

# STORY OF THE LAND

## Palermo Preserve protects over 5,400 feet of frontage along the Sheepscot River; prime salmon habitat.

To protect one of the most important stretches of salmon habitat in the Sheepscot River watershed, Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (now Midcoast Conservancy) purchased the first few properties that are now the Palermo Preserve and created an interpretive trail to help people learn more about wild Atlantic salmon.

Wild Atlantic salmon were once plentiful in over 50 rivers from Connecticut to Maine. However, in the 1800s, due to the building of dams, water pollution, and poor land-use practices, salmon populations began to decline. In 2000, Atlantic salmon populations from these rivers fell so low they were listed as endangered.

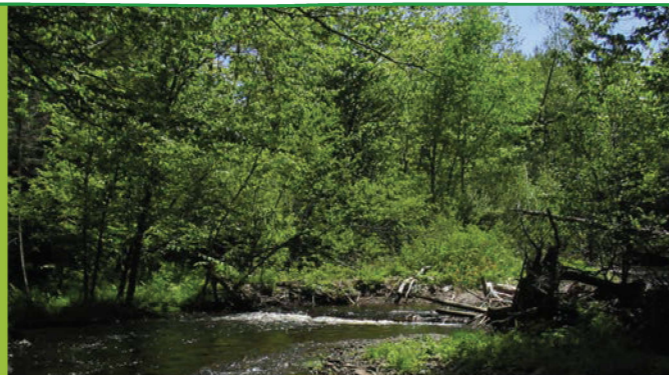
In 2016, the preserve was expanded to include an adjacent property, thanks to the heirs of former owner Cecil H. Brann. The creation of the Patricktown Trail on the new portion of the preserve was led by Brandon Loveland as an Eagle Scout project in 2017. The peaceful little trail begins down the discontinued Booker Road and then loops into the trees at the town boundary marker between Palermo and Somerville before meandering down to beautiful views of the river.

*Protected with assistance from the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, MBNA Foundation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, and heirs of Cecil H. Brann.*

# WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE

In the floodplain, look for the three dark red petals of **trillium** in early spring or for the brilliant red **cardinal flower** later in the summer. As you walk along the water, notice the undercut banks, overhanging vegetation, and submerged logs and rocks that create sheltered pools and provide resting places for **salmon** as they travel to and from their spawning grounds.

As you pass the vernal pool, look for **salamanders**, **wood frogs**, **spring peepers** and other species that make their way from the nearby woodland to breed.



In early spring, look for egg masses and listen for the quack-like call of the wood frog and the high-pitched call of the spring peeper. As you continue through the forest, look for moose tracks along the trails and in the wetter areas. In winter look for **deer** taking cover in the dense fir thickets or in summer listen for the flutelike song of the **hermit thrush** at dawn and dusk.

## DURING YOUR VISIT

- Stay on trails
- Carry out what you carry in
- Keep dogs under control; please clean up after your pets
- Open during daylight hours
- Wear blaze orange during hunting season
- Follow fishing rules (located on kiosk)
- No fires



## HOW TO GET THERE

- From Wiscasset take Route 218 North for 19.4 miles. Go straight onto Coopers Mills/Somerville Rd. In 5 miles, go straight onto Turner Ridge Road. In 3 miles, park on the right.
- From Route 3 in Palermo, take Turner Ridge Road south. In 2 miles, park on the left.

## GET INVOLVED

Support from members and volunteers makes this preserve possible.

### Join Today

**Unlimited use** of preserves without day use fees

**Discounts** on cabins, camp sites, events, classes and workshops

**Special events** for members

**Keep Midcoast Maine** a beautiful place for all

**Be a member** visit [www.midcoastconservancy.org](http://www.midcoastconservancy.org)

### Volunteer

You can help maintain trails and buildings, staff recreational events, lead guided walks, and more. You too can make a difference in your community!

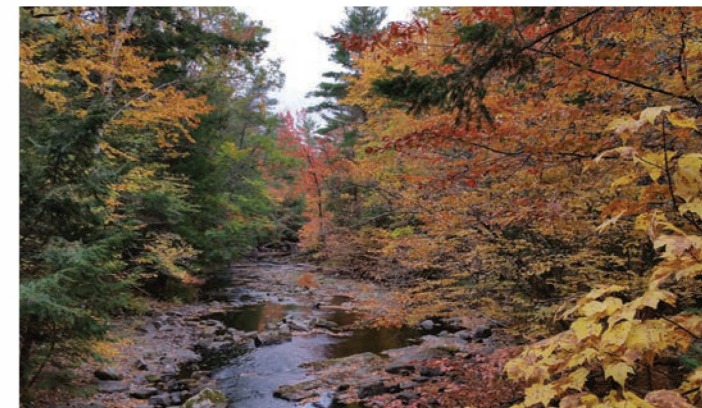
**Midcoast Conservancy**  
207-389-5150  
[midcoastconservancy.org](http://midcoastconservancy.org)

# Palermo Preserve

Palermo, Maine



Photo by Sam Albright



**MIDCOAST  
CONSERVANCY**

WE ARE ALL ON THE SAME TRAIL



# Palermo Preserve

A peaceful hike along rolling hills, featuring vernal pools, streams, a red maple swamp, diverse woodlands and beautiful views of the Sheepscot River.

Total Acres: 103

Total Trail Length: 1 mile



MIDCOAST  
CONSERVANCY



## Map Key



**White Trail**

Trail Length: 0.6 Mile

Difficulty: Easy

Highlight:

Sheepscot River Views



**Red Trail**

Trail Length: 0.2 Mile

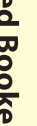
Difficulty: Easy

Highlight: Vernal Pool



**discontinued Booker Road**

Midcoast Conservancy  
Property



50-foot contour line

