuesday, 7:00 pm;** Coastal Mountains Nature Program - Vernal Pools Ecology Talk at the Camden Public Library

**May 7, Saturday, 10:00 am;** Coastal Mountains Nature Program - Vernal Pools Field Trip at Tanglewood 4-H Camp, Lincolnville

**May 14, Saturday, 9:00 am;** Discover the trails of Searsport, Long Cove Headwaters Preserve & Sears Island

**May 18, Wednesday, 6:30 am - 8:30 am;** Bird Week Excursion at the Ducktrap River, Lincolnville

**June 4, Saturday, 10:00 am;** Coastal Mountains Nature Program - Spring Plants & Wildflowers at Merryspring Nature Center, Camden

**June 4, Saturday, TBA –** National Trails Day event at Passy Rail Trail in Belfast

**June 11, Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm;** Beech Nut open house, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**June 11, Saturday, 10 am – noon;** Knights Pond Paddle with beach picnic, Northport

**June 20, Monday, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm (Summer Solstice);** Beech Nut open house, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**June 26, Sunday, 2:00 pm;** Arts on the Hill at Beech Hill Preserve, VoXX - A capella concert (\$10 suggested donation), Rockport

**July 2, Saturday, 10:00 am;** Coastal Mountains Nature Program - Butterflies and Other Insects at Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast

**July 6, Wednesday, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm;** Beech Nut open house, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**July 17, Sunday, 3:00 pm;** Arts on the Hill at Beech Hill Preserve, Contra Dance with Sassafras Stomp (\$10 suggested donation), Rockport

**July 23, Saturday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm;** Beech Nut open house, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

Coastal Mountains Nature Program - a monthly series of natural history talks and outings

Local naturalist and Land Trust Board member Roger Rittmaster, in cooperation with the Camden Conservation Commission, has organized a monthly program exploring the natural history of mid-coast Maine. Each walk has a theme, such as trees, flowers, insects, mosses and lichens, and vernal pools. Two of the walks focus on interpreting the landscape around us: one in the forest and the other along the beach. From May through November, check our website or watch the Free Press for listings and details.

Wish List

Vacuum cleaner, cordless power tools, hatchet, farm truck, dolly, hand sledge, loppers, tall mini-fridge, and housing for summer intern.