

# Landscapes

FALL/WINTER 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



101 Mount Battie Street · Camden, ME 04843 · 207-236-7091

## Belfast Rail Trail Complete!

Trail ties together the Land Trust's larger Passagassawakeag Greenway vision

Fifteen years ago, Coastal Mountains Land Trust established the Passagassawakeag Focus Area and began the patient process of working to establish preserves with accessible trails for the public that could be linked and create a network of recreational opportunity on the forested bluffs along Belfast's Passagassawakeag River. Despite its proximity to the city, the landscape along the river remains remarkably undeveloped.

The Greenway has now become a destination with economic benefits for the Belfast area, drawing hikers and outdoor enthusiasts to the region, while also improving the quality of life for those who live or work here. The successful conclusion of the Rail Trail project has realized this vision as many organizations, individuals and visitors flock to enjoy the trails and parks and harbor-front of Belfast.

Over the past three years, we led the fundraising campaign to raise needed support for the City of Belfast's work to transform 2.2 miles of the former railroad corridor into a multi-use public access trail.

In the words of Belfast City Manager Joe Slocum, "The Rail Trail is an exceptional example of how a positive collaboration between public, nonprofit and private investment can create a permanent legacy of historic proportions. Today the trail is flourishing, allowing everyone the opportunity to immerse themselves in the rich bounty of nature as they traverse alongside a beautiful river estuary. Everyone means everyone, and we are thrilled to see the folks in wheelchairs enjoying it so much. Generations will follow us and they will look back with great thanks for the vision and effort that so many contributed to make this treasure

such a core part of our quality of life."

An example of the transformation of the trail for the city is evident in the changing thoughts of residents too. Interviewed for the Bangor Daily News in early September, retirees David and Paulette Frye

the couple said. "I said, 'I wanted to apologize to you, Joe,'" David Frye recalled. "I had told him you wouldn't see 10 people a year on that trail. I probably see 75 people a day."

The project cost less than the initial estimate because some bids came in lower than expected and the city's public works department was

able to do a lot of the work.

The trail is important to Belfast and also as a symbol of something good that is happening throughout the state, said Ian Stewart, Executive Director of the Land Trust. "For so long, many of Maine's towns turned away from the rivers, which were smelly and dirty," he said. "Turning back toward nature, right in town, is wonderful."

Four preserves within the Greenway are conserved by the Land Trust while two properties are owned by the City. All are dedicated for trail use. They include:

- **Stephenson Preserve** -

An eight-acre property acquired in 2000 was our first Greenway project.

- **Hall Conservation Easement** -

17 acres protected in 2003, including 650 feet along the river.

- **Stover Preserve** - 45-acre preserve established in 2004 featuring 1,600 feet of river frontage with a 1.5-mile loop trail.

- **Head of Tide Preserve** - 92-acre farm purchased in 2009 with 2,460 feet along the river with two miles of trails.

- **City of Belfast Ski Slope Property**—The Land Trust maintains a one-mile trail on this City property.

- **City of Belfast** - In 2015, the City bought a 2-acre river-side parcel with a dilapidated building to establish a trail-side rest location with improved public river access, along the Rail Trail.



said that when they learned that the city of Belfast wanted to build a recreational trail across the driveway of their rural home, they weren't very impressed.

"I was against it at first," Paulette Frye said. But earlier this summer when the trail was surfaced with a layer of fine stone dust and opened for use, it didn't take long for the Fries to change their minds. "It's just perfection," Paulette Frye said of the trail.

Her husband headed to City Hall to say something to Slocum, who worked persistently over the years to make the trail a reality,



## 30 Years of Stewardship

CARING FOR THE LAND TOGETHER

To steward something is to responsibly plan and manage a resource, in our case, land! Our stewardship program began when Bud Spalding, an early volunteer, thought he would like to do more than answer the phone in our first Rockport office. Shortly after we acquired the Hodson Preserve in 1992, our first preserve, he initiated a volunteer stewardship team to share the duties of keeping track of the Land Trust's conservation acquisitions. A master organizer, Spalding created a hierarchy of volunteer responsibilities to ensure tasks were completed on the ground and recorded in the office. Bud's wife Sonia also got involved in our stewardship program, helping as a volunteer coordinator and early member of the Beech Hill docents program. The Spaldings, among others, gave our organization a strong foundation in volunteer stewardship.

Our Stewardship Program, which oversees 56 conservation easements and 31 preserves now, has two permanent, full-time Stewardship Project Managers and full-time seasonal staff as well as a dedicated team of over 125 volunteers who work annually on an assigned easement or preserve. Committed involvement from volunteers is the most critical component of our stewardship program. More than half of our preserves and easements are cared for by volunteers — individuals who monitor 'their' property year-round and help with stewardship management tasks such as marking an easement boundary with a landowner and updating seasonal kiosk signage. Also, the Stewardship Managers host

weekly trail crews year-round with a regular corps who enjoy caring for the land as much as they enjoy staying active and social.

Maintaining trails and walking boundaries are the usual stewardship activities. Our volunteers also provide more behind-the-scenes details that have included hauling trash dumped at a trailhead, meticulously translating flowery script from an 1860's deed, soliciting local hardware stores for tool donations, and endless hours weed-whacking to maintain open and inviting trails throughout the summer. Volunteers are intrinsic to our work, offering skilled expertise, hours of labor, and valued commitment to the mission.

### Spalding Bridge Dedication



On July 1st, friends and family of Bud and Sonia Spalding gathered at the bridge on the Hodson Preserve in Camden to honor and commemorate the Spaldings' unwavering dedication to stewardship over the past 25 years. They are stewards in the truest sense of the word.

The Land Trust has taken on many creative stewardship projects over the years. We rehabilitated and maintain the 100-year old stone hut at the top of Beech Hill, are committed to invasive knotweed eradication on the Ducktrap River (now in its eighth year), have partnered with several

organizations to establish and maintain a permaculture garden at Head of Tide Preserve in Belfast, worked with the City of Belfast to create the Rail Trail and most recently, committed to creating a nine-mile Round the Mountain Trail around Ragged Mountain, our largest undertaking yet.

And we know that every trail we create and each sign we place needs to be maintained. Now, more than ever, we call on volunteer stewards to keep our trails cleared, our signs upright, and our easements monitored. There is always room on our teams for more, come join us!



# Letter from the Director

## Many Hands

Some of my favorite Land Trust stories over the past decade are about the wide variety of people who have demonstrated their commitment to lands we’ve conserved. Caring for the land has been and will continue to be a community effort, relying on committed long-term volunteers, observant loyal hikers and even first-time visitors.

There is one fellow, for instance, who has been walking the Ducktrap Preserve along Route 52 for years, cleaning up trash. No one ever asked him to do this, but he says it seems like the right thing to do. Then there are the Simonton Quarry Preserve Stewards, who, after one of their routine property visits, brought me the 85 cents or so that they generated from the returnables found along the road. It was the Land Trust’s money, they said. Many of the people who have helped the Land Trust’s stewardship program the most are those volunteers who work tirelessly to remove invasive plants, mark boundaries, blaze trails, or build kiosks. Last year we estimated our total volunteer stewardship effort since the Land Trust was established would match the equivalent of an additional full-time staff member annually!

Caring for the 10,000+ acres of land we’ve protected since 1986 is definitely a community effort. Thank you to each and everyone who has volunteered time, supported our stewardship program financially, or has simply kept an eye out to the benefit of one of our preserves.

Ian Stewart, Executive Director



## Round the Mountain Gains Momentum



Clean Water. Open Space.  
Recreation. *Forever.*

## What Do We Protect: Conserving Public Benefits

Nearly every week of the year, our Land Trust receives calls from people interested in exploring the potential conservation of some piece of land along the western side of Penobscot Bay. We receive all types of inquiries from landowners, abutters, and partner organizations eager to discuss what alternative futures might exist for a specific piece of land.

Given the huge number of potential projects we hear about, however, carefully selecting which projects to pursue is hugely important to maintain an effective organization. Our first step for any possible project is to meet with a landowner to hear what their goals are and to introduce the range of conservation options that might be available for a particular piece of land, including donations, conservation easements and land purchase.

Next, staff and members on the Land Acquisition Committee meet to review the

merits of each potential project based upon one basic measure - public benefit. A detailed criteria worksheet is completed to determine which projects warrant the long-term involvement of the Land Trust. We explore how the involvement of the Land Trust in a project will help secure permanent public benefits for the community. Examples include clean water, expanded outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, sustainable forestry, and scenic beauty. While we are willing to meet with all landowners interested in discussing conservation options, the purpose of this careful review process is for the Land Trust to select and pursue only those projects that will have significant public benefits for the communities we serve.

To assist our focus on maximizing the impact of our work, the Land Trust has also designated five ‘Focus Areas’ deemed to be of the highest conservation value in our service region. These geographic areas are selected

through a comprehensive GIS-based planning process, done every 10-15 years, because of their significant range of public benefits. Once designated, these areas are essentially ‘pre-approved’ for conservation projects. This allows us to concentrate as many of our resources as possible in crucial areas. Recent examples of projects stemming from the Focus Area approach include the Belfast Rail Trail, part of the Passagassawakeag Greenway Focus Area and the proposed Round the Mountain Collaboration, part of the Bald & Ragged Mountains Focus Area. We are also working on a project around Hurds Pond which aims to protect high-value wetlands and is part of our long-standing Hurds Pond Focus Area.

Making choices can sometimes be challenging but we are committed to conservation and stewardship of the most important areas of western Penobscot Bay. We look forward to talking with you about how a potential project might fit into that vision.



CATHY AND LYNDON MORGAN, AT HURDS POND

Successful land conservation projects are the result of many people who share a deep appreciation for the land coming together to ensure that a special place is permanently protected. Our Land Trust frequently relies upon the combined efforts of many people in a community working together to make projects happen. However, there are projects that happen because of the intense commitment of a specific individual. For a landowner or lead donor, choosing to conserve a mountain, a farm, or a pond is an extremely meaningful way to make a long-term impact and to help ensure that their experience of a place will endure for generations to come.

For the past several years, Cathy Morgan, of Belfast, has served as one of the catalysts for conservation around Swanville’s Hurds Pond. Identified as a Focus Area of high conservation value by the Land Trust’s 2006 conservation planning process, Hurds Pond is a wild, undeveloped and highly scenic pond in Swanville that possesses a large area of high-value wildlife habitat, including an extensive area of lakeside

wetlands, very near Belfast. The 321-acre focus area includes the southern shores of the pond, and additional land surrounding the existing conservation land. We hope to preserve the spectacular water, forest, recreational, and wildlife habitat resources in the area and secure conservation of the entire pond.

Pursuing any large and ambitious conservation area, such as Hurds Pond, requires time, patience, and significant financial resources. Cathy stepped forward and expressed to the Land Trust that she would like to act as a lead investor for a project of significance, which might not be possible without her support. Twice, in the past two years, Cathy has made significant leadership gifts to the Land Trust with the intention of providing the Land Trust the power to act when the opportunity arises to further the conservation of Hurds Pond. “It has been a privilege to be part of Coastal Mountains Land Trust” said Cathy Morgan, “I’m proud to be in the company of people dedicated to working to preserve land forever.”

Snow Bowl. Joining a trail recently completed at the Snow Bowl facility, it is now possible to do a lovely three-mile loop, including the summit of Ragged Mountain, beginning and ending at the Snow Bowl parking area. Additionally, the Land Trust has continued to expand the multi-use hiking, mountain-biking and running trail access from the east side of the Snow Bowl. Today, there are more than six miles of trails available in the large area between the Rollins Road and the Camden Snow Bowl.

And the Land Trust has also been working hard to raise the funds necessary to complete the Round the Mountain Collaboration, including the acquisition of conservation easements on over 1,400 acres of land, the purchase of several remaining key parcels, and the construction of the nine-mile Round the Mountain Trail. Thanks to a host of enthusiastic early donors, we’ve successfully raised \$1.3 million towards our



FAMILY ENJOYING  
HEAD OF THE TIDE PRESERVE.



# 2015-16 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

## Zwartjes Volunteer Award

Each year the Zwartjes Volunteer Award is presented to an outstanding individual volunteer who has demonstrated extraordinary service to the Land Trust. This year, in the spirit of honoring our 30th anniversary, the award was given to two individuals, Brian Willson and Malcolm White, who have each been involved with the Land Trust since our earliest days.



### Brian Willson

Brian Willson was one of the founding board members in 1986. Since then, he has been involved with many different aspects of the organization including his design, editing, and photography skills. Most recently, he has become known for his steadfast commitment to hike Beech Hill with his dog Jack 365 days a year. He maintains a blog to document his daily experience and he also keeps the office informed as he monitors our most popular trail system for any work that needs doing while also picking up litter. To bring the Land Trust’s mission to audiences not familiar with our work, Brian has given several presentations around the Midcoast about the birds and natural wonders of Beech Hill. We look forward to many more years working with Brian.



### Malcolm White

Malcolm White started volunteering with the Land Trust in the early days, when our stewardship program was just taking shape under the leadership of Bud Spalding. Serving as a team captain, Malcolm started organizing volunteers to build trails and bridges, install signs, and doing all of the things that make Land Trust preserves accessible to so many people. He and his wife Nancy are the stewardship monitors of two conservation easements on Beauchamp Point and have been for more than twenty years. Malcolm has also recently joined the Board of Directors and will serve for a three-year term.

Thank you both for your many years of dedicated service.

## 30th Anniversary Highlights

### LAND PROTECTION

#### Round the Mountain Collaboration, Ragged Mountain, Camden, Rockport & Hope

We signed a four-year agreement to purchase conservation easements on 1,405 acres owned by the Maine Water Company and then launched a \$4.2 million campaign with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to protect this beautiful land and build the nine-mile Round the Mountain Trail.

#### Breslin-Richenaker Preserve, Northport

Generously gifted through the will of Elizabeth Breslin, this beautiful waterfront property abutting our Newman Preserve in Northport makes it possible to enjoy a scenic hike from the parking lot on Beech Hill Road to the shore of Pitcher Pond.

#### Littlefield Preserve, Belfast

With their donation of 25 acres along Belfast’s Goose River, Evelyn and Carroll “Butch” Littlefield guaranteed that the habitat and scenery along the final section of a great paddle from Swanville to Belfast will be protected forever.

### STEWARDSHIP & TRAILS

#### Beech Hill Stewardship Improvements

In honor of the 100th anniversary of Beech Nut, the Land Trust completed fundraising to ensure that its flagship preserve continues to shine for many years to come. Thanks to generous donors, we’ve begun making improvements including the addition of a new blueberry winnower and completing the rehabilitation of the Beech Nut Historic District.

#### Belfast Rail Trail along the Passagassawakeag

Begun more than a decade ago, the Belfast Rail Trail project has come to fruition! Working with the City of Belfast, the Land Trust was thrilled to open the 2.2 mile multi-use rail trail this summer.

#### Hosmer Brook Trail Expansion, Camden

Our volunteer trail crew extended the existing Hosmer Brook Trail, which begins at the Camden Snow Bowl, to connect to the Georges Highland

Path. Hikers can now enjoy a three-mile round trip hike to the ridgeline of Ragged Mountain.

#### Main Stream Preserve Trail, Stockton Springs

This new two-mile round trip trail exploring the Main Stream in Stockton Springs, is a great place to see wildlife and enjoy the scenic views of this valley.

#### Peggy’s Path, McLellan-Poor Preserve, Northport

Thanks to volunteer support and the generosity of Elisabeth Wolfe and Michael Cuning’s family, the Land Trust installed this beautiful new trail through the woods on the south side of the Belfast Reservoir near Herrick Road in Northport.

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

#### Community Events

Hundreds of families and children enjoyed a record number of events hosted by the Land Trust in honor of our 30th Anniversary including our 1st Polar Plunge and our 14th Free Blueberry Pick. Highlights included three musical Arts of the Hill events at Beech Nut and the 4th Annual Kites & Ice Cream festival.

#### Educational Programming

Led by Board Member Roger Rittmaster, the Land Trust hosted an expanded series of natural history walks and talks under the expanded outings program titled Coastal Mountains Nature Program. Our volunteer-led Beech Nut docent program also continued through the year, allowing us to open Beech Nut for visitors to enjoy.

#### Activities with Youth

We continued to engage with youth through the schools, have an ongoing partnership with the Restorative Justice program, and had expanded internship opportunities. We had a great time working with the 7th graders at Camden-Rockport Middle School studying rare and unusual natural community types at six different Land Trust Preserves. We were also honored to be chosen as the recipient winner of the funds raised through the same middle school’s annual Penny War!

## Financial Report, Fiscal 2015-16

Coastal Mountains Land Trust has maintained its strong financial position during the most recent fiscal year:

69% of our expenditures was for program delivery, 11.7% went to management costs, and 19.3% for fundraising. Note: The increased fundraising costs this fiscal year were the result of our investment in a grant writing professional to supplement our Round the Mountain campaign efforts.

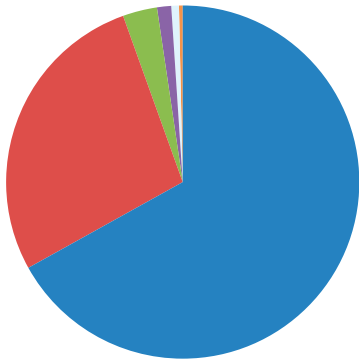
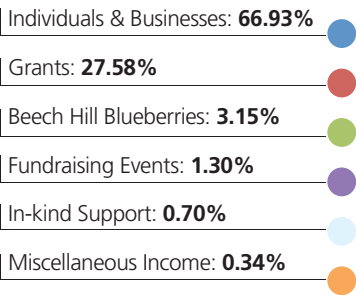
The following summary is derived from our annual audit. Copies of the IRS form 990 are available on our website (coastalmountains.org, under the Key Documents tab) or at the Land Trust office.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES			
REVENUE	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16	Change
Contributions and Support	\$701,385.00	\$ 634,411.00	\$ (66,974.00)
Special Events	\$9,001.00	\$ 12,296.00	\$ 3,295.00
Product Sales	\$2,425.00	\$ 1,557.00	\$ (868.00)
Beech Hill Farm Income	\$28,044.00	\$ 28,283.00	\$ 239.00
Grants and Contracts	\$224,275.00	\$ 261,464.00	\$ 37,189.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$3,752.00	\$ 3,237.00	\$ (515.00)
Investment Income	\$53,448.00	\$ 49,882.00	\$ (3,566.00)
Contributions of Property	\$1,712.00	\$ 7,525.00	\$ 5,813.00
In-Kind Contributions	\$18,563.00	\$ 6,630.00	\$ (11,933.00)
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$1,042,605.00	\$ 1,005,285.00	\$ (37,320.00)
EXPENSES			
Land Acquisition	\$132,588.00	\$ 121,752.00	\$ (10,836.00)
Impairment Reductions	\$391,115.00	\$ 108,395.00	\$ (282,720.00)
Community Engagement	\$68,178.00	\$ 63,332.00	\$ (4,846.00)
Stewardship	\$175,152.00	\$ 191,885.00	\$ 16,733.00
General Administration	\$107,598.00	\$ 82,716.00	\$ (24,882.00)
Fundraising	\$125,597.00	\$ 136,228.00	\$ 10,631.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000,228.00	\$ 704,308.00	\$ (295,920.00)
NET ASSETS			
Change in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	\$13,848.00	\$ 65.00	\$ (13,783.00)
Net Realized & Unrealized Gain on Investments	\$166,238.00	\$ (134,498.00)	\$ (300,736.00)
CHANGE IN ASSETS	\$222,463.00	\$ 152,244.00	\$ (70,219.00)
NET ASSETS AT END OF FISCAL YEAR	\$5,102,807.00	\$ 5,255,051.00	\$152,244.00

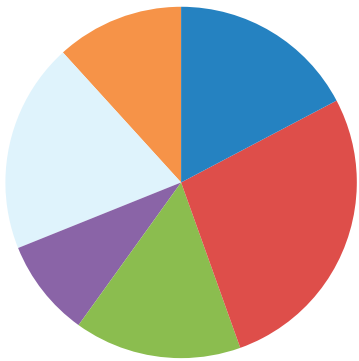
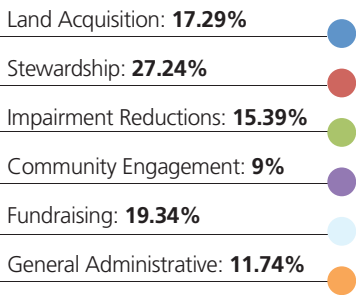
Note: When the Land Trust acquires land for conservation, it places permanent restrictions ('impairments') on it that restrict almost all forms of development. When we report the value of the land we own, the Land Trust must account for the difference in value between the land's purchase price and its' market value with the restrictions in place. This reduction in value is called the 'Impairment Reduction.' From year to year, depending on the number and size of completed conservation projects, the difference in impairment reductions has a significant effect on total expenses.

## SOURCES

### SOURCES OF OPERATING FUNDS



### PROGRAM EXPENSES

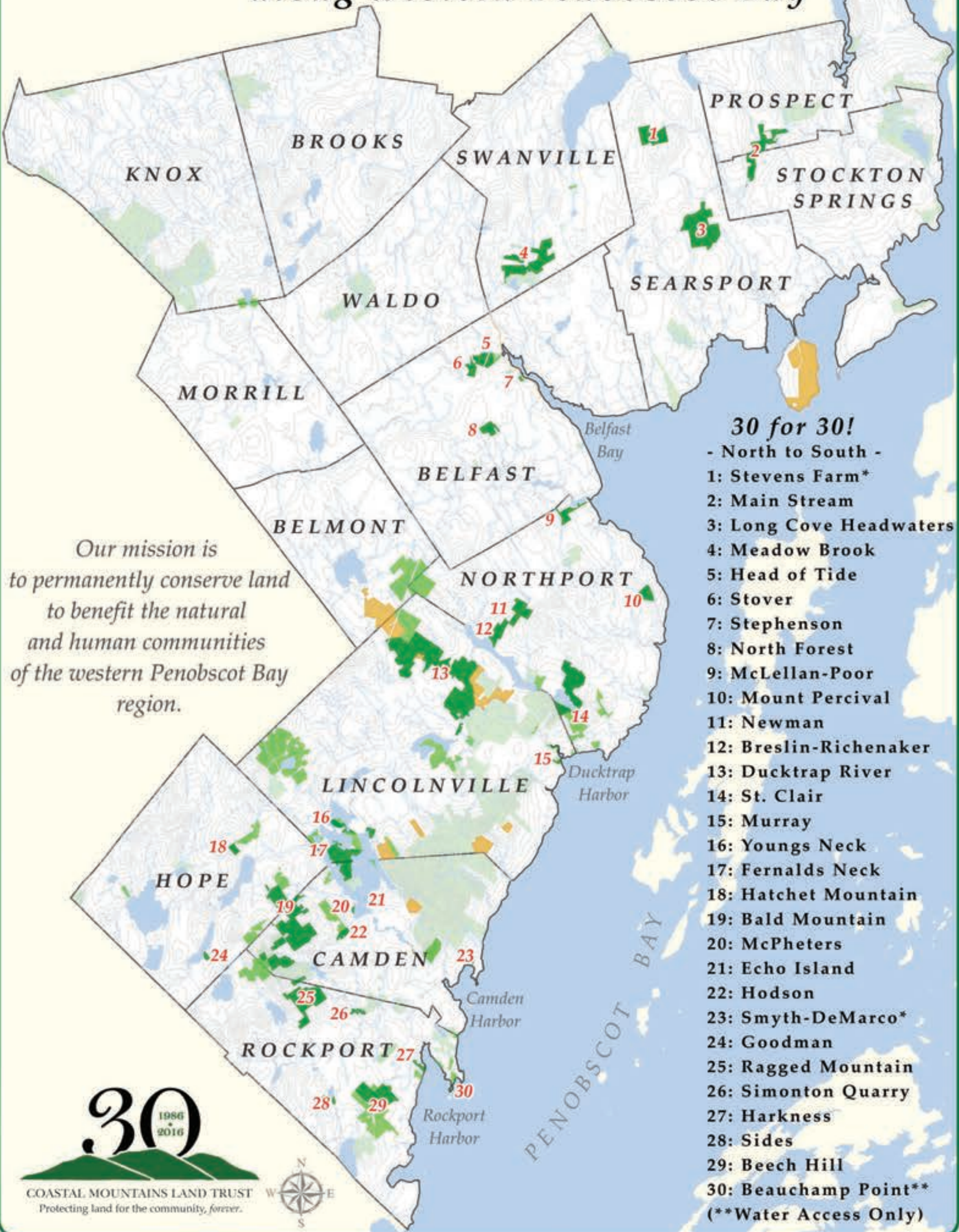


Thanks to the many members, friends and donors who helped us this fiscal year. There were 900 different individuals as well as 38 businesses, 23 foundations and 10 organizations that provided financial support. We also have 125 members who are in our Summit Circle.



# 30 Years of Conservation

## along western Penobscot Bay



30  
1986  
2016

COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST  
Protecting land for the community, forever.



0 2 4 6 8 Miles



# Honoring Our Roots: Farm and Historic Improvements Continue

Thanks to the leadership support provided by the three grandsons of Beech Nut’s original owner, John Gribbel, the Land Trust has been able to close out its 100th Anniversary Campaign and begin planning for the replacement of the dilapidated gateway and stone wall at the foot of the road to the top of Beech Hill Preserve. A replica of the architecturally striking original was an important campaign goal when we kicked off the campaign in 2014. Once we secured the family pledge to make that a reality, we knew the campaign was a success! Work on the gates will begin in 2017.

Over \$200,000 was raised and numerous other goals have been met and finalized including completing the structural and aesthetic rehabilitation of the 100+-year-old sod-roofed stone hut created in 1914 by noted Norwegian landscape

architect Hans O. Heistad and resurrected from ruin in 2007. The hut and its surroundings are listed on the National Historic Register.

Last spring foundation work for the veranda wall was completed along with refurbishment of the interior stonework. We installed replica chandeliers modeled on one of the originals that belongs to member Bonnie D’Orsay. Joel Wentworth of Union copied it and spent countless hours pounding raw iron into shape. The final interior touches for Beech Nut include the installation of slate floors (completed in early October) and we will be creating additional interpretive signs inside and out.

Another important part of the campaign was an investment in Beech Hill’s blueberry farm. Members support the farm by ordering ten-pound boxes of berries before the season begins which is one

of the most popular member-benefits.

For the blueberry farm to be self-sustaining, we needed to expand the harvest capacity. A volunteer team of five worked through April to add an addition to the blueberry barn and a larger winnower was installed before the start of the 2016 season, made by Maine Blueberry Equipment Co. in Columbia Falls. With the new winnower, we were able to process more blueberries in less time, sometimes with as many as eight people on the final pick-over line. The smaller machine had only allowed for four people to work at one time on the conveyor belt. Our MOFGA-certified organic blueberries sell from the preserve farm stand and this summer, we sold 7,400 pounds of blueberries, up from 6,347 last year! Customers’ positive reviews confirmed how our staff felt - that this season’s harvest was the best yet.



RHYAN PAQUEREAU

## Land Trust benefits from new internship

This past summer, Coastal Mountains Land Trust was fortunate to be chosen as one of the host sites for the first year of the Maine Land Trust Network Stewardship Internship Program. The program aims to provide local land trusts and local Maine conservation students with an internship that benefits both. Funding provided by Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) paid for the internships and provided a week of training for the interns before sending them out to land trusts throughout the state.

Rhyan Paquereau, a junior from Biddeford studying Parks and Forest Resources at Unity College, was selected to work with us this summer. Here are some of Rhyan’s words about his experience:

“I can say with confidence that my internship with CMLT was the best job I have had... I had the opportunity to work with such an outstanding

group of people doing such meaningful work. I was able to work in the woods nearly every day, where I learned new skills and sharpened old ones.

“My daily tasks typically included trail maintenance and construction, collecting baseline data, monitoring conservation easements, working with volunteer groups, and the endless odd jobs that come with preserve maintenance. With my ultimate goal to work in the field of conservation and land management in Maine, my objective for this internship was to find out if working for a land trust would be something I would like. Thanks to my time with CMLT, I can definitely say that it is work I would like to return to.”

Thank you, Rhyan, for your great work! Many thanks also to Maine Coast Heritage Trust for providing this unique opportunity.

## New Trail Open in Stockton Springs!



Over the past year, the Belfast area field crew has been working hard to build a new trail at the Main Stream Preserve in Stockton Springs. Located at the end of Sherer Road, the trail starts down an old woods road, providing visitors with an easy walk and great views of the stream. After a quarter mile, the trail narrows and explores different forest communities, gullies, beaver dams,

and glacial erratics. The trail is approximately two miles in length from start to finish.

To get there from Belfast, take Route 1 north. Take a left on Harris Road and continue until Old County Road. Take a left on Old County and an immediate right onto Sherer Road. Park on the left at the end of the road, avoiding the private driveway.

## Staff Transitions: Goodbye Alden, Hello Hale!



Stewardship Project Manager Alden Mead left the Land Trust at the end of September to pursue a new opportunity. He will be traveling throughout North and South America building climbing walls with Entre Prises USA, a company based in Bend, Oregon. While extremely excited for the many adventures that lie ahead, he will miss the many people that he has met and learned so much from at the Land Trust.

Hale Morrell will join the team at the end of October. A native of the White Mountains of New Hampshire, Hale has spent many years living along the Maine

coast, a place that inspired her to focus her education on promoting land and wildlife conservation. A graduate of both Yale School of Forestry and College of the Atlantic, she has worked with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, West Virginia Land Trust, and most recently with Acadia National Park, as a Biological Science Technician where she worked extensively in the field - GIS mapping, birding, and surveying. In her free time she enjoys hiking, climbing, paddling, birding, and reading about early naturalists and explorers.



# Susan Alexander Loyalty Society

As a Rockport town employee in 1986, Susan was in the position to type a press release about a new organization that was being formed to help protect what is now known as Beech Hill Preserve. The Camden-Rockport Land Trust was in its infancy and the press release was as much about the conservation easement as about the new Land Trust. It was being formed because Maine Coast Heritage Trust had encouraged the creation of a local organization to serve as the holder of the land that had been saved from development through a private sale. Susan sent the release to the local papers and also privately sent a donation check to the fledging organization. The Board Chair of the day was stunned to receive their first donation before it was publicly announced in the newspaper. It was an incredibly affirming gift and in her classic way, Susan merely says, “well, I liked the sound of the idea and thought they could use some support.” And truly, she hasn’t wavered from her belief in the organization now known as Coastal Mountains Land Trust, nor has she ever missed a year of giving her financial support for this ‘good idea.’ In addition to being a donor, Susan served on the original Board of Directors and has been our organization’s recording secretary for the last 30 years. If there is someone who knows, loves, and appreciates this Land Trust, it is Susan. And we are thrilled to honor her dedication and commitment to our values and principles by establishing a Loyalty Society in her name.

All donors who give continuously for ten or more years will be automatically included in the Society and we will be sending out the first induction letters in the spring of 2017, as we enter our 31st year.

Thank you Susan, for everything.



SUSAN ALEXANDER

## STAFF PICKS: FALL HIKES



### Hatchet Mountain, Hope

This ¾ mile trail traverses the south side of Hatchet Mountain, providing sweeping views of the lakes, forests, hay fields and ocean below. Get a bird’s-eye view of Hope’s changing canopy.

### Belfast Rail Trail, Belfast

Hop on the rail trail at one of three trailheads for a smooth walk or easy bike ride along the Passagassawakeag River for just over two miles. There are many shore birds and colorful trees to admire.

### Meadow Brook Preserve, Hawk-Fry Tract, Swanville

This one-mile trail wanders through the forested property to the rock dam on Meadow Brook, offering beautiful untouched views of the wetlands surrounding Hurds Pond. Think golden yellow wetland grasses.

Check the website ([coastalmountains.org](http://coastalmountains.org)) or call the office (236-7091) for trail details, directions and further suggestions.

## Many Join in for Anniversary Celebrations

Starting with the Camden Harbor Polar Plunge in late January, over 1,300 members and friends participated in 25 different events throughout the year. To achieve that, 77 volunteers provided nearly 2,000 hours of support. So far this year, 130 people decided to join the Land Trust – welcome!

Flying kites at Beech Hill, paddling at Knight’s Pond, or enjoying a docent-led walk along Fernalds Neck in Lincolnville - there was something for everyone this year as we tried to make sure we connected with different parts of our service area and offered varied activities for young people, families and groups. The theme for Arts on the Hill this summer at Beech Hill was music and we had three different performances ranging from children playing violins in the Suzuki program at Bay Chamber Concerts to singing from the Voice of Twenty acapella group and contra-dancing with music provided by Sassafras Stomp.

Maine Master Naturalist and Land Trust Board Member Roger Rittmaster started a monthly program called Coastal Mountains Nature Program that explored a different location every month with a volunteer professional available to explain lichens, mushrooms, vernal pools, and butterflies among the many topics of discovery. Usually 20-30 people attended Roger’s walks and talks.

Over 100 people joined us at the Annual Meeting in late August as we looked through images and told stories of 30 years conserving 10,000+ acres across 30 preserves. We hope you counted yourself among some of these different activities this year. Our membership now tallies over 1,500 individuals and organizations.

Thank you all for your continued and sustained support of the Land Trust.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GERRITSEN

**Save the Date: February 4th**  
Coastal Mountains Polar Plunge in Camden Harbor

## Would you consider using your retirement savings to support land stewardship?

RMD (required mandatory distribution) of IRA charitable tax break becomes permanent

One of our stalwart stewardship volunteers, Jon Bahrt, brought this tax law change to the attention of the Land Trust in 2014. He wasn’t quite old enough for it to benefit him but he was keeping his eye on Congress in the hopes that it would be a permanent option by the time he was ready – and it was! He is now able to contribute to the Land Trust in a significant way that benefits us both. “This is the best way I know to serve,” he said when I asked. “It is simple and easy” and something he is able to do generously.

Congress voted last year and President Obama signed into law the package that makes permanent the rule that “qualified charitable distributions” (QCDs) from Individual Retirement Account (IRA) which are given directly to charities, can be excluded from income of up to \$100,000 per person, per year.

These distributions can be a convenient way to support the Land Trust and get a tax break while meeting tax requirements for IRAs. Normally, the money you’re required to withdraw gets added to your taxable income. Under this rule, however, beginning at age 70½, you can have all or part of your distribution, made directly from your IRA, to a qualified charity. Be aware that you can’t also claim the qualified distribution as a charitable tax deduction—the amount is simply excluded from your taxable income. As Jon explained in simple terms: there are six questions you need to answer, the charity needs to qualify and there is the age restriction.

If this sounds like something you might want to investigate, please contact our Development Director, Kathy Young.



### Honor/Memorial Gift Donations since April 2016

*To celebrate Jan Pendleton & Steve Kahn’s  
40th Wedding Anniversary:*  
Victor Schmitt and Karen Shoos

*To celebrate Ron and Carol Harrell’s 50th Wedding Anniversary:*  
Bruce L. Bird, Nan Borton, Paul and Jeni Brizard,  
Lois Nelson Curran, Margaret Harrell, Trish A. Jakielski,  
Marilyn and Gary Langley, Sharon and David Page,  
Jennifer M. Rodgers, Susan Schwan, Danae S. Snyder,  
William and Bonnie Ward

*In Memory of Jerry Savitz*  
Mrs. Ben Hudson

*In Memory of C. Donald Briggs, III*  
Briggs & Wholey, LLC

## Coastal Mountains Land Trust

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



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President,** James A. Krosschell

**Vice President,** Thomas R. Moore

**Treasurer,** E. Daniel Johnson

**Secretary,** Lys McLaughlin Pike

**Directors:** Roy J. Call, Courtney Collins, David D. Noble, Roger S. Rittmaster, Nicholas C. Ruffin, Darby C. Urey, Malcolm White

#### STAFF

**Ian Stewart,** Executive Director

**Kathy Young,** Development Director

**Polly Jones,** Office Manager

**Jackie Stratton,** Stewardship Project Manager

**Hale Morrell,** Stewardship Project Manager

**Scott Dickerson,** Land Acquisition Coordinator

Editor: Kathy Young; Designer: Fran Gonzalez;  
Printer: Camden Printing. Printed on recycled paper.