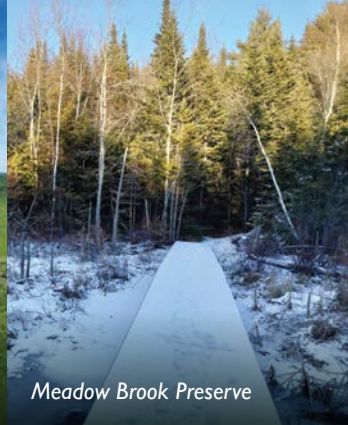


Mount Tuck Preserve



Meadow Brook Preserve



Marsh Meadow Preserve



Mill Brook Preserve

PHOTO CREDIT: JACOB GERITSEN

3 YEARS, 1,175 ACRES, AND A LOT OF LOVE

Initiative success builds capacity for future conservation in Waldo County

The Waldo County Conservation Initiative, launched in November 2022, set out with an ambitious goal: to conserve land in the 13 Waldo County towns served by Coastal Mountains Land Trust to support wildlife, recreation, outdoor learning, and climate resilience. Over the past three years, the initiative made a *remarkable* impact.

With Waldo County being one of the fastest growing counties in Maine, some of the most cherished natural areas in the community are under threat of development. The Land Trust saw a window of opportunity to conserve a significant amount of land, focusing on properties of two kinds:

- land in ecologically significant areas that contain the most diverse ecosystems in our region, and
- properties that provide for trails, access to lakes, rivers and the ocean, and spaces for outdoor learning.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals, local businesses, grants, in-kind supporters, and land donors, the Initiative raised over \$1.5 million. Contributions to the Initiative supported both land acquisition and the ongoing stewardship essential to caring for these properties forever.

These resources fueled the completion of 19 projects, adding 1,175 acres of permanently protected land in Waldo County — including six new preserves and three learning landscapes projects, which provide access and improvements to outdoor learning spaces for schools and child care facilities.

This effort was powered by a dedicated committee of 12 local volunteers: **Cloe Chunn, Courtney Collins, Gianne Conard, Jennifer Craig, Jim Krosschell, Penny Linn, Barney Lutsik, Bindy Pendleton, Maiara Rebordao, David Thanhauser, Matt Wagner, and Elisabeth Wolfe.** Month after month, they brought creativity, persistence, and passion to the cause—organizing events, fundraising in the community, writing personal notes, spreading the word, and contributing their own resources. Their commitment was instrumental to the success of the initiative.

Elisabeth Wolfe, Committee Chair and Board Member reflected, “This initiative brought tremendous momentum and attention to our work in Waldo County. It highlights what we can achieve together, and created a strong launching point for the future of conservation in the region.”

PROJECT SUMMARY

New Preserve
 Preserve Addition
 Learning Landscape
 Trail Enhancement
 First Conserved Parcel in Town
 Donation or Partial Donation

2022–2023: 11 Projects

Marsh Meadow
Knox, 212 acres (4 projects)

Meadow Brook
Swanville, 44 acres

Mount Tuck
Stockton Springs/Prospect
170 acres (4 projects)

Main Stream
Stockton Springs, 50 acres

Mill Brook
Searsport, 29 acres

2023–2024: 4 Projects

Waldo Pound
Waldo, 117 acres

Kingfisher
Morrill, 28 acres

Mount Tuck
Prospect, 20 acres

McLellan-Poor
Northport, 23 acres

2024–2025: 4 Projects

Belfast Area Children's Center
Waldo, Outdoor Classroom

Hurds Pond
Swanville, 113 acres

Basin Pond
Monroe, 350 acres (in progress)

Mendall Marsh
Prospect, 19 acres (transferred to MDIFW)

Protecting land for the community, *forever.*



BLAZING A NEW PATH

Volunteers and staff complete Land Trust's first trail in the Town of Waldo

Since acquiring the 117-acre Waldo Pound Preserve in 2023, our staff and volunteers have been working hard to build a new 1.8 mile trail on the property. Beginning at a new trailhead on Kendall Corner Road, less than 10 minutes from Belfast, the trail crosses a field and wet forest. It then joins a loop trail that circumnavigates the mature forests and small hills of the preserve. The new loop trail connects with the Hills to Sea Trail, a 47-mile hiking trail, that stretches from the Belfast Rail Trail to downtown Unity. The trail and property abut the Waldo County Technical Center, and will serve as a Learning Landscape, providing opportunities for students to get outside during the school day.

Trail work began in 2024, led by Senior Stewardship and Land Protection Manager Jack Shaida, with tremendous help from the dedicated Waldo County

Wednesday Work Crew. Over the past 18 months, volunteers put in more than 20 full days clearing the trail, removing roots, building bridges, installing signage, and blazing the trail. Special thanks to volunteers **Jim Connors, Dan Reeve, Steve Bird, Bob Olfenbuttel** and many others for their commitment and hard work.

The trail is officially open! Join us for a trail opening celebration and walk on **October 23, 2025 at 3:30pm**. The preserve is also open to hunting so if visiting in November please wear blaze orange.

Directions from downtown Belfast: Take Main Street out of town and turn onto Waldo Ave/ Route 137. Continue 4.3 miles, turn left onto Kendall Corner Road (just before a small hill). Continue 0.4 miles — the parking area is in a field on the right.

LESSONS FROM THE LAND

Intern reflections on conservation, community, and the power of working together

Over the last ten weeks, 90% of my working hours have been outside; whether it's been knee deep in the blueberry bushes of Beech Hill, witnessing the unfolding beaver construction (and destruction) at Main Stream Preserve, jumping into Megunticook Lake at Fernalds Neck, hauling tools (and my fishing gear, shh!) down the trail of Sides Preserve, or painting over graffiti at Simonton Quarry, I've come to realize just how valuable a pair of helping hands can be in land conservation.

One of the highlights of my summer has been working with the dedicated group of volunteers during the Wednesday Work Crews. One morning, we spent three hours at the Goose River trails, on a scavenger hunt to put up new trail signs along the twisting mountain bike paths. The task felt like a puzzle, requiring us to slow

down and carefully navigate the trail junctions and avoid dozens of toads crossing the path. Chatting with the locals during these workdays has been a highlight of the internship, and I've learned so much from them. I realized how much you can learn when you're fully immersed in the forest. Everywhere you stop, if you look closely enough, you'll find signs of life and discover how interconnected everything truly is (the Seek app by iNaturalist is handy for this). I also learned to ask for help. More times than I can count, I've had to swallow my pride and ask someone to assist me in moving a large rock to build stairs, or to help load heavy equipment into the work truck. It's in these simple moments that I've come to appreciate the power of collective effort; it takes a community to conserve land for the community.



Landen Parks,
Pendleton Stewardship Intern

FIVE NEW FACES, ONE SHARED VISION

Coastal Mountains Land Trust Welcomes New Board Members

At our Annual Meeting in September, Coastal Mountains Land Trust proudly welcomed five new members to the Board of Directors, who will serve alongside 11 returning members. Together, this dynamic team strengthens our capacity to carry out our five-year plan, extends our reach into new communities, and brings invaluable expertise to our work. As the 15th Board President of the Land Trust, I'm delighted to introduce you to our newest colleagues:



Sadie Lloyd Mudge



Stephanie Smith



David Somers



Jane Stetson



Nancy Ylvisaker

- **Sadie Lloyd Mudge**—A long-time resident of Waldo and the Town Manager of Stockton Springs, Sadie has deep roots in Maine. She has been an active member of our Land Protection Committee for many years and has also served on the boards of other conservation organizations.
- **Stephanie Smith**—A long-time supporter of the Land Trust, Stephanie continues a family tradition of service like her father who received a past Zwartjes Award for outstanding volunteerism. With extensive experience in nonprofit governance, she brings a strong voice to our board.
- **David Somers**—A geneticist and avid birder, David brings both scientific expertise and a passion for wildlife habitat. As a member of our Stewardship Committee, he is committed to advancing conservation as an effective way to protect biodiversity. David and his wife Ann were generous in conserving their property to establish the new Waldo Pound Preserve.
- **Jane Stetson**—Instrumental in conserving Beech Hill, Jane and her husband Bill, have been connected to our mission from the very beginning. Jane has served on several school boards, is a dedicated nonprofit leader, and brings extensive experience in philanthropy, fundraising, and community engagement to our team.

- **Nancy Ylvisaker**—A long-time volunteer and board member of the Nature Conservancy, Nancy brings a strong understanding of finance, development, and nonprofit oversight. Her skills and passion for conservation will be a tremendous asset to our work.

Each of these new members shares our vision of protecting land for future generations and deepening people's connections to nature. Coastal Mountains Land Trust strives to be the trusted local land trust for all 16 towns we serve in Knox and Waldo counties. Our growing board will play a vital role in building stronger connections across the region, engaging more people in our mission, and ensuring we have the skills and expertise needed to meet our ambitious goals.

We hope to see you on the trails, at community gatherings, or wherever conservation brings us together. We'd love to hear from you!

Jeff Davis
Board President



A PURE DAY OF BLISS

Celebrating over 10 Years of Kites & Ice Cream



Every September, Beech Hill transforms into a place of pure delight as families gather for one of our most beloved traditions: Kites & Ice Cream. Originally inspired by the Cascade Foundation, the event is simple — each child who makes the $\frac{3}{4}$ -mile climb up the farm road trail, whether walking on their own, riding high on a parent's shoulders, or bouncing along in a stroller or wagon, is rewarded at the summit with a free kite and a scoop of ice cream.

The result? *Well, just look at these pictures!*

Captured across several different years, you can see in the photos how the top of the Hill fills with movement, laughter, swirls of bright kites, sticky fingers, and carefree play. Standing back to watch it all, we're reminded of the true spirit of this day and all of our community events: providing a free outdoor sanctuary for families to make memories rooted in nature, community, and simple fun.

This past September, more than 200 children registered to participate in Kites & Ice Cream. Year after year, this event draws people together across generations creating a joyful sense of place on Beech Hill. We look forward to continuing the tradition in years to come!



2025 CONSERVATION AND VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Karen Prather and Trudi Hennemuth

CONNECTING COMMUNITY & NATURE AWARD

This award honors the individual or entity that has demonstrated the highest level of commitment to engaging the people of our community with the outdoors and the lands protected by the Land Trust.

Karen Prather and Trudi Hennemuth, Learning Landscapes Committee, for their dedication to place-based education by providing quality outdoor education opportunities for Lincolnville Central School, Lincolnville Library and the Land Trust's Learning Landscapes programming.



Jo Maxwell

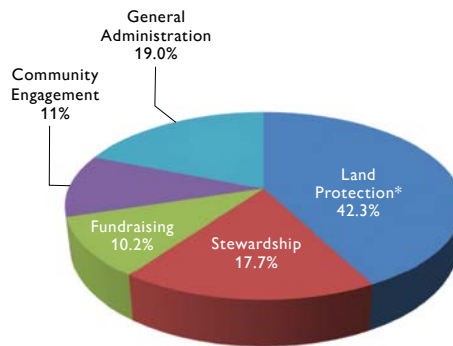
ZWARTJES VOLUNTEER AWARD

This award is presented in honor of past Board Chairman, William J. Zwartjes, for an individual who has demonstrated extraordinary volunteer service to the Land Trust.

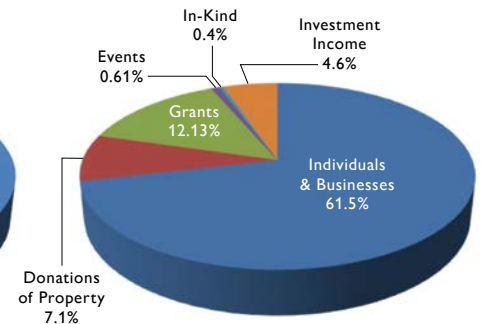
Jo Maxwell, Community Events Volunteer, for her steady and remarkable dedicated service to Coastal Mountains Land Trust community engagement programs, consistently going above and beyond to make every event welcoming, memorable, and fun.

FY2024–2025 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

This was another great year for the Land Trust, with several new land acquisitions, programs, and projects taking place. Thank you to all our members for your fantastic support that balances the ongoing needs and growth of our organization. A complete set of our financial statements including Form 990 are available on our website.



PROGRAM EXPENSES



PROGRAM INCOME

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



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www.coastalmountains.org



Remaining Native 5K Run/Walk on Beech Hill
celebrating the film's debut at the Camden
National Film Festival this September



PHOTO CREDIT: JOSH POVEC

HAPPY TRAILS

Coastal Mountains Land Trust extends its deep thanks and warm wishes to **Harper Coburn** as she begins her next journey at Providence College.

Harper joined the Coastal Mountains Land Trust Board as a sophomore at Camden Hills Regional High School. Over the past two and a half years, she has made a lasting impact on our work. In addition to her leadership in the school's environmental group, Windplanners, she served on the Land Trust's Learning Landscapes Committee, where she brought the voices of her peers to the table and advocated the importance of connecting schools with nature. *Thank you, Harper!*



Serving the communities of

Belfast, Belmont, Brooks, Camden, Hope, Knox, Lincolnville, Monroe, Morrill, Northport, Prospect, Rockport, Searsport, Stockton Springs, Swanville, and Waldo

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Gerald Quirk, *Vice President*
Judy Wallingford, *Treasurer*
Kitty Jones, *Secretary*

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STAFF

Ian Stewart (he/him), *Executive Director*
Zack Fallon (he/him), *Seasonal Trail Steward*
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Polly Jones (she/her), *Operations & Finance Director*
Tempe Landi (she/her), *Development Director*
Heather Rogers (she/her), *Land Protection Program Director*
Jack Shaida (he/him), *Senior Stewardship & Land Protection Manager*
Leah Trommer (they/she), *Learning Landscapes & Outreach Director*
Lee Tsairis (they/them), *Development Assistant*



LANDSCAPES