

Trails Lead to More Conservation

FOOTE AND ANNIS FAMILY DONATIONS ADD ~100 ACRES TO RAGGED MOUNTAIN PRESERVE

Building a trail network of statewide significance has been a Land Trust goal on Bald and Ragged Mountains since the effort to conserve these mountains began in 2003. Given the mountains' breathtaking scenery, diverse topography, and wide range of unique habitats, it is our belief that a strong trail system will become an important part of our community's infrastructure and an economic asset for the area.

For the trails to last, we need to acquire permanent rights for land access – either through ownership or conservation easements. This spring, our vision got a bit closer after we acquired three exciting properties that will help secure the trail system on Ragged Mountain, forever.

First, Herb and Grace Annis generously donated 22 acres of beautiful forest land on the southeastern slopes of Ragged Mountain. The property had been in the Annis family for five generations. In recent years, Herb has allowed the Midcoast Chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association (McNEMBA) to build trails that connect to the growing trail network on Ragged Mountain. Their gift of land ensures this public access will continue.

Next, the Land Trust purchased a 2.5-acre parcel of land on Gillette Road, in Hope. This road-front property will provide the Land Trust space to develop a future access point for the Round the Mountain Trail

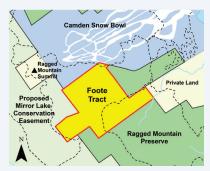
on the northeast side of Ragged Mountain, allowing hikers, bikers, runners and skiers an opportunity to connect to the trail at its highest elevation. The property is an open hardwood forest with a small stream on its western end.

Then, in May, Charlie and Joan Foote agreed to transfer ownership of 75 acres on Ragged Mountain, located between the Camden Snow Bowl, the proposed Mirror Lake Conservation

Easement, and our existing preserve, to the Land Trust. Extending all the way from the eastern edge of the Snow Bowl's Lookout Trail across the mountain to a large rocky outcrop known locally as the 'Elephant's Head' and to the Georges Highland Path, this incredible property protects a huge bowl below the summits of Spring and Ragged Mountains that

includes a key half-mile stretch of the Round the Mountain Trail.

Beyond our current efforts to complete the acquisition of two conservation easements protecting an additional 1,300 acres of land owned by the Maine Water Company, these three most recent acquisitions each play a crucial role in securing the overall Ragged Mountain Trail system. We are extremely grateful for the cooperation and generosity of each of the landowners who have helped to make these three recent conservation projects possible.



STEWARDSHIP

Over Ramsey Brook & Through the Woods

A New Bridge for McLellan-Poor Preserve

ext time you hike through McLellan-Poor Preserve in Northport, you will discover a 36-foot, 500-pound aluminum bridge spanning Ramsey Brook. After thinking "I am so glad that this bridge is here to allow for a dry crossing" you may pause to ask yourself, "How did this huge, heavy thing get a half mile into the woods?" The answer is: a snowmobile, clever carpentry, the right knots, mechanical advantage, and an undaunted crew of volunteers.

This project began in February when volunteers from the Lincolnville Snowmobile Club, Rockport Steel, Bank of America and the Land Trust pulled the bridge over snow on homemade wooden runners behind a snowmobile from Route 1 to the edge of Ramsey Brook. In May, the volunteers returned to maneuver the bridge into place using a block and tackle to pull the bridge across the brook while a come-along helped lift the front of the bridge as it moved forward. Thank you so much to everyone and to neighboring land owners who made this project possible!

Join us at the Bridge Opening on **Saturday June 16th!** Meet at 9:00 am at the Route 1 entrance of the McLellan-Poor Preserve, Northport.



Photo credit: Gene Randall



Town Managers Find Common Ground (on Ragged)

Rockport Town Manager Rick Bates, Hope Town Administrator Samantha Mank, and Camden Town Manager Audra Caler-Bell demonstrated their support for the Round the Mountain Collaboration by meeting at the single spot on Ragged Mountain where the towns of Camden, Hope, and Rockport meet. Marked by a 125-year-old granite monument that is engraved with a capital C and an R, this tri-town corner sits just off of the current Georges Highland Path and only 700 feet away from the corridor of the proposed Round the Mountain Trail. The Land Trust is grateful for the ongoing support of each of these towns and its officials for our efforts to make all this happen!

Youth Perspective on Round the Mountain Trail

Last year, Camden Hills Regional High School's English class worked with *Down East* Magazine to gain experience writing nonfiction for publication. One of the contributing writers was Jonathan McDevitt, a 14-year old freshman who loves to run on local trails. He wrote a long-form story about the Round the Mountain Trail. The full story can be found on our website: coastalmountains.org/media. Examples of work published by his classmates can be found on the Camden Hills Regional High School home page of fivetowns.net/chrhs.



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hitting the Trail

When I was in high school, I was fortunate to spend a summer working on backcountry trail projects in a national park in northern California. I learned that good trails require sound planning and engineering, a familiarity with old-fashioned trail building methods (many of which date back to the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps), and a huge amount of manual labor. Five weeks of digging water bars and drainage trenches, setting rock steps, and building bog bridges taught me that creating and maintaining trails is hard work. When built wisely, however, the cost of trail development is small compared to the long-term benefits that they provide. Comfortable and safe access to the outdoors profits a community in many ways, from strengthening the local economy to improving the physical and mental health of its citizens.

This year, Coastal Mountains Land Trust has plans to continue to make significant investments in trails from Rockport to Prospect. We've heard from communities that they too believe trails are an important priority. As you will read elsewhere in this newsletter, we've been busy acquiring land for the specific purpose of preserving existing trails or establishing new connections. We're creating a new fund to establish a seasonal internship focused on trail stewardship in Waldo County. And, we are excited to begin

construction of the Round the Mountain Trail, which will connect over 20 miles of trail in Camden, Rockport and Hope with a nine-mile arterial trail around Ragged Mountain.

Making all this happen requires lots of help. Whether by providing financial support or hands-on labor, I invite you to get involved as we get to work on the trails this season. Already, our more than 45 miles of trail have benefitted from committed participation by our volunteer corps and growing partnerships with organizations such as the Trail Runners of Midcoast Maine (TROMM), McNEMBA, the Waldo County Trails Coalition, and the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition.

Help us ensure the outdoors is available for everyone to enjoy – your time and donations are much appreciated. And if you'd like to look more closely at our complete set of plans for the proposed Round the Mountain Trail, check out our website at coastalmountains.org under media tab/RTM trail docs.

La Stunt

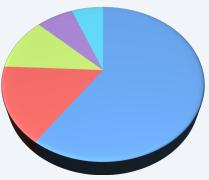
See you on the trail!

Leonard's Legacy

eonard Lookner was a passionate environmentalist, long-time member and friend of the Land Trust. As a role model for environmental leadership, he also did something incredibly important and forward thinking by including Coastal Mountains Land Trust in his will, setting aside a gift in his estate plan. Sadly, we received that money last November. We were surprised and honored by the gift, which the family agreed would be best used to support the Round the Mountain Collaboration.

If you are interested in talking about how you might leave a similar legacy, we welcome a conversation with you about how to put together a plan to support conservation beyond your lifetime. There are many tools and programs that can help you and your family as you think about the future. Our policy is to spend up to 5% of investment earnings, keeping the capital protected. Designating Coastal Mountains Land Trust as a beneficiary of your estate plans is an important way you can make a difference in the future of land stewardship. As an example, a cash gift of \$2,000 for the Land Trust in your will would steadily contribute \$100 each year, ensuring that the Land Trust continues to care for conserved lands you have helped us protect. If you have any questions, contact Kathy Young, Development Director, at 236-7091.

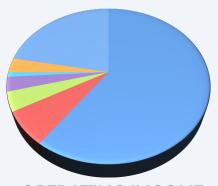
FY 2017/18 FINANCIAL REPORT



OPERATING EXPENSES

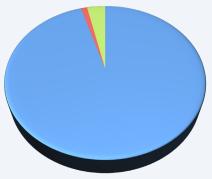
- 62% Land Protection*
- I5% Stewardship
- II% Fundraising
- 6% Community Engagement
- 5% General Administration

* the combined cost of acquisition and the assessment of 'land impairment', which is the value of the permanent conservation restrictions placed on the land.



OPERATING INCOME

- 60% Individuals & Businesses
- 7% Grants
- 4% Beech Hill Blueberries
- 3% Events
- 1% In-Kind & Other
- 3% Memorial & Planned Gifts
- 22% Investment Earnings to Operating



CAMPAIGN INCOME

- Round the Mountain Collaboration \$1,000,753
- Pendleton Fund \$14,849
- Endowment Gifts \$2,000

Complete audited financial reports will be available online

32nd Annual Meeting and Volunteer Recognition Event

JUNE 26

5:30 PM at the Rockport Boat Club

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Zwartjes Volunteer, Chatfield Conservation, and Connecting Nature & Community

LAND TRUST SELFIES:

Short Films Festival

Join us to celebrate our award recipients, enjoy a social evening with friends, and watch some short films made over the last year.

RSVP to info@coastalmountains.org or call 236-7091

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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FY 2017/18 YEAR IN REVIEW



Hike-the-Guide offers a monthly opportunity to explore the Trail Guide

In June last year, we published our instantly popular Trail Guide. We now schedule a guided hike or paddle each month to encourage those who want to explore with a group. LL Bean provided backpacks to award to the first 30 who complete the Hike-the-Guide challenge.

Rail Trail ribbon cutting and 5k race

125 participants helped us celebrate National Trails Day and the completion of the beautiful 2.3 mile Belfast Rail Trail. The City of Belfast and the Land Trust officially opened the trail with a 5k race, sponsored by Bank of America and the Belfast Co-op.



Hands on the Mountain involved many volunteers at the Snow Bowl

Bringing together volunteers and members from the Camden Snow Bowl, Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Georges River Land Trust, McNEMBA and TRoMM, over 75 people rolled up their sleeves last May to prepare the trails for summer. Baxter Brewing and Boynton-McKay offered refreshments at the end of the day.



Our 100th Anniversary Campaign for Beech Nut was completed with a fully restored Beech Nut, an enhanced farm operation with a new winnower and expanded barn, and a historical replication of the preserve's stone entrance gate. Altogether, the campaign raised over \$200,000.





Our Mountain Voices celebrated coastal mountains creatively

With a goal of \$4.2 million to conserve 1,300 acres of Ragged Mountain and to build a nine-mile Round the Mountain Trail, we brought together artists and story-tellers to share why our coastal mountains are so important. We filled the Camden Opera House and kicked off the community campaign with a \$100,000 matching challenge (which was met by December).

< That Day That Spring Arrived by Jonathan Lawrence

Pendleton Stewardship Fund campaign kick-off at the Colonial

Sadly, Skip and Jo Pendleton both passed away in 2017. In recognition of all they did for outdoor recreation and trail stewardship, we launched a campaign to support an annual Waldo County Stewardship Intern (starting in 2019) who will continue Skip's trail-love legacy.

Bindy Pendleton at the Colonial Theater campaign kickoff >





2018 SUMMER EVENT SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 6:00 PM
ARTS ON THE HILL: Bay Chamber Ensembles,
Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 9:00 – 11:00 AM Hike-the-Guide; McLellan-Poor Preserve, Northport

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON Coastal Mountains Nature Program: Wildflowers and Other Plants, Ragged Mountain Preserve, Camden

SUNDAY, JULY 1, 4:00 PM
ARTS ON THE HILL: VoXX, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 9:30 AM - 1:30 PM KIDS! Pizza & Paint (limited to 50), Camden

THURSDAY, JULY 19, 5:00 PM
ARTS ON THE HILL: Mehrtinhead Jazz Trio,
Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 9:00 – 11:00 AM Hike-the-Guide, Penobscot Shore, Prospect

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON KIDS! Blueberry Tour: rake, winnow, and eat, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2, 7:00 – 9:00 PM
ARTS ON THE HILL: Just Teachers (rock & roll band)
Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM Community Free Blueberry Pick, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport SATURDAY, AUGUST 4, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON

Coastal Mountains Nature Program: Insects – Identification, Tracks and Signs, Long Cove Preserve, Searsport

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Kids! Blueberry Tales with Miss Amy from Camden Public Library, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18, 9:00 – 11:00 AM Hike-the-Guide, Bald Mountain, Camden

MONDAY, AUGUST 27, 7:00 – 8:30 PM ARTS ON THE HILL: Todd Glacey Gong Performance, Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Coastal Mountains Nature Program: Geology of Islesboro, Islesboro

> SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 9:00 - 11:00AM Hike-the-Guide, Mount Percival, Northport

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 10:00 AM – 12:00 NOON
Coastal Mountains Nature Program: Edible and Poisonous Mushrooms,
St. Clair Preserve, Northport

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 9:00 – 11:00 AM Hike-the-Guide, Head of Tide, Belfast

Please RSVP for these events: info@coastalmountains.org