

Landscapes

SUMMER 2013

THE NEWSLETTER OF COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST

Nonprofit
Organization
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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

Making connections on Bald Mountain

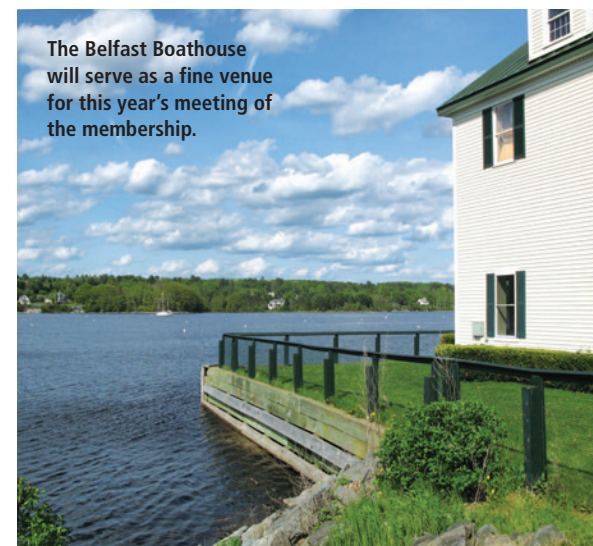
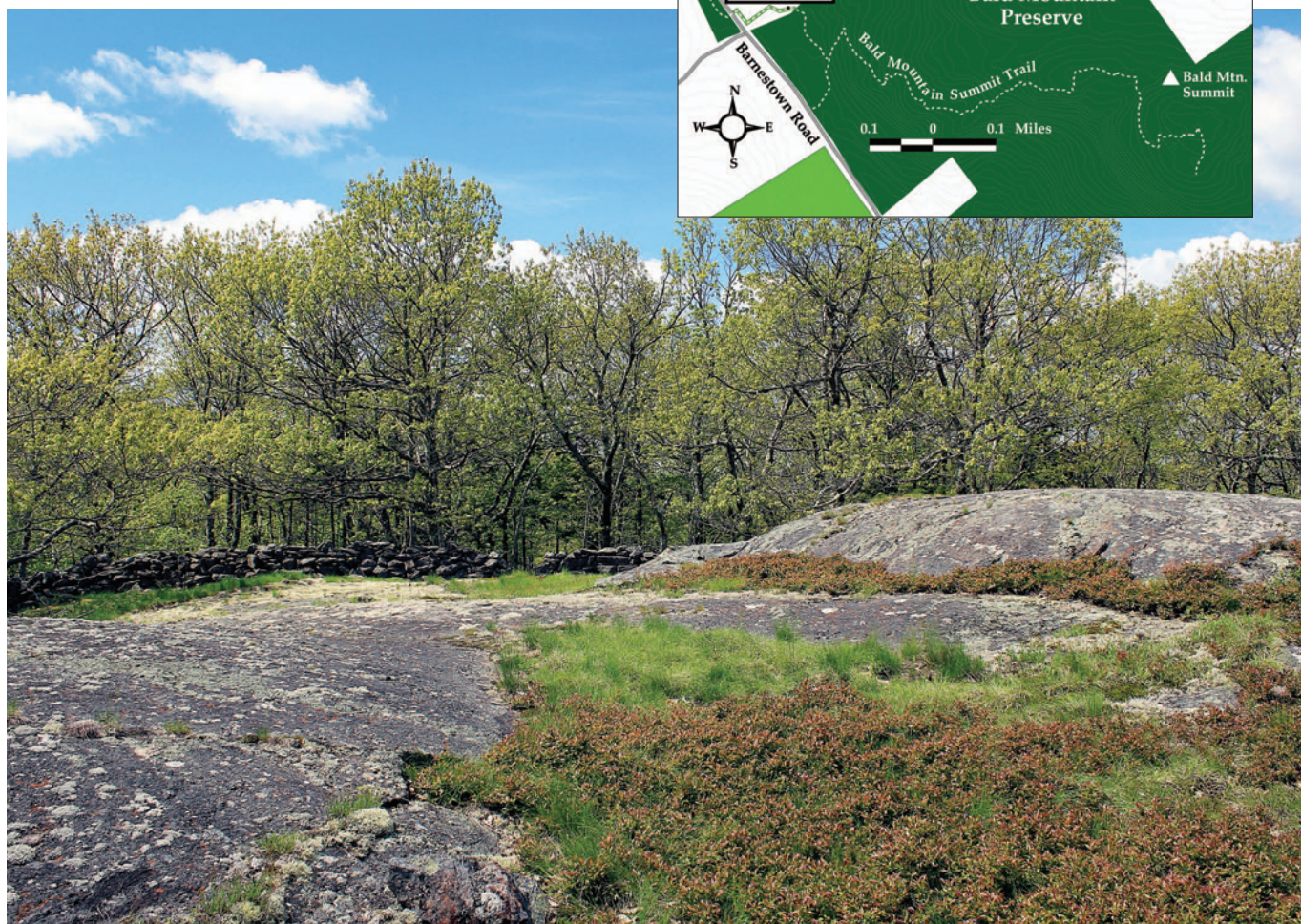
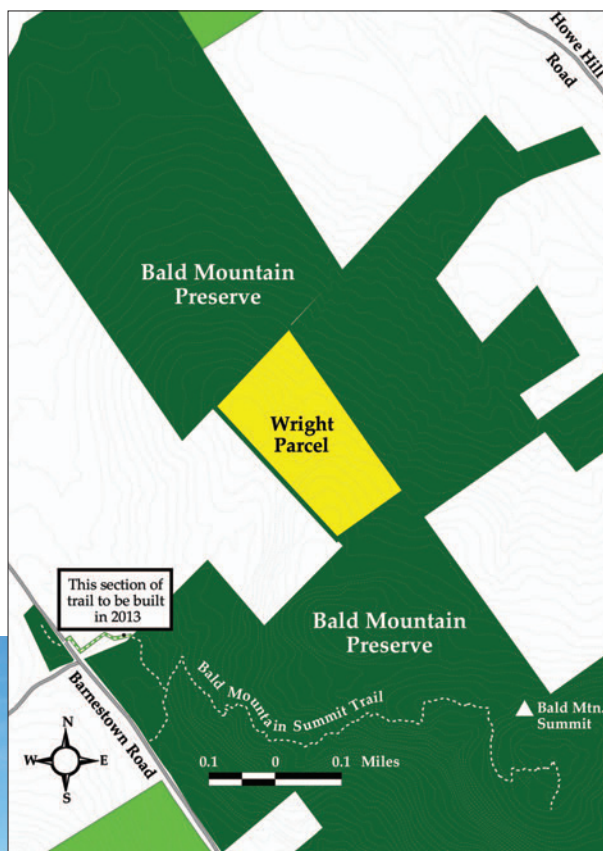
When we set out to conserve a landscape-scale area like Bald and Ragged Mountains, we don't prioritize any single parcel. Our ambition is to protect the whole place, so we seek to conserve each and every piece of the focus area puzzle. However, some parcels are more equal than others. We just obtained a purchase contract on a parcel that is key to connecting our network of hiking trails on Bald Mountain.

In 2003, soon after we began the Bald and Ragged Mountains Campaign, we had our first conversations with Howard and Dorothy Wright regarding conservation of their property. Located high on the northern slopes of Bald Mountain, this 26-acre undeveloped tract is crested by a natural cloister of trees surrounding a bald ledge open to the sky.

The Wrights bought the parcel in 1967 and have enjoyed it since as a wild place for their family to explore. They were also interested in harvesting the timber, but its small size and the long distance to Barnestown Road made that economically infeasible.

During the past ten years we occasionally corresponded

(continued on page 2)



The Belfast Boathouse
will serve as a fine venue
for this year's meeting of
the membership.

Come join us in Belfast!

We want to see YOU at this
year's Annual Meeting

It is a perennial honor for a membership-based organization like ours to host an Annual Meeting: a chance for our members to get to know one another, meet the Board and Staff, hear about our accomplishments, and elect new Board officers.

This year we're kicking it up a notch! The 2013 Annual Meeting will take place on Thursday, August 22 from 5:00-7:30 pm. Held in the Belfast Boathouse, the scenic backdrop of Belfast Bay will set the stage for an evening of speakers, friends, and local food and ale. Join us from 5:00 to 6:00 pm for an hour of socializing—we'll offer tasty hors d'oeuvres and Marshall Wharf Brewing Company beer, brewed fresh right down the street. (Of course, non-alcoholic beverages will also be provided.)

At 6:00 pm Belfast City Manager Joe Slocum will detail our new efforts in Belfast, helping the City to create the Passy Rail Trail: a two-mile path extending north from the lower bridge along the scenic Passagasawakeag River. After that, nationally recognized poet Gary Lawless will read from his poetry, sharing the eloquent story of his Belfast roots. Then we'll have a brief summary of our accomplishments and current financial status, and we'll look to you to help elect our new Board members. Finally, we'll award one outstanding volunteer with the Zwartjes Award, established to celebrate the service of William J. Zwartjes.

Watch your mailbox for your invitation to this year's Annual Meeting. As an added bonus, this year's invitation will include a surprise Members Only announcement about a new event on one of our favorite preserves that you'll want to know about!

BALD AND RAGGED MOUNTAINS CAMPAIGN, PHASE TWO

Progress as of 1 June 2013

Fundraising goal	\$3,000,000
Fundraising progress	\$1,634,625
Land conservation progress	1,711 acres – 49% of Bald and Ragged Mountains

Our conservation work on Bald and Ragged Mountains never slows: this summer we will develop new trailhead access for Bald Mountain and add 26 more acres to the Bald Mountain Preserve! See page 1 for the complete story on this latest conservation acquisition, the 30th parcel conserved on the two mountains as part of this campaign. Fundraising for this and future acquisitions is ongoing—we're grateful for your support!



MARK WALLACK

(continued from page 1) with the Wrights but didn't reach a conservation plan that worked for both parties. In the meantime, we continued to work with other landowners on Bald Mountain and have now almost surrounded the Wright parcel with the ever-growing Bald Mountain Preserve. So we were delighted when, last winter, circumstances were right for the Wrights to make a conservation deal for their parcel. It was under contract for us to purchase soon thereafter.

After we complete the purchase, we'll begin planning another expansion of our 30-mile public trail system. We intend to connect our existing Bald Mountain Trail with an extension to Howe Hill Road that will offer access to new terrain on the north slope of Bald Mountain. Part of that plan will include a spur trail to visit the secluded natural cloister described above.

The budget for this conservation purchase is \$125,600. We have begun to receive generous grants and gifts, as part of our ongoing Bald and Ragged Mountains Campaign, that will enable us to close this purchase in early July (see campaign update above).

Once again, patience, persistence, and working cooperatively with landowners has allowed us to structure a deal that works for them and for conservation. Onward!

Rockport Automotive "Giving Back" to Land Trust

Get your oil changed at Rockport Automotive this August, and you'll be making both your car and us very happy. Jan and Eric Campbell, new owners of the service and repair business located on Route One in Rockport, raise money for a different nonprofit each month through their "Giving Back" program. A donation of \$5 from every oil change is given to that month's chosen organization; this August, that organization is us!

"To give back to the community we grew up in is very important to Eric and I," said Jan Campbell.

We are very grateful to be part of a community that values its nonprofits and supports them with such generosity.

Fernald's Neck Quest launches with help of 4th Graders



Come explore
Fernald's Neck in
a whole new way.

Charitable Gift Annuity offers reliable annual income stream

The Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is the oldest and simplest form of life income arrangement, offering a reliable source of fixed, lifetime income for the donor while ultimately benefiting the designated nonprofit recipient. This form of planned gift is a solid addition to a retirement portfolio, because it doesn't fluctuate with the stock market.

We've partnered with the Maine Community Foundation to offer this as a planned giving option. Under this arrangement, a donor transfers cash or securities to the Foundation in exchange for a commitment by the Foundation to pay them (and a second person if the donor so chooses) a fixed and guaranteed payment for the remainder of their lifetime(s). These payments can begin immediately or be deferred to a later date. The donor must be 60 or older to receive immediate payments, but a donor who is at least 50 may set up a deferred annuity to begin paying them at age 60 or older. On the death of the annuitant(s), the remaining principal is retained by the Foundation in an endowment specifically designated for the Land Trust, from which we would then receive annual income.

Donors often exchange highly appreciated or low-income yielding securities for a higher,

fixed level of guaranteed income offered by a CGA. There are usually income, estate, and capital gains tax advantages, as well.

Here's an example:

Mrs. Donor, 66, recently received an inheritance and wants to set up a CGA for herself with the minimum allowed contribution of \$25,000. The current annual annuity rate for someone her age is 4.8%. (The older the donor, the higher the rate.) Based on this rate, the Maine Community Foundation will pay her \$1,200 each year for her lifetime. A portion of these payments are tax-free, depending on the type of asset contributed. She would also receive an immediate tax deduction based on the fact that a CGA is part charitable gift to the Land Trust and part purchase of an annuity contract. At the time this example was calculated, the gift portion of the transfer—about \$7,304—would be tax-deductible. Upon the death of Mrs. Donor, the remaining assets in the endowment would continue to be held at the Foundation on our behalf.

Those interested in exploring the possibilities of setting up a CGA to ultimately benefit our conservation work should talk with Development Director Kristen Lindquist, at (207) 236-7091 or kristenl@coastalmountains.org.

The Quest continues! The second installation of our expanding Quest program launched on May 28 at the Fernald's Neck Preserve in Lincolnville. The children of Lincolnville Central School's fourth grade class walked the route of the new Quest, exploring the lessons of the preserve hidden within the clues.

And participating in the launch wasn't all these fourth graders did. The class of 21 had worked with Membership Coordinator Ellen Skoczinski to write and illustrate the Fernald's Neck Quest. This collaborative effort drew upon the creative energy of the students, resulting in a fun narrative created *by kids for kids*.

Their teacher Coral Coombs was pleased with the experience: "I feel the students gained a better understanding of environmental stewardship. This Quest was the culmination of a year-long watershed study and gave the students

a hands-on experience, as well as introducing them to the preserve."

A Quest uses informative clues to move participants through a preserve to the final clue at the Quest box. Throughout the Quest, the clues teach kids (and their adults too!) about the natural history of the preserve and names and sites of the surrounding area. The Fernald's Neck Quest is the second in our Quest series. Our Beech Hill Quest took off last summer with the help of the Coastal Children's Museum. A Quest for the Head of Tide Preserve in Belfast will be written later this year in collaboration with the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition.

To set out on a Quest with the children in your life, visit the Trail Maps page on our website. Simply download, print, and hit the trail! No special equipment is necessary. The Fernald's Neck Quest is estimated to take around one hour and is intended for children age four to nine.

STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS

Special Thanks to...

■ **Susan Alexander**, our unstoppable recording secretary ■ **Carol Chen**, for pro bono legal work ■ **Darcy Dye**, for six pairs of work gloves ■ **Amy Faunce**, our dogged Volunteer Coordinator ■ **Wanda Garland**, for leading our ever-popular wildflower walk ■ **Bill Goodwill**, of **Midcoast Audubon**, for co-leading a spring bird walk ■ **Amy Hand**, Camden Public Library's Children's Librarian, for co-leading an astronomy outing ■ **Trudi Hennemuth**, for assisting at the Chamber BizExpo ■ **Rebecca Jacobs**, for her Spring Emergence talk ■ **Ron Joseph**, for co-leading two bird walks ■ **Steve & Ursula McAllister**, for a laser pointer ■ **Joan Merriam**, for helping process blueberry orders ■ **Betty Lou Richards & Patricia Hurlburt**, for a Makita cordless drill ■ **Freeland Savage**, for an air compressor ■ **Brian Willson**, for his Beech Hill photographs

■ **Boundary Line Work**: Hans Bengtsson, Cindy Dunham, Jim Dunham, Phil Gaudet, Gary Gulezian, Greta Gulezian, David Henderson, Sam Johnson, Larry Litchfield, Jay Pendleton, Roger Rittmaster, Malcolm White

■ **Ducktrap Knotweed Removal**: Hans Bengtsson, Courtney Collins, Gary Gulezian, Greta Gulezian, Ron Harrell, Dana Jenner, Larry Litchfield, Aleta McKeage, Doug Prescott, Roger Rittmaster

■ **Fernalds and Youngs Neck Trail Work**: Hans Bengtsson, Dick DeGraaf, Dan Johnson, Larry Litchfield

■ **Harkness Preserve Bridge Work**: Ray Andresen, Gary Gulezian, Greta Gulezian, Trudi Hennemuth, Dan Johnson, Ron Joseph, Larry Litchfield, Roger Rittmaster

■ **Office Support**: Mary Ellen Decato, Amy Faunce, Jeannette Faunce, Greta Gulezian, Carol Harrell, Betty & Paul Killoran, Mirelle LaFrienierre, Yanmei McElhaney, Diana Rigg, Tracy Wickwire

■ **Ragged Mountain Trail Work**: Hans Bengtsson, Phil Gaudet, Gary Gulezian, Dan Johnson, Ron Joseph, Larry Litchfield, Roger Rittmaster

■ **Stewardship Filing Project**: Carol Harrell, Amy Faunce

■ **Trail Building**: Hans Bengtsson, Patrick Bickford, Jerry Bilodeau, Helen Burlingame, Julianne Dow, Dan

Johnson, Ron Kennedy, Tom King, John Krueger, Wendy Krueger, John Langhans, Mike McFarland, Skip Pendleton, Roger Rittmaster, Beth Smith, Janet Williams

■ **In-kind Business Donors**: Camden National Bank, Camden Printing, Ellsworth Building Supply, Good Deeds, Samoset Resort, Whitelancer Web Development

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!

Land Trust Wish List

■ leashes to loan at Beech Hill Preserve ■ basic lessons for using Photoshop Elements ■ wildlife camera ■ basic printer

Thank you to Betty Lou Richards and Patricia Hurlburt for their donation of a cordless Makita drill – and thank you to Ellsworth Building Supply for their donation of an 18-volt Milwaukee hammer drill.



This past fall, winter, and spring, our stewardship program has benefited from six new volunteer teams organized around key projects or areas. Above, from left, Skip Pendleton, Sam Johnson, Dan Johnson, and Roger Rittmaster of the Southern Trail and Boundaries Team replace an old bridge on the Harkness Preserve in Rockport. Please let us know if you would like to get involved – there is much more exiting work ahead!

Explore Searsport this summer

New trail now open on Long Cove Headwaters Preserve

With the help of the committed members of our volunteer Trails Team, we've recently completed a new trail system on our Long Cove Headwaters Preserve in Searsport. Working from the existing network of old woods roads and forest management trails, the trail crew cut two loops that wander through this expansive, 455-acre forested preserve. The preserve, transferred to us by Central Maine Power in 2010, is our first in Searsport and offers a remote summer trail getaway.

The new one-mile Blue Loop is an easy trail that rises gently, passing through the wooded fields of what was once the Savery Family's farm. The trail then descends along an old woods road through scenic forest before looping back to the trailhead. The Red Trail, a narrower and more challenging trek, is accessed from the midpoint of the Blue Trail and continues for another mile and a half. Passing through stands of dense conifers and young hardwoods, the Red Trail crosses the entire width of the preserve before returning along an existing woods road. Both trails provide an opportunity for year-round, low-impact activities such as hiking, snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing, as well as the chance to observe moose, beavers, and songbirds.

To get there: from Route One in downtown Searsport, turn onto Mt. Ephraim Road. Follow Mt. Ephraim Road for 2.5 miles, then turn right onto Savery Road. The preserve parking area is accessed about ½ mile from that intersection.

Over the course of the summer we plan to install several bog bridges along seasonally wet areas



It's worth taking some time to get to know our first public preserve in Searsport.

of the trail. Volunteers interested in taking part in these and other trail-related projects should contact our Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@coastalmountains.org. Once these additional improvements are finished, we'll host an official opening of the new trail. Join us there on Saturday, September 28, at 10 am!

We're not afraid to show our age

Key accomplishments from years past

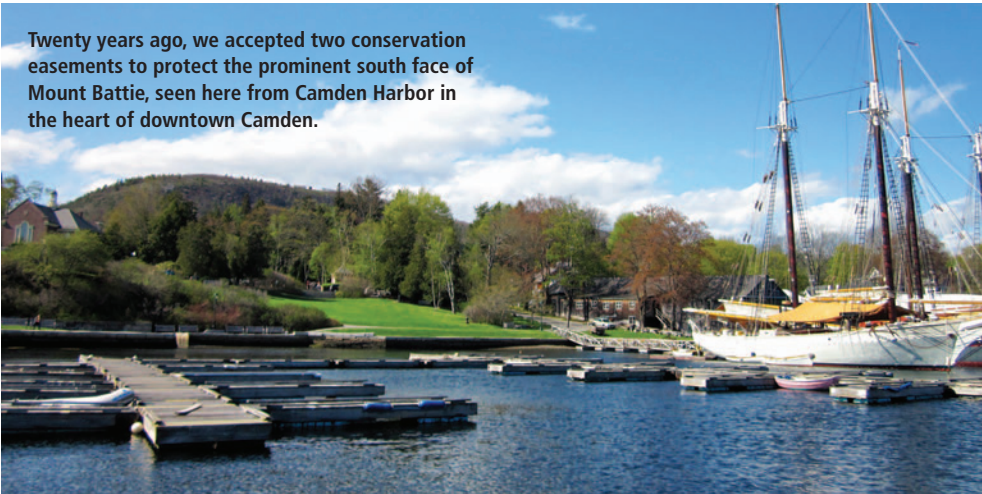
25 Years Ago—1988

■ Elinor Thurlow donated our second conservation easement, protecting a 40-acre farm on Fernalds Neck that includes 3,500 feet of shorefront on Megunticook Lake in Lincolnville. The easement was drafted by her son Doug Sensenig, then an attorney with a Bangor law firm, now vice president of our Board, having recently returned to the area after serving as executive director of the Hawai'i Island Land Trust.

20 Years Ago—1993

■ Donation of the Harbour Cove Conservation Easement protects 22 acres and 2,000 feet of shorefront on Megunticook Lake in Camden.

■ The Mount Battie South Face and Nadolny Conservation Easements together protect 47 acres on the rocky south face of Mount Battie, most of which are now part of Camden Hills State Park. The easement property, which is highly visible from downtown Camden, hosts a popular, long-used trail up Mount Battie.



Twenty years ago, we accepted two conservation easements to protect the prominent south face of Mount Battie, seen here from Camden Harbor in the heart of downtown Camden.

15 Years Ago—1998

■ The Hall Conservation Easement in Belfast becomes the second piece of the Passagassawakeag Greenway, after Ralph Stephenson persuades his neighbor Mike Hall to conserve his riverfront property. The 17-acre easement protects 600 feet of frontage on the Passagassawakeag River.

■ Almost 12,000 feet on the Ducktrap River are conserved when the 227.5-acre Gould Tract and the 32-acre Hopson Tract become part of the Ducktrap River Preserve.

■ Scott Dickerson is hired as our first Executive Director.

10 Years Ago—2003

■ Ownership of 295 acres on scenic and historic Beech Hill, conserved in 1987 by a conservation easement, is transferred to us from Maine Coast Heritage Trust to become the Beech Hill Preserve. The public is able to hike up the hill and enjoy the spectacular view from the top for the first time in years.



Harvest season is coming to the Beech Hill Preserve!

Nothing tastes more like summer than ripe blueberries fresh from the field! Once again we'll be selling quarts of our hand-raked, organic blueberries, from late July into August, at our farm stand at the preserve's blueberry barn (tucked in the Beech Hill Road parking lot). The stand is open 11:00am – 5:00pm daily as weather and the harvest permit. Enjoy a scenic hike up beautiful Beech Hill, then cap off your visit with a quart or two of luscious berries harvested from the very fields you just admired. All proceeds from our blueberry sales directly benefit those fields and our ongoing stewardship of this beloved preserve. To find out if berries are available on a particular day, you can call the blueberry barn at 975-6981.

What are those boxes on Beech Hill?

It's no coincidence that last year's Beech Hill Blueberry Farm Intern Brianne Looze is working on a Ph.D. on native pollinators. Her interest in the pollination of blueberry fields led her to the internship with us, through which she gained hands-on experience with organic blueberry production. When summer was over, Stewardship Project Manager Joe Zipparo looked to Brianne to help assess the health of Beech Hill's wild pollinator community. Brianne constructed and installed nest blocks that will do just that. These nest blocks are constructed of two-by-six-inch spruce blocks with small



holes drilled approximately five inches deep. Mason bees, a native pollinator and one of the primary inhabitants of Beech Hill, will lay alternating layers of eggs with layers of nectar and honey until the entire nest hole is filled. The larvae will overwinter in the holes and emerge as adults in the spring, eating their way out through the layers of pollen and nectar. Each box has approximately a dozen holes and a lifespan of around five years. Close monitoring of these boxes will give us information on the health of the pollinator population based on how frequently they're being used.

2013 EVENTS CALENDAR

The 2012
Blueberry Free
Pick on Beech
Hill Preserve.



HUGH CHATFIELD

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 unless noted.

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

Summer Solstice Walk*

Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport
Friday, June 21, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Come celebrate the longest day of the year! Bring a sun-set picnic to Beech Nut, the historic hut atop Beech Hill. Don't forget your blanket, flashlight, and bug repellent!

Ragged Mountain Run Around

Ragged Mountain Preserve, Camden
Sunday, June 23, 7:30 AM registration,
9:00 AM race time

Four- and nine-mile trail running races to benefit the Land Trust and the Ragged Mountain Redevelopment project. For more information or to register (fee charged), please visit: raggedmountainrunaround.blogspot.com.

Fern Walk

Ragged Mountain Preserve, Camden
Friday, July 12, 9:00 - 11:00 AM

Co-sponsored by Knox-Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District (KLSWCD). Hildy Ellis, District Coordinator for KLSWCD, will lead this educational talk on Ragged Mountain and help us identify varied summer ferns.

Insect Safari*

Head of Tide Preserve, Belfast
Friday, July 19, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Join Kathy Murray, entomologist for the Maine Department of Agriculture, to explore the fascinating world of insects. This hands-on workshop will take insect lovers of all ages to fields, forest, and the riverside in search of critters.

Haiku Hike with Sweet Tree Arts

Hatchet Mountain Preserve, Hope
Wednesday, July 24, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Our Development Director Kristen Lindquist, also a published poet, will lead a creative walk up the mountain for Sweet Tree Arts. To register (fee charged) or for more information, please contact sweettreearts.org.

Beech Hill Blueberry Picks*

Beech Hill Preserve, Rockport
MEMBERS ONLY Free Pick

Saturday, August 3, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Our current members are invited to spend the day picking our MOFGA-certified organic blueberries. Not a member? Make a member donation at the registration table and join the fun! Bring your own bucket; please leave rakes and dogs at home.

PUBLIC Free Pick

Sunday, August 4, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Pick your own blueberries at our 11th annual free blueberry pick! This is the one time our organic blueberry fields are open to the public, so come enjoy the view and take home lots of organic berries. Bring your own bucket; please leave rakes and dogs at home.

Annual Meeting of the Members

Belfast Boathouse

Thursday, August 22, 5:00 – 7:30 PM

Agenda:

5:00 PM – Social Hour with hors d'oeuvres and local beer

6:00 PM – Belfast City Manager Joe Slocum

6:30 PM – Local Poet Gary Lawless

6:45 PM – Official meeting and election of Board officers

7:15 PM – Presentation of Zwartjes Award

We invite all members to join us in Belfast! Celebrate with us the year's successes and help elect new Board members. If you'd like to nominate someone (or yourself) to serve on our Board of Directors, please contact Board President Jim Krossschell at (617) 332-2489 or jimkrossschell@gmail.com by July 25.

Fairy House Building Workshop*

Fernald's Neck Preserve, Lincolnville

Saturday, September 7, 10:00 – 11:00 AM

Liza Walsh, author of The Fairy House Handbook, will lead this hands-on workshop using materials found on the forest floor. Children of all ages will enjoy the creative process as well as Liza's thoughtful storytelling.

Long Cove Headwaters Trail Opening

Searsport

Saturday, September 28, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Stewardship Director Ian Stewart will lead this walk to celebrate the newly established trail system on our first preserve in Searsport. Please bring sturdy walking shoes, layered clothing, snacks, and water.

Salmon Ecology Walk

Ducktrap River Preserve, Lincolnville

Tuesday, October 22, 2:00 – 3:30 PM

Peter Ruksznis, fisheries biologist for the Maine Department of Marine Resources, will lead a walk along the Ducktrap to explain Atlantic salmon biology and look for spawning salmon redds.

Artfull Gifts

Point Lookout, Northport

Friday – Sunday, November 22, 23, 24

A portion of the proceeds from admission fees to this fourth annual fine craft and art event will benefit the Land Trust. See www.artfullgifts.com for more details.

Coastal Mountains Land Trust

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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Stewardship Project Manager: Joe Zipparo

Stewardship Project Assistant: Peter Zuck

Beech Hill Summer Intern: Connor Whitley

Fernald's Neck Seasonal Steward: Randy Fein

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Memorial Gifts

1 February 2013 – 1 June 2013

In Memory of Lori Dierckes:

Gerald and Irene Hofmann

In Memory of George Wallace:

David Randall and Susan Conard

2013 BEECH NUT OPEN HOUSE SCHEDULE

- Friday, June 21, 6:30 - 8:30 PM (Summer Solstice)
- Wednesday, July 3, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Saturday, July 20, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Saturday, August 3 , 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Members Blueberry Pick)
- Sunday, August 4, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM (Public Blueberry Pick)
- Wednesday, August 21, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Saturday, September 7, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, September 18, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Saturday, October 5, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Saturday, October 26, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM



BRIAN WILLSON

Introducing some new faces

Seasonal changes in the Stewardship department



Pete Zuck has stepped forward to manage Beech Hill Preserve's organic blueberry farm while Stewardship Project Manager Joe Zipparo takes a leave of absence. Originally from western New York, Pete lived in Bozeman, Montana for fifteen years, where he earned a BS in Horticulture and an MS in Plant Pathology from Montana State University. Family brought him to Maine, where he most recently worked with the Maine office of the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).



Hailing from Birmingham, Alabama, **Connor Whitley** earns the distinction among our seasonal staff of having traveled the farthest. This year's Beech Hill Farm Intern, Connor will work alongside Pete Zuck to manage the organic blueberry farm operations. Connor came to Maine to study at Colby College and has just finished his third year as a double major in Environmental Policy and Economics.



Randy Fein is this summer's Seasonal Steward for our Fernald's Neck Preserve. A ceramics sculptor and a freelance art instructor, Randy also coordinates Artfull Gifts, an annual fine art and craft event that benefits the Land Trust. As a neighbor of the Lincolnville preserve, Randy boats, hikes, skis, skates, or swims there often, so we know she'll help us keep a close eye on the busy preserve this summer!

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

Please visit us at: www.coastalmountains.org
Also on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/coastalmountainslt



Scan this QRC with your smart phone or email info@coastalmountains.org to sign up for our bimonthly e-newsletter.