

# Landscapes

THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

SPRING 2014

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

Serving the communities of Rockport, Camden, Hope, Lincolnville, Northport, Belmont, Belfast, Morrill, Waldo, Swanville, Brooks, Knox, Searsport, Stockton Springs, and Prospect.

Permanently conserving land to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay since 1986

## We welcome our new Executive Director!

Doug Sensenig steps into his new role at the Land Trust



**D**oug Sensenig officially took the reins as Executive Director on February 15, following Scott Dickerson's retirement from the position. In the weeks prior to Scott's departure, the two worked together closely to ensure an easy transition. But Doug doesn't have much trouble fitting in around here. He's a familiar face, having left his position as Board Vice President to assume the director role. Not only that, his roots have been in Camden for over 30 years, where he lives now with his wife Jennifer Bell and their daughter Kate.

Doug grew up and attended high school outside of Philadelphia but got to Maine as quickly as he could. He attended Bates College, where he earned a B.A. in English, and the University of Maine School of Law, where he earned his J.D. Land conservation is in his blood. Doug's mother was a long-time Board member, and Doug himself helped draft and negotiate one of the first conservation easements held by the Land Trust in 1987, on his family's property on Fernalds Neck in Lincolnville. In addition to that maiden easement, he has served six years on the Land Trust's Board of Directors, including terms as President and Vice President.

Doug's additional experience in land conservation leadership extends far beyond western Penobscot Bay. For two years he served as Executive Director of the Hawai'i Island Land Trust in Kealahou, Hawai'i, where he guided that organization through a merger with three

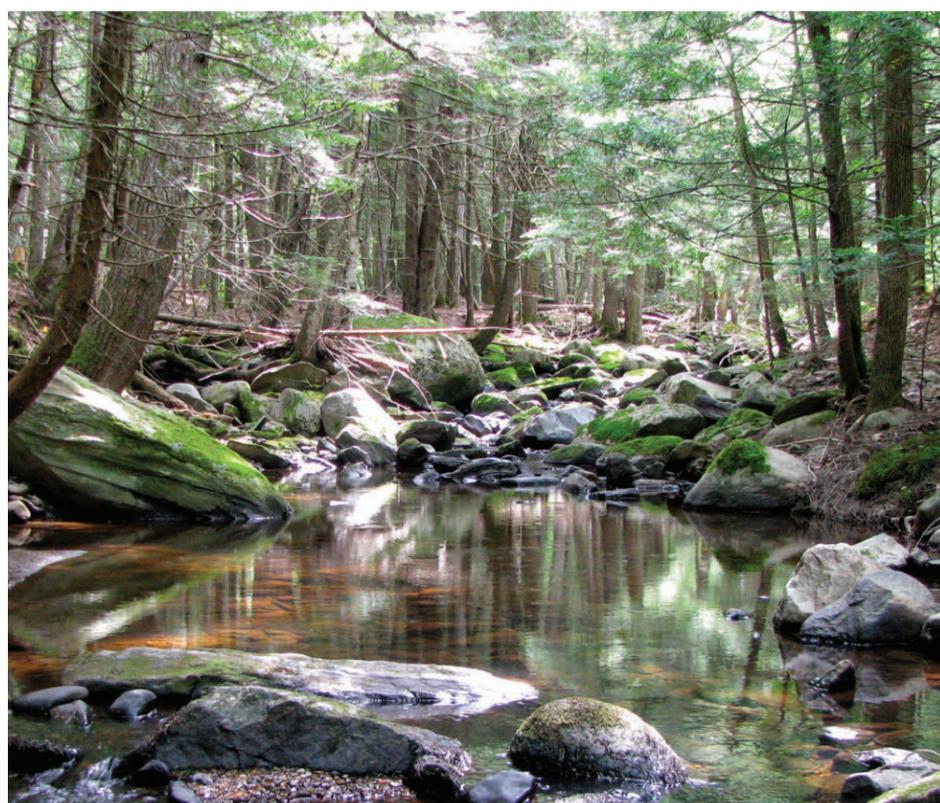
others to form one state-wide land trust. He's also worked as an attorney and an investment adviser – more experience that will serve him well in his oversight and management of the Land Trust.

"Coastal Mountains Land Trust has been a part of my life for over 25 years," Doug shared. "It's been a story of people of all backgrounds coming together to make sure we pass on the same beautiful places that were left to us. It's a story of joy, remarkable success, and a lot of great laughs. I'm honored to help carry the torch that has been so ably

borne by Scott Dickerson over the years. Land conservation is vitally important to our communities. It's not about fighting change—it's about communities changing for the better."

He'll start right away on his goal to change the community for the better. During his tenure Doug plans to emphasize collaboration, trail building and, of course, land protection. Working alongside fellow nonprofits, Doug hopes to collaborate with local schools to protect land adjacent to their campuses, providing students and educators with easy access to outdoor classrooms. He also plans to work with the communities in our service region to develop more trails for recreation and, where possible, to link our preserves with existing public spaces. Finally, Doug understands that the crucial function of the Land Trust is conserving land. He echoes the guidelines that have led us to conserve over 9,300 acres so far and prioritize critical habitat, clean water, and the scenic beauty that makes people proud to live in this area.

Scott Dickerson, our former Executive Director, agrees that Doug's up for the task: "Doug offers a complete set of core attributes to the Land Trust. His experience in financial management, law, and land trust operations are a great complement to his long personal commitment to conservation. We have the leadership we need for the next advances in delivering our mission to the people of western Penobscot Bay."



## Two New Parcels Create Key Connections

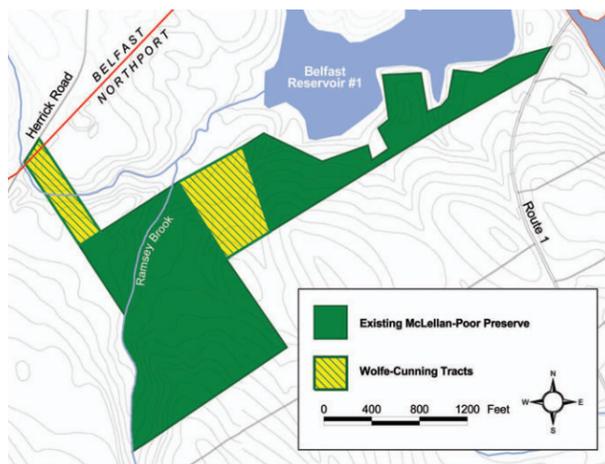
**W**hen we received the McLellan-Poor Preserve in 2007, a bequest from Hugh McLellan Russell facilitated by Maine Coast Heritage Trust, it came in two parts, both located near the Belfast-Northport town line. The larger section stretched from U. S. Route 1, northerly along the Belfast

Water Company's Little River Reservoir. The second section was an isolated block located a few hundred yards further north. The gap between the two parcels prevented the creation of a viable trail for hikers, snowshoers, skiers, and other explorers.

Thanks to Elisabeth Wolfe and Michael Cunning, that

issue has now been resolved. In December they sold us two parcels of land that not only connected both sections of the preserve, but also connected the preserve with the Herrick Road. As part of the sale, they generously donated a portion of the value of one of the parcels, facilitating the entire process.

This transaction will make it possible for us to build a four-season trail from Route 1 to the Herrick Road, with trailhead parking areas and information kiosks at both ends. The trail will wind through about a mile of varied terrain, deeply incised by brooks and rolling uplands, all forested in diverse, mixed-age stands: a lovely walk in the woods close to the neighborhoods of Belfast.



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"Not only can we celebrate Elisabeth's and Michael's generous help in connecting the preserve," said Scott Dickerson, our Land Acquisition Coordinator, "but this is the second critical deal we've made with them! In 1996 they helped launch our very successful effort to protect the Ducktrap River by selling to us one of the first parcels for that project."

During 2014 we'll evaluate the best route for the trail, which will traverse the irregular terrain and cross the property's many brooks. We expect to build the trail, its parking areas, and kiosks for a grand opening in 2015. The preserve is currently open to the public, but there are no improvements for public access.



Members of the Land Acquisition Committee conduct a routine site visit to assess the property's natural resources.

## This fundraiser's for the birds!

Birds of Your Backyard, Season 3

**W**ant to know what birds are singing outside your bedroom window each morning? Curious about what's nesting in that maple tree or visiting your feeders?

Retired wildlife biologist Ron Joseph will be available once again to conduct professional bird surveys in the month of June for interested landowners living in our service region.

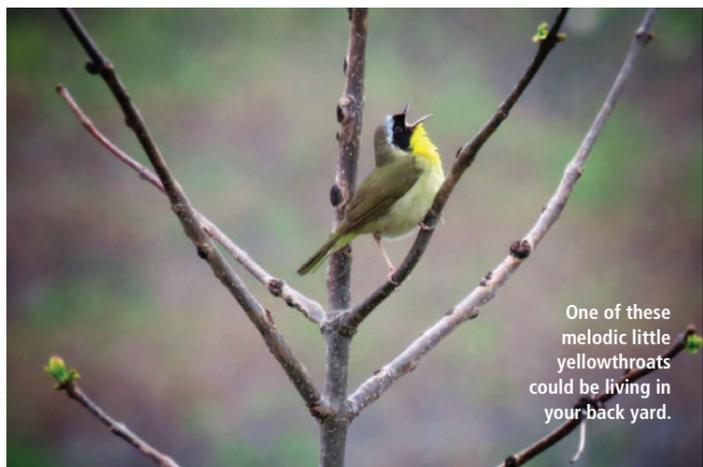
For the \$300 survey fee, you'll receive:

- a complete list of all bird species Ron finds on your land in his comprehensive, on-foot survey (by sight and by sound—Ron has the keenest ears of any birder we know!), with unusual species noted
- an audio CD containing the songs of most of the birds on your list, to help you learn them for yourself
- an evaluation of your property as bird habitat, with suggestions for improvements so you can attract more birds and wildlife
- a matted, 8" x 10" color photograph of a bird species found on your property taken by local photographer Brian Willson (visit [maineseasons.com](http://maineseasons.com) to learn more).

And a Birds of Your Backyard survey need not be limited to one backyard: last spring Ron spent a morning surveying an entire Camden neighborhood!

"It was a lot of fun," said Ingrid Warren, who sponsored the survey and invited her neighbors along for the outing. "On a beautiful morning we scouted for birds in our various backyards and identified 31 different varieties, including shorebirds in nearby Sherman's Cove. Ron not only has an amazing ear for bird songs, he's also an engaging teacher. My personal favorite memento of the outing is Brian's striking photograph of an American Redstart perched on a branch of the oak tree near my garden."

The early bird gets the worm, so reserve Ron now for your June bird survey! To take advantage of this unique opportunity, please contact Development Director Kristen Lindquist at (207) 236-7091 or [kristenl@coastalmountains.org](mailto:kristenl@coastalmountains.org).



One of these melodic little yellowthroats could be living in your backyard.

BRIAN WILLSON

### BALD AND RAGGED MOUNTAINS CAMPAIGN, PHASE TWO

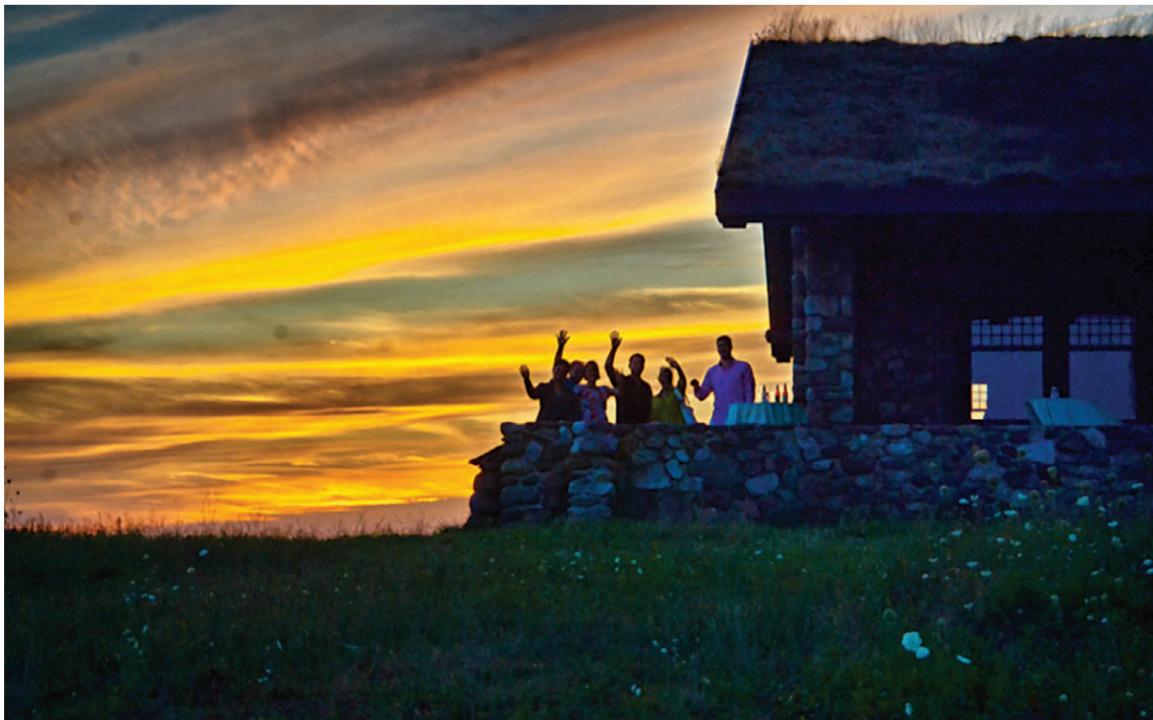
Progress as of 1 February 2014

Fundraising goal	\$3,000,000
Fundraising progress	\$1,789,135
Land conservation progress	1,685 acres – 49% of Bald and Ragged Mountains



MARK WALLACK

In 2013 we added 23 more acres to our Bald Mountain Preserve. With the help of many enthusiastic volunteers, we also made great progress on a new parking area and trailhead for the Bald Mountain Trail—watch for an announcement for an official trail opening there this summer. Thank you to all the donors and foundations who gave us their campaign support in the past year—especially an anonymous donor whose \$100,000 surprise gift will help fuel some very exciting future projects currently in the pipeline!



JAY LEECH

## Get yourself a hot ticket (or three!) and win big in our 3rd annual Raffle

An exclusive **Summit Sunset Party at Beech Nut** is **top prize** in our third annual Raffle. For one special night, the lucky winner and up to 40 guests will enjoy a classic summer party at the historic, sod-roofed hut atop Beech Hill in Rockport. You choose an elegant array of hors d'oeuvres or a sumptuous picnic dinner on any evening between July 8 and August 30. Food and beverage set-up is provided (state law prevents us from providing alcoholic beverages, but you can bring your own), plus a \$200 Hannaford gift card for extras, transportation up and down the hill, and invitations sent to all your guests.

**Second prize: Breakfast by the Bay Weekend Package for two at the Samoset Resort** in Rockport, including two nights of luxurious waterfront accommodations for two, accompanied by decadent breakfasts at La Bella Vita, the on-site restaurant, and access to all the Resort's spa facilities and amenities (see [www.samosetresort.com](http://www.samosetresort.com)).

**"Rick and I have thrown many parties, but that party up on the hill was unique... and really fun for a lot of people. We didn't have to do anything. It was beautifully done, everything was taken care of—the flowers, the food—and all we had to do was invite people and entertain them!"**

—Catherine Goggans,  
2013 Raffle Winner

**Third prize: Dinner for four at Saltwater Farm Café** in Rockport. Celebrate life around the proverbial table at one of the midcoast's premier restaurants showcasing the finest local ingredients through simple, seasonal dishes that honor their time and place. Peruse the current menu at [www.saltwaterfarm.com](http://www.saltwaterfarm.com).

**Fourth prize: Boat cruise for four in Penobscot Bay with Camden**

**Harbor Cruises.** Discover the Maine you can only see from the water! Cruise the spectacular coastline of Camden and Rockport in a classic wooden lobster boat. For more information on tours, scheduling, and other opportunities, visit [www.camdenharborcruises.com](http://www.camdenharborcruises.com).

**Fifth prize: Limited edition, 17" x 22" giclee print.** Bring a vision of Maine's natural beauty into your own home with an archival quality print of one of Brian Willson's breath-taking photographs. Learn more about Brian and his work at [www.maineseasons.com](http://www.maineseasons.com).

Only 150 tickets will be sold, at \$100 apiece. The winners will be drawn on Friday, May 30. To get your tickets for the Summit Sunset Party Raffle, please visit our website to download a ticket order form or call us at (207) 236-7091. All net proceeds from this benefit raffle will directly support our ongoing conservation programs.

# STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS



We had many volunteers help us with fall projects, including a group of Camden Hills Regional High School students in the Rising Tide program, students from the Zenith program, and members of West Bay Rotary, pictured here. Volunteer groups helped on the Hosmer Brook Trail on Ragged Mountain and worked to prepare the Bald Mountain Preserve for bigger changes coming this spring and summer.

## Special Thanks to...

- **Susan Alexander**, our tenacious recording secretary
- **Carol Chen**, for pro bono legal work
- **Amy Faunce**, our persevering Volunteer Coordinator
- **Randy Fein** and **Susan Pierce** of **Artfull Gifts** for their benefit support
- **Bruce Lively** and **Ann Rutherford**, for donating leashes to the Leash Lending Program
- **Dan Johnson**, for donating a chainsaw helmet
- **Peter Ruksznis**, for leading a Ducktrap salmon walk
- **Lee Stover**, for milling fallen chestnut timber
- **Kites & Ice Cream on Beech Hill**: Hildy Ellis, Amy Faunce, Trudi Hennemuth, Aleta McKeage, Barbara Spalding
- **Office support**: Mary Ellen Decato, Amy Faunce, Carol Harrell, Paul & Betty Killoran, Joan Merriam, Diana Rigg, Tracy Wickwire
- **Ragged Mountain Monitoring**: Hans Bengtsson, Phil Gaudet, Jeannie Hutchins, Dan Johnson, Ron Joseph, Roger Rittmaster
- **Stewardship Recordkeeping**: Amy Faunce, Carol Harrell
- **Trail work**: Hans Bengtsson, Phil Gaudet, Gary & Greta Gulezian, Dan Johnson, Wendy Krueger, Rick McIntyre, Aleta McKeage, Dick Merrick, Roger Rittmaster, Kerri Vacher, Malcolm White

The above list does not include the names of our **Board and Committee members**, who contribute their time and energy to the organization in so many different and essential ways and for whom we are always very grateful!

- **Adopt-A-Trail Sponsors**: Bank of America (Stover), Camden Real Estate (Bald Mountain), Micki Colquhoun – Real Estate (Beech Hill), In Honor of Leon Gorman (Harkness), In Memory of Richard C. Hennemuth (Ducktrap River), the Jochnick Family (Beech Hill), the Montgomery Family (Bald Mountain), In Memory of Richmond Smith (Hodson), Waterfront Restaurant (Beech Hill)
- **Take-A-Hike Sponsors**: Land Vest, Maine Sport Outfitters
- **In-kind Business Donors**: Camden Printing, Good Deeds, Samoset Resort, Whitelancer Web Development

### Land Trust Wish List

- leashes to loan at Beech Hill Preserve
- wildlife camera
- cash register

## Land Trust welcomes new stewardship staff

### Jackie Stratton assumes role of Stewardship Project Manager

Jackie Stratton found her way to a career in conservation on a path similar to many before her: through a childhood of playing outside. Jackie grew up in southern New Hampshire and spent her time hiking and kayaking around her hometown of Derry. This informed her initial passion for the outdoors so she ventured west for an education, to Colorado State University, where she earned a B.S. in Natural Resource Management with a minor in Watershed Science. Along with her education, the western Rockies offered Jackie the chance to explore her interests. Through work and play, she developed her true passion for conservation. For three years, Jackie researched restoration ecology techniques on degraded lands across the west, from Washington to Wisconsin. She joined the Wyoming Game and Fish Department as a fisheries technician and pursued her passion for aquatic environments, where she monitored native fish species in the headwaters of the Green River.



When it was time to move back East to be closer to home and family, Jackie knew she wanted to be on Maine's coast. She dove into local conservation efforts and worked as an AmeriCorps Environmental Educator, splitting her time between the Georges River and Medomak Valley Land Trusts, our neighbors to the south. She also worked as the Volunteer Coordinator for the Georges River Tidewater Association and, most recently, as a landscape technician.

Her experience has helped Jackie slip effortlessly into her new role as Stewardship Project Manager. She took over for Joe Zipparo in December of 2013 and is eager to become more acquainted with our trails, waterways, volunteers, and members.

## Beech Hill provides perfect site for owl release



Short-eared Owl at Avian Haven shortly before her release.



Wild and free once more, the owl wings her way to a nearby tree.

This past November we got an unusual request that we were particularly gratified to be able to fulfill. Avian Haven, a wild bird rehabilitation center in Freedom, was looking for a place to release a Short-eared Owl. A State raptor biologist had recommended our Beech Hill Preserve in Rockport as a good release site. The bird had been found in northern Maine in mid-October, hung up on a fence with a broken wing. Her migration from the Canadian tundra was interrupted for several weeks while her wing healed and she regained her strength. Beech Hill was perfect not only for its blueberry fields, suitable for a bird that prefers wide-open spaces, but also, the coastal location would assist her resumed journey southward.

On release day, Avian Haven volunteers Selkie O'Mira and Amy Campbell met up with our Development Director (and avid birder) Kristen Lindquist at Beech Hill, where Kristen offered access to a non-public part of the preserve for a quiet, drama-free release. When set free, the owl flew quickly and silently across the field, where she perched in a tree. She was not seen the next morning, hopefully already on her way to her wintering grounds south of Maine.

The owl had been given another chance at life by Avian Haven's skilled medical team. We were very proud to have been able to offer the conserved fields of Beech Hill as the ideal launching pad for her to resume her life in the wild.

## Members: Pre-order your Beech Hill Blueberries!

**Current members** are invited to participate once again in the popular blueberry pre-order program. Members may order ten-pound boxes of beautiful, MOFGA-certified organic Beech Hill blueberries, and we encourage you to act quickly! Last year we sold out of berries in just a couple of weeks. As always, blueberry sales benefit stewardship of the Beech Hill Preserve.



### Not a member?

If you are not yet a member but would like to pre-order berries now, please add a membership donation to your pre-order form.

If no order form is enclosed in this newsletter, email a request to [blueberries@coastalmountains.org](mailto:blueberries@coastalmountains.org) or call us at (207) 236-7091.

**Attention Juicers, Jammers and Vintners!** Interested in making blueberry juice, wine, or jam? The Beech Hill Blueberry Farm will have a minimum of 1,500 pounds of juice- and jam-grade organic lowbush blueberries for sale during the 2014 harvest. We'll sell all to one customer or consider smaller quantities. Please contact Jackie Stratton at (207) 236-7091.

**Special note:** This year, to guarantee a broad distribution to members, a pre-order limit of **three boxes per household** will be imposed. The order form has two sections: a pre-order section for up to three boxes, which requires advance payment, and a waitlist request section for those who'd like more than three boxes of berries if they're available.

## 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. Krossschell  
**Treasurer:** Bradley J. Hennemuth  
**Secretary:** Jay A. Freedman  
 Roy J. Call, Courtney Collins, Liv M. LiaBraaten, Thomas R. Moore, Lys McLaughlin Pike, Nicholas C. Ruffin

### STAFF:

**Executive Director:** Doug Sensenig  
**Development Director:** Kristen Lindquist  
**Membership Coordinator:** Ellen Skoczinski  
**Stewardship Director:** Ian Stewart  
**Stewardship Project Manager:** Jackie Stratton  
**Land Acquisition Coordinator:** Scott Dickerson

Landscape is published in March, June and October.  
 Editor: Ellen Skoczinski;  
 Designer: Miroslaw Jurek;  
 Printer: Camden Printing.  
 Printed on recycled paper.

## Summer Work Opportunities at Beech Hill Preserve

**Beech Hill Preserve & Farm Intern:** We're looking for a dedicated person to assist with all aspects of managing the Beech Hill Preserve and organic blueberry operation. Responsibilities include organic blueberry farm and harvest management, customer outreach, trail work, habitat maintenance, historic structure and scenic values preservation, and public outreach activities. Applicants should be willing and able to use small power equipment, work independently, be able to articulate the organization's mission to the public, and have an interest in sustainable agriculture. This multi-faceted conservation stewardship internship will involve a full time commitment from June through late August and include a stipend. Housing *may* be available if needed. Past Beech Hill Interns have gone on to promising futures, including work at other land trusts, and agricultural and forestry graduate programs. So you never know where an internship with us might lead you!



**Blueberry Rakers and Packers:** The Beech Hill Blueberry Farm needs several motivated, energetic individuals for hand raking, sorting, and packing organic blueberries during the summer harvest. A four-week commitment is required, starting in mid- to late July depending on when the berries ripen. Hours are irregular, dependent on weather and the vagaries of nature, but rakers can expect to work four hours/day, and packers six hours/day, five – six days/week.

For a complete description of these job opportunities, please contact Jackie Stratton, our Stewardship Project Manager, at (207) 236-7091 or [blueberries@coastalmountains.org](mailto:blueberries@coastalmountains.org). We're hoping to hire as soon as possible, so get in touch now if you're interested!

## 2014 EVENTS CALENDAR

Throughout the year we offer opportunities to explore and learn more about the landscape of the western Penobscot Bay region. For updates or further details on our events, please check our website and local newspapers or call us at (207) 236-7091. All events are free of charge.

\* Indicates child-friendly event. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

### Signs of Spring

#### Camden Public Library

**Tuesday, March 18, 7:00 – 8:30 PM**

Co-sponsored by Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (KLSWCD)  
Rebecca Jacobs, Education Coordinator for KLSWCD, will talk about the biological changes that come with spring.

### Survival Skills Workshop

#### Meadow Brook Preserve, Swanville

**Saturday, April 12, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM**

Co-sponsored by the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition  
Maine Master Naturalist Jason Chandler will teach participants improvisational outdoor survival skills in a natural setting.

### Astronomy on Beech Hill\*

#### Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**Wednesday, April 16, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

Co-sponsored by the Camden Public Library  
Children's librarian Miss Amy will share an evening of stories and stars, and the Library's telescope will be on hand to view the full moon and constellations.

### Head of Tide Quest Adventure\*

#### Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast

**Saturday, May 3, 10:00 - 11:30 AM**

Join us as we launch the third and latest Quest in our series! Children and families will follow along as we use clues to move through the preserve and learn about kid-friendly naturalist themes.

### 100 Years of Beech Nut

#### Rockport Public Library

**Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

We'll celebrate Beech Nut's centennial with this informative talk on the history of the stone hut and surrounding preserve, its architectural story, and the effort to rehabilitate the building to what it is today.

### Spring Bird Walk

#### Ducktrap River Preserve, Lincolnville

**Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 – 9:30 AM**

Co-sponsored with Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (BBWC)  
Join staff member Kristen Lindquist and BBWC's Cloe Chunn on this annual bird outing along the Ducktrap River and into the forested uplands.

### Summer Solstice Walk\*

#### Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**Friday, June 20, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

Come celebrate the longest day of the year! Bring a sunset picnic to Beech Nut, the historic hut atop Beech Hill.

### Beech Nut Birthday Party\*

#### Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**Friday, June 27, 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

It's Beech Nut's centennial, and we're throwing a party! Join us at the stone hut for cake and ice cream as we celebrate the historic hut's 100th birthday.

### Fern Walk

#### Ragged Mountain Preserve, Camden

**Thursday, July 10, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Co-sponsored by Knox-Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District (KLSWCD)  
Hildy Ellis, District Coordinator for KLSWCD, will teach participants how to identify a variety of fern species on this interpretive walk.

### Insect Safari\*

#### Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast

**Thursday, July 24, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

Co-sponsored by the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition  
Kathy Murray, entomologist for the Maine Department of Agriculture, leads this hands-on exploration of the fascinating world of insects that will take insect lovers of all ages through a variety of habitats in search of critters.

### Beech Hill Blueberry Picks\*

#### Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

##### Members Only Free Pick

**Saturday, August 2, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Our current members are invited to spend the day picking our MOFGA-certified organic blueberries. Not a member? Make a donation at the registration table and join the fun!

##### Public Free Pick

**Sunday, August 3, 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Pick your own blueberries at our annual free blueberry pick! This is the one day our organic blueberry fields are open to the public, so come enjoy the view and take home lots of MOFGA-certified organic berries.

### Pollinator Walk

#### Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**Tuesday, August 12, 10:00 – 11:30 AM**

Amy Campbell, master gardener and beekeeper, will lead this walk up Beech Hill to discuss native pollinators and their importance to our blueberry fields and beyond.

### Annual Meeting

#### Belfast Boathouse

**Thursday, August 28, 5:00 – 7:00 PM**

We encourage all members to join our Board and staff as we celebrate the year's successes and elect new Board members. Hors d'oeuvres and local ale will be on hand to mark the occasion.

### Kites & Ice Cream on Beech Hill\*

#### Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport

**Saturday, September 13, 1:00 – 4:00 PM**

Join our second annual kites and ice cream extravaganza! Each child will be given a kite and enjoy a free ice cream on top of Beech Hill, courtesy of the Cascade Foundation. Registration is necessary. Stay tuned for more details.

### Mushroom Walk and Talk

**Friday, October 3, 7:00 – 8:30 PM, Coastal Mountains Land Trust office**

**Saturday, October 4, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM, Fernald's Neck Preserve**

Join Kirk Gentalen for this two-day mushroom fest! Friday's night talk will be an informative slideshow on the world of mycelium. Saturday's walk will send you out on the hunt for mushrooms. Join us for one or both parts of this two-day event.

### Contours Benefit Art Show & Auction

#### Carver Hill Gallery, Rockland

**Friday, November 7 - Sunday, November 23**

This benefit art show featuring works inspired by Beech Hill will kick off during November's First Friday Art Walk and conclude with an exclusive brunch/auction of select items from the show.

## BEECH NUT OPEN HOUSES

- Saturday, May 24, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, June 11, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Friday, June 20, 6:30 – 8:30 PM (Summer Solstice)
- Wednesday, July 2, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, July 19, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, August 2, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Members Free Pick)
- Sunday, August 3, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM (Public Free Pick)
- Saturday, August 23, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, September 13, 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Kites & Ice Cream)
- Wednesday, September 24, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, October 8, 6:30 – 8:30 PM (Full Harvest Moon)
- Saturday, October 25, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



BRIAN WILLSON

# First Charitable Gift Annuity established to benefit the Land Trust

**W**e were very pleased to learn recently that a long-time supporter has established the first Charitable Gift Annuity to ultimately benefit the Land Trust.

A charitable gift annuity gives a donor the opportunity to secure an income stream for life while also making an important contribution to the Land Trust. In this case, our donor, who is over 60, received an unexpected bequest. He and his wife wanted to use some of the money to support our conservation programs while also helping to secure their own retirement plans. So they donated \$25,000 to the Maine Community Foundation in exchange for a commitment by the Foundation to pay them a guaranteed, fixed annual amount for their lifetimes. The Foundation conservatively invests the money, seeking growth of the original donation amount to meet annuity payments and, we hope, increase the total amount that will eventually benefit us. Many years from now, after the donors pass away, the remaining principal will be retained by the Foundation in a designated endowment from which we'll receive an annual income. The value of our donors' gift will thus long outlive them.

"Since every retirement portfolio needs secure, fixed income investments, our charitable gift annuity was a great addition to that portion of our financial future," explained the donor. "We'll receive a predictable, steady income stream, plus tax benefits because it's partially a donation. Good for us, and good for the Land Trust!"

Charitable gift annuity donors must be at least 50 years of age and cannot begin to receive income until they are at least 60. The Maine Community Foundation requires a minimum donation of \$25,000 to establish a charitable gift annuity. Donors often exchange highly appreciated or low-yield stocks for the potentially higher, fixed level of guaranteed income offered by the annuity. There are usually various tax advantages, as well.

Kristen Lindquist, the Land Trust's Development Director, affirmed the value of this gift: "Knowing that this charitable gift annuity will ultimately establish an endowment for the Land Trust at the Maine Community Foundation helps sustain our future and the permanence of our conservation work. This is truly a case of forward-thinking giving for which we're very grateful—and in years to come—and I'd love to discuss this option with other supporters interested in the combination of values offered by this type of planned gift."

## Introducing new board members



### Roy Call

"My family and I have taken countless hikes in the western Penobscot Bay region over the past twelve years, and have thus been the beneficiaries of the remarkable accomplishments of the Land Trust. Conservation of the mountains, forests, watersheds, and other special places is integral to the region's quality of life. I welcome the opportunity to assist in the Land Trust's very important work, which will benefit many generations to come."



### Liv LiaBraaten

"This place, where the mountains meet the sea, has held my heart since first visiting as a child, and as an adult I have been turning to the still and vibrant havens of Beech Hill, Beauchamp Point, and Fernald's Neck for years. I see myself as a beneficiary of the Land Trust's vision and welcome the opportunity to be a part of its good work."

## Volunteers needed!

Interested in volunteering with the Land Trust? Not sure how to start? Join us for one of our two orientation sessions designed to provide new volunteers with an overview of the Land Trust and the varied volunteer positions now available. Orientation sessions will be held:

■ **Wednesday, March 26, 5:00 – 6:30 PM, Belfast Free Library**

■ **Wednesday, April 2, 5:00 – 6:30 PM, Coastal Mountains Land Trust Office, Camden**

Currently we are recruiting for the following volunteer positions:

**Beech Nut Docent:** Help the Land Trust share Beech Nut with the public during our Open Houses. We train you to be able to answer most questions from hut visitors.

**Land Stewards:** Help steward a Land Trust preserve or conservation easement. Duties include annual monitoring and reporting regarding the condition of your assigned property.

**We permanently conserve land to benefit the natural and human communities of western Penobscot Bay.**

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