

HURDS POND FOREVER

A 20-year vision realized through conservation, partnership, and love of place

Earlier this year, Coastal Mountains Land Trust acquired a 113-acre property on Hurds Pond in Swanville and Belfast, completing a long-held vision of fully conserving the pond. Owned for several generations by members of the Holmes family and known locally as part of the “Holmes Farm,” the new preserve will soon welcome visitors to enjoy trails in the upland forest and access the pond for kayaking and canoeing.

Conservation of Hurds Pond and the Meadow Brook wetland complex has been one of Coastal Mountains Land Trust’s highest priorities for conservation for over 20 years, given the properties’ diverse forests, wetlands, streams and the pond, including high quality inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat. The area has been identified as excellent habitat for a diverse range of breeding and migrating bird species, including American bittern, great blue herons, sandhill cranes, loons, and several warblers.

The Land Trust has worked in partnership with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to expand conservation around this exceptional resource, including MDIFW’s Hurds Pond Wildlife Management Area, the Meadow Brook Preserve, and now, Coastal Mountains Land Trust’s Hurds



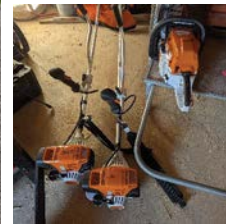
Cathy Morgan on Hurds Pond

Pond Preserve. To date, 875 acres of land have been conserved through this partnership.

The new Hurds Pond Preserve was conserved with funding from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the North American Wetland Conservation Act, and Cathy and Lyndon Morgan. Cathy, who passed away in 2016, left an enduring legacy in helping conserve a place she loved for its frogs, birds, and other wildlife. We are also grateful for the continued vision of David Thanhauser and Cloe Chunn, who are extraordinarily dedicated to ensuring that this special place remains undeveloped and available for public access.

TRAILS POWERED BY PARTNERSHIP

Federal grant helps the Land Trust build a stronger future for local trails



Last summer, the stewardship team was awarded a grant from the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation's Community Outdoor Recreation Assistance (CORA) Recovery Program. CORA is funded through the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation State funds. This sub-award program provides funding to eligible applicants to support the economic recovery of the state's travel and tourism sectors from the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. This funding is enabling us to take important steps in planning, maintaining, and improving public access on our conserved land over the course of the year. Specifically, the grant supported three key areas:

- **Trail Planning:** Laying the groundwork for future Bald and Ragged Mountain trail improvements and potential new trails including design strategies that protect sensitive habitats while enhancing visitor experience.
- **Trail Workshops:** Hosting two free workshops — one for volunteers led by Outdoor Sport Institute, and another for conservation professionals from all over the state led by Town 4 Trails Services — to build skill and learn best practices for trail work. We also are able to fund the Maine Conservation Crew to help us work on the Bald Mountain trail for two weeks.
- **Tools and Equipment:** Purchasing high-quality tools that will boost the capacity and efficiency of our stewardship crew and volunteer teams. This includes power tools, hand tools, safety vests, trail counters, upgraded signage, and e-bikes for staff to get into the woods and scope all of our trails more efficiently.

Our trails provide vital access to nature for our communities, and this CORA funding has given us extra power to invest in thoughtful design, maintenance, and education that keep our trails safe, sustainable, and enjoyable for everyone.

We're grateful to the Maine Office of Tourism and the CORA program for recognizing the importance of on-the-ground stewardship. This work is part of our commitment to caring for the land we've protected, ensuring that our natural areas continue to thrive ecologically while remaining accessible and welcoming to the public.

Stay tuned for updates — and if you're interested in getting involved, keep an eye out for upcoming trail workdays. There's never been a better time to help care for the places we love.

GROWING TO MEET THE MOMENT

Smart investments and a warm welcome to our newest team member!

This summer, Coastal Mountains Land Trust is excited to kick off our 2025–2030 Strategic Plan — a bold roadmap that sets our course for the next five years. As part of this effort, a committed group of staff, board members, and volunteers also developed a revenue and capacity building plan to ensure we are positioned to bring our collective vision to life.



Already, we're taking steps to make this happen! In the months ahead, we're expanding our office with a new structure — a solar-paneled 14x36-foot freestanding building that will serve as a shared space for board meetings, staff collaboration, and community gatherings. This additional space will be a wonderful resource, and we can't wait to welcome you in once it's ready!



Lee with pups, Fisher and Hobey!

We're also thrilled to be growing our team. This month, **Lee Tsairis** will join us as our new Development Assistant. Lee will manage our membership program and work across departments to support fundraising efforts and grow connections with our donors and community.

Originally from York, Maine, Lee has spent the past six years with the American Prairie Foundation in Montana, leading events, managing operations, and building community. They will bring a vibrant mix of experience, energy, and heart to our work.

Thanks to your ongoing support, we're building a stronger Land Trust ready to take on the next five years and beyond. This issue of Landscapes touches on just a snapshot of successes you've helped make happen.

Tempe Landi

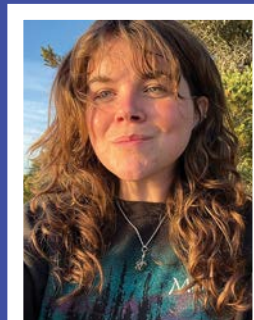
Tempe Landi
Development Director

Best Wishes!

It's bittersweet that we say goodbye to two dedicated members of the Land Trust family as they move on to new professional opportunities. Join us in wishing them the very best in their next ventures!



Ryan O'Neill, Stewardship Project Manager spent five years with the Land Trust, caring for some of our most cherished preserves including Fernalds Neck, Bald and Ragged Mountains, and Beech Hill (and the ever-popular blueberry free-pick!). His thoughtful stewardship and planning will leave a lasting impact on our preserves. Ryan is now embarking on an exciting new chapter with his wife, Liz, with their business called Adventure Yards, helping people design their outdoor space for connection, creativity, and exploration.



Maeve Cosgrove, Membership and Outreach Coordinator began her journey with us as an AmeriCorps intern, and her passion quickly blossomed into a full-time role supporting community engagement, Learning Landscapes, and development efforts. Her creativity and warmth strengthened so many of our connections. Maeve recently joined our friends at Georges River Land Trust as their Community Engagement Manager.



PIPER STREAM DREAM

Expanding a scenic trail in Northport—with your help!

Piper Stream Preserve in Northport, one of the Land Trust's newest preserves, is a hidden gem. Donated to the Land Trust in 2021 by Sue Conard and David Randall, this 19-acre preserve is made up of a diverse forest and charming stream that feeds into the Little River. The Preserve is an important wildlife corridor between the expansive Herricks Bog in central Northport and the Little River. The property's flat and easy trail has become a popular spot for quick hikes in Belfast, but it abruptly ends by its northern boundary. We're changing that!

The Land Trust is purchasing an abutting 28-acre property, that will be added north of and adjacent to the Preserve. This conservation project will more than double the size of the Preserve, protect over 1,000 feet of riparian habitat, add a few thousand feet of stream frontage, and allow for extension of the trail.

This project is only possible thanks to the success of the Land Trust's Waldo County Conservation Initiative, which raised most of the funds for this purchase. \$25,000 is still needed, and your support can make a major difference. To support this project, make a gift to the Land Trust noting "Piper Stream Extension" as your designation. Thank you!

SUPPORT THIS PROJECT



MAIL

101 Mt. Battie Street
Camden, ME 04843



ONLINE

www.coastalmountains.org/give



PHONE

Tempe Landi, Development Director
207-236-7091

LEARNING FROM THE LEADERS

An interview with Lisa Brita, Captain Albert Stevens school teacher



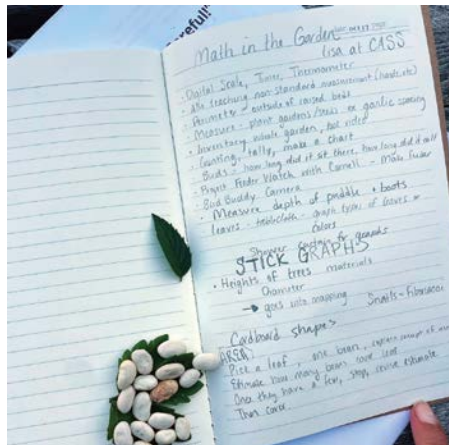
Lisa sharing outdoor education lessons and ideas with other local teachers



Now in its third year, Learning Landscapes continues to grow and evolve, with a focus on connecting students to the outdoors through meaningful, place-based experiences. A core pillar of the program is supporting and learning from the educators who bring this vision to life. One way we do this is by convening a cohort of dedicated teachers twice a year to share ideas, resources, and expertise. Among them is Lisa Brita, who has been involved with Learning Landscapes from the beginning. Lisa has generously shared her knowledge by presenting at our free outdoor learning retreats, offering tours of her inspiring garden classroom, and serving on the Learning Landscapes committee that helps guide the program's direction. We recently sat down with Lisa to hear more about her approach, her experiences, and what outdoor learning means to her.

1. Tell us where you work and how long you have been there? *I have been teaching children at Captain Albert Stevens School (CASS) in Belfast for 17 years, both as a Title 1 teacher and classroom teacher.*

2. How have you incorporated outdoor learning into your teaching? *Getting kids outside is not that hard. As a classroom teacher,*



I looked for ways to meet curriculum standards by having students engage in hands-on activities outside. For example: my class practiced measurement skills while planting garlic and weighing root vegetables. As students were learning how to tap maple trees, they mapped our maple grove in order to record different types of trees growing in the area. They gathered words from nature walks to use for writing poems. Many students in the school were involved in choosing books and building our Book Garden, where they dug holes, shoveled soil and mulch, and planted seeds and seedlings. For the past 8 years, I have led weekly nature journal lessons where students are able to combine science, art, math, and writing while investigating questions

about the natural world around our school. Learning outside seems to be most successful when outings are frequent, all year long, and students are given a balance of freedom and specific expectations.

3. What benefits have you seen when kids have access to the outdoors during the school day? *I notice that kids are very engaged when learning outside. Even the youngest learners are able to examine what interests them, think critically, ask questions, and discuss ideas with each other. Children who struggle to maintain focus and manage their bodies within the classroom walls, often thrive when working and learning outside.*

4. What is your vision/wish for children's access to nature-based education? *My wish is that every student has consistent access to outside spaces that are near to their school.*

5. What can we, the Land Trust, and community members do to support your vision/wish? *The community, including the Land Trust, plays a valuable role in supporting teachers who are venturing outside with kids. They offer their expertise, share their natural spaces, lend a helping adult hand, and create a culture that expects children to spend time learning outside.*



NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #11
NEWCASTLE, MAINE

101 Mount Battie Street
Camden, ME 04843
207-236-7091
www.coastalmountains.org



Dolichonyx oryzivorus, Bobolink

PHOTO CREDIT: TIM SHAW

MEET THE SUMMER INTERNS



NESHAMAH STEARNS (she/her)

Community Engagement Assistant

Neshamah received a dual B.S. in Adventure-Based Environmental Education and Adventure Therapy from Unity College. She has worked for the Chewonki Foundation, Outward Bound, and teaches at Children's House Montessori. Neshamah loves to canoe, sea kayak, and lay in the woods admiring moss with a book.



ZACK FALLON (he/him)

Seasonal Trail Steward

A seasoned seasonal, Zack is a former Whitewater Raft Guide in West Virginia and a Park Ranger in Maine and Vermont. He's spent his past five winters in the Carrabassett Valley, riding the snow at Sugarloaf.



LANDEN PARKS (she/her)

Pendleton Stewardship Intern

Landen is a rising senior at Maine Maritime Academy studying marine biology and small vessel operations. She was born and raised in Maine and loves exploring with her dog, fishing, and learning about local wildlife.

Serving the communities of

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gianne P. Conard, *President*

Jeff Davis, *Vice President*

Judy Wallingford, *Treasurer*

Kitty Jones, *Secretary*

Harper Coburn, H. Landis Gabel, Elizabeth C. Gilmore, Stephen R. Kahn, Robert S. Lawrence, Keelia Liptak-Jay, Gerald Quirk, Elisabeth Wolfe

STAFF

Ian Stewart (he/him), *Executive Director*

Ryan Gates (he/him), *Stewardship Program Director*

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