



PARTNERING TO MAKE NATURE AVAILABLE TO ALL

Three projects improve Preserve accessibility

As a Land Trust, we believe conservation should benefit the entire community. Enjoying the call of a songbird, having a view of Penobscot Bay, or exploring a trail on a mountain should be experiences for many, not just a few. Over the past year, the Land Trust has made a number of additional investments to continue improving its preserves in order to make the places we conserve more accessible to all.

At the Beech Hill Preserve in Rockport, with the continued support of Jackson Landscaping, we added a stone **ramp entrance** to the Beech Nut. Our trail counters suggest that Beech Hill receives more than 15,000 visitors per year including the participants in our free community blueberry pick, attendees of our Arts on the Hill concert series and children’s events, birders, or those simply looking to enjoy the view from the only cleared hilltop in the area. The slope of the rustic stone dust ramp was designed to provide access for wheelchairs, strollers, and others with limited mobility.

At the Round the Mountain Thorndike Brook trailhead, to complement the 1/4-mile section of ADA trail already built, we installed an **ADA compliant privy**. Since opening the Round the Mountain Trail in 2021, many hikers, runners, and bikers traveling from near and far to use the 5.5-mile trail have asked if the Land Trust had plans for a bathroom. We’ve all been there – you worked hard to stay hydrated during your hike, and now you’ve “got to go.” Responding to this need, our Stewardship Program Director, Ryan Gates, reached out to Ryan Kerr, State of Maine Parks and Lands Engineer, and together they developed a full set of engineered plans that would meet the ADA standards and our vision for this facility. Gates then engaged Julian Stern and his students from the Mid-Coast School of Technology Carpentry Program to develop a materials list and build panels in the school’s shop. Five months later, the team



Mid-Coast School of Technology class next to new privy

met at the trailhead to erect the permanent structure. Elinor Klivans, a long-time Land Trust member who was excited to help increase the accessibility of the trail, generously supported all the costs to make this project possible.

Lastly, thanks to the continued help of last summer’s stewardship intern and current UMaine Student, Ryan Nascimento, the Land Trust is evaluating the physical characteristics of the Round the Mountain trail. As his senior capstone project, Ryan has gathered the data to describe the length, elevation gain, elevation loss, cross slope, and substrate. Using this information, he is now working to develop **detailed signage** designed to provide all trail users of varying abilities the information they need to make informed decisions before heading out.

We are incredibly grateful for these fantastic partners who helped generate ideas, develop plans, fund costs, and build structures to make these two preserves more accessible to our community. We are committed to this work and look forward to continuing to find ways to make nature more accessible.

CONNECTING CONSERVATION IN SWANVILLE

44 acres added to Meadow Brook Preserve

At the end of February, the Land Trust acquired a beautiful 44-acre property that connects two existing tracts of the larger Meadow Brook Preserve in Swanville.

The Meadow Brook Preserve is in the northern part of Coastal Mountains Land Trust's Hurds Pond Focus Area, which the Land Trust is working to conserve in partnership with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The Hurds Pond Focus Area has been identified as a high priority for protection in several conservation plans prepared by the Land Trust, most recently

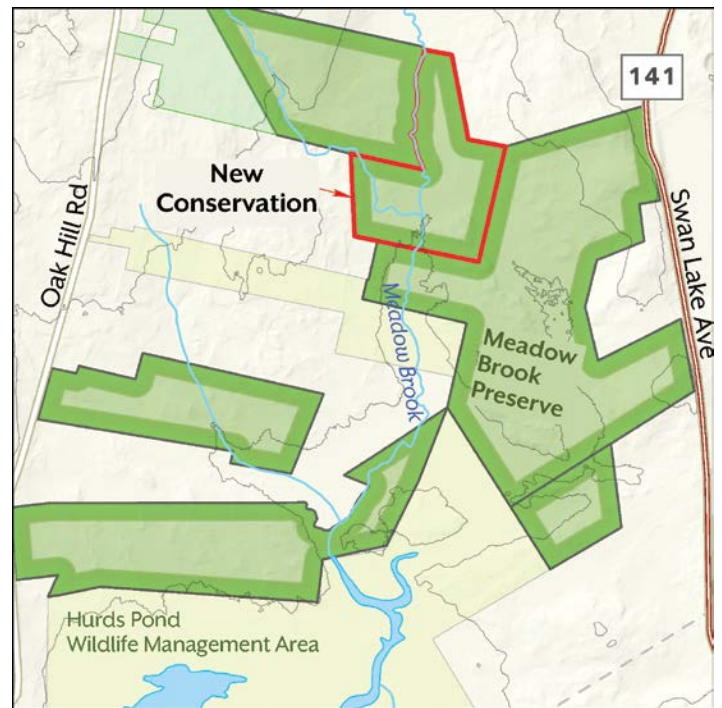


Meadow Brook forest

in 2020. After this acquisition, the Meadow Brook Preserve has grown to 494 acres, bringing the total land in conservation within the focus area to 828 acres!

The acquisition cost and future stewardship of this property has been fully funded by the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP), which awards competitive grants to projects that restore and protect high priority aquatic resources throughout Maine. MNRCP was created to manage the allocation of funds collected through Maine's In-Lieu Fee Compensation Program (for wetland mitigation) and is administered by The Nature Conservancy on behalf of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The property itself includes wetlands and buffering uplands associated with its frontage along Meadow Brook, a tributary to Hurds Pond, and Sucker Brook which flows into Meadow Brook and then into Hurds Pond. The parcel includes a deer wintering area, and an inland waterfowl and wading bird habitat. We are grateful to the landowners for working with us and to MNRCP for supporting this important addition to the Meadow Brook Preserve!



New addition to the Meadow Brook Preserve



WHY I JOINED THE BOARD

Maiara Rebordao

When I was a child in Portugal, I watched helplessly as woodcutters came to the property across from my home and clear-cut the trees that had been home to a nest of dunnock birds. Across the river, beautiful cork trees were decimated to make way for cattle grazing. This heartbreaking experience was a stark reminder of the destruction being done to our planet, and it inspired me to take action.

Years later, I discovered Coastal Mountains Land Trust and realized that even as a 17-year-old, I could help protect my home. I have been able to work with other passionate individuals who are dedicated to preserving our mountains and waters, and I have seen firsthand how our efforts can make a difference. I joined the Land Trust's Waldo County Conservation Initiative Committee, and it has been exciting working towards conserving special properties local to where I live, Belfast. For our launch event, I brought my high school jazz band (of which I am a member) to play some tunes to kick off the program. This moment really fostered a strong sense of community and made me realize the many ways I can contribute and make an impact.

I am proud to be part of a movement that is helping to protect our planet for my generation and for future generations.

Maiara's participation on the Land Trust's Board began in April of 2022. She is the first of two high school students to join and pave the way for more youth involvement.

GROWING OUR TEAM

Land Trust welcomes three new Board Members



Harper Coburn

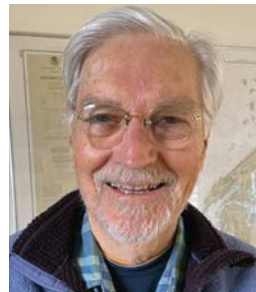
Harper is a sophomore at Camden Hills Regional High School, where she is a part of WindPlanners, the school's environmental group, and participates in various community service projects. Harper is very excited to join the Board as a student and help use her voice to advocate for her classmates and peers.



Kitty Jones

Kitty moved to the Midcoast 20 years ago with her husband and three daughters. She has always been passionate about and appreciative of the many opportunities we have to enjoy the Maine landscape in our area. Whether it's along the coast or on our community preserves, she enjoys

exploring the open spaces conserved thanks to the hard work and dedication of land trusts. She is excited and honored to help advance this important work.



Bob Lawrence

Bob is a retired physician and professor emeritus of Environmental Health & Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. He and his wife Cynthia are residents of Rockport. Introduced to the Wednesday trail crew by Phil Gaudet and the late Malcolm White in 2014, he continues to enjoy helping

maintain the beautiful network of trails created by Coastal Mountains Land Trust and supporting efforts to preserve open space in the Midcoast.



Wednesday Work Crew Volunteers at Meadow Brook Preserve

EXPANDING THE PATH TO HURDS POND

Improving public access to Meadow Brook Preserve

Beyond focusing on the protection of land through the Waldo County Conservation Initiative, the Land Trust also invested significant time in 2022 completing two major stewardship projects at Meadow Brook Preserve to significantly improve sustainable public access.

Last fall, we built a new parking lot on Oak Hill Road at the Hawk-Fry section of the Preserve. This three-car lot at the trailhead provides access to a longer out-and-back trail that now stretches above Hurds Pond, across a natural rock dam on Meadow Brook, all the way across the Focus Area. The gravel parking lot was built by local contractor Garret Cross, who did a phenomenal job and was a delight to work with. After he finished, volunteers helped to install a new kiosk and reinstall the roadside sign. Special shout-out to Bob Olfenbittel, Steve Bird, Dan Reeve, Keith Welch, and Brooks McKinney for their help!

In addition, we more than doubled the length of the trail by building a new 1.3-mile section that extends from Swan Lake Avenue (Route 141) to the end of the existing trail at the brook. Work on this trail began five years ago by volunteers, including Board member David Thanhauser and his wife, Cloe Chunn. Dozens of volunteers and multiple staff spent hundreds of hours in 2021 and 2022 making the trail through challenging terrain, including the installation of a 56' long aluminum bridge across a wetland and stream. Although it can be buggy, this is one of our most unique trails and preserves. Come check it out!

Directions: From downtown Belfast, take High Street north out of town. Cross Route 1 and continue as the road turns into City Point Road and then Oak Hill Road (stay right at the fork). After passing the Rail Trail City Point parking lot, reset your odometer, and continue 2.2 miles; the parking lot is on the right.



REMEMBERING TWO WHO LED BY EXAMPLE



Malcolm Cram White Jr.

Over many years, Malcolm and his wife Nancy have been loyal members and volunteers for the Land Trust leading by example through their volunteer work, enthusiasm, and commitment to our mission. Beginning in 1988, Malcolm and Nancy served in a wide range of capacities, including as preserve and easement monitors, a volunteer captain of our stewardship work crew, a Finance Committee member, and as Treasurer on the Board of Directors. Most of all, Malcolm liked being outdoors with our regular Wednesday work crew talking amongst friends and putting something together or taking it apart. Malcolm's deep commitment, terrific sense of humor, and rigorous eye for detail is greatly missed.



Mary Borden Hall Bok

Since moving to her Hillside Farm on Barnestown Road on the slopes of Ragged Mountain in the early 1970s, Mary was a key leader in the community effort to permanently conserve the landscape of Bald and Ragged Mountains in Camden, Rockport, and Hope. Beyond the initial donation of an easement to support the development of the Georges Highland Path, Mary and her family were leaders in the Round the Mountain Campaign, granted a trail easement crossing their land on Bald Mountain in 2013, and gifted an additional 12 acres to accommodate a future section of the Round the Mountain Trail in 2019. Mary, who cared and invested deeply in our community, continuously expressed how proud she was to have the public access the mountain via her land. We will miss visiting with Mary in her kitchen over tea and catching up on the latest developments on the mountain. Her many gifts to these mountains will live on forever.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

- **Thursday, April 6th 10AM–12PM** — Happy Wanderers hike at the Appleton Preserve (Appleton)
- **Saturday, April 15th 10AM–12PM** — Coastal Mountains Nature Program: Vernal Pools of Midcoast Maine at Tanglewood (Lincolnville)
- **Thursday, April 27th 5:30PM–6:30PM** — Volunteer Orientation at the CMLT office (Camden)

MAY

- **Thursday, May 4th 10AM–12PM** — Happy Wanderers hike at Beech Hill Preserve (Rockport)
- **Tuesday, May 9th 10AM–12PM** — Coastal Mountains Nature Program: Birds of Beech Hill (Rockport)

JUNE

- **Thursday, June 1st 10AM–12PM** — Happy Wanderers hike at the Little River Trail (Belfast)
- **Sunday, June 25th 2PM–3PM** — Arts on the Hill: Burnurwurbskek Drummers (Rockport)
- **Date and Time TBA** — Arts on the Hill: Gawler Family (Rockport)
- **Date and Time TBA** — Art Gone Wild Pop-up at the Head of Tide Preserve (Belfast)

Some programs encourage pre-registration. Get details and stay up to date with events on our website www.coastalmountains.org or social media accounts [@coastal_mountains_land_trust](https://www.instagram.com/coastal_mountains_land_trust).

A NEW FACE AT THE LAND TRUST

Maeve Cosgrove, Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Steward

Maeve Cosgrove is currently working to support the Land Trust's community engagement programs. In January, she joined the team to assist with event management, marketing and social media to support the development of the Learning Landscapes program. She studied Environmental Policy and Political Science at the University of Central Florida. Maeve fell hard and fast for Midcoast Maine after spending a season with the Audubon Society's Seabird Institute as a Communications & Education Outreach Assistant. Hailing from the southern swamp, Maine's mountains and rocky shorelines continuously take her breath away. Come meet Maeve and join us at our upcoming events!





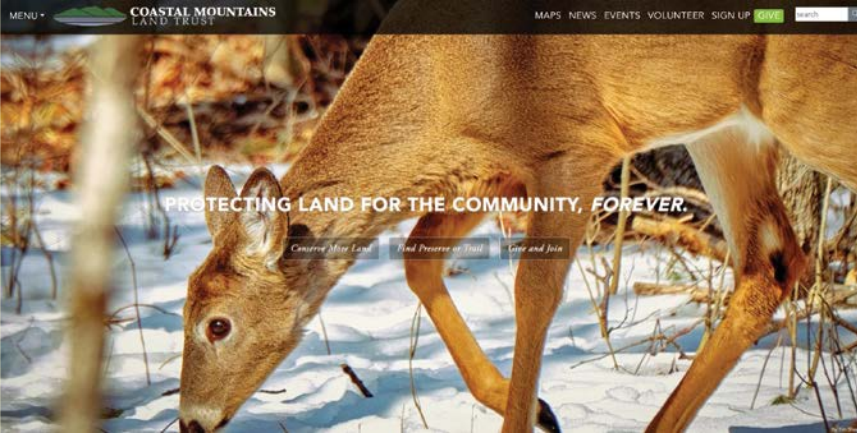
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Sisyrinchium montanum,
Blue-eyed grass at Fernald's Neck



NONPROFIT ORG
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NEWCASTLE, MAINE



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

Visit www.coastalmountains.org to see our new website! Our new look makes it easy to explore our preserves with an interactive map, stay up to date with trail closures and conditions, find times and locations for events, and learn how to get involved.

A special thank you to the many friends of the Land Trust who shared their beautiful photography to help tell the story of our preserves, and to Sean Carnell at Zydecode, Ben Foster at Proforma Marketing Essentials, and Polly Jones at Coastal Mountains Land Trust for creating this wonderful website.

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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LANDSCAPES