



# *the* **drift**

## **30 x 30**

Midcoast Conservancy has set a goal of protecting 30,000 acres by 2030. Learn more, and how YOU can be part of this bold initiative!



# MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY

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Newsletter Design: Jess Ruhlin Donohoe

**THE MISSION OF MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY IS TO PROTECT AND RESTORE VITAL LANDS AND WATERS ON A SCALE THAT MATTERS.**

WE ENVISION A WORLD WHERE OUR LANDS AND WATERS ARE HEALTHY AND PROTECTED AND WHERE NATURE OCCUPIES A PLACE OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE IN EVERY PERSON'S LIFE.

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## THE TIME IS NOW

by Pete Nichols, Executive Director and Buck O'Herin, President of the Board of Directors.

AS WE HEAD INTO FALL AFTER A LOVELY SUMMER, IT IS A GOOD TIME TO REFLECT ON ALL OF THE AMAZING WORK THAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING AT MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY SINCE OUR LAST EDITION OF "THE DRIFT". AS YOU WILL SEE IN THE PAGES THAT FOLLOW, THE TEAM HERE AT MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY, INCLUDING OUR DEDICATED STAFF, BOARD, VOLUNTEERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WORK DILIGENTLY TO PROTECT AND RESTORE THE WILD SPACES OF THE MIDCOAST OF MAINE.

**W**e do this by protecting hundreds of acres through conserving vital landscapes to protect biodiversity and increase public access; expanded stewardship and community programs to provide opportunities for all to experience the natural world; working to monitor the quality of our waters in the Sheepscot River, Damariscotta Lake, and Medomak River watersheds; and working to develop an experimental oyster project to protect clean water and build coastal resiliency in the battle to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Our mission states that we are an "innovative conservation organization that protects and restores the vital lands and waters of the midcoast region on a scale that matters". You may ask, "What does 'on a scale that matters' mean?" A "scale that matters" to one

person may be their favorite hiking spot, to another it may be their favorite fishing hole on the Sheepscot River, and to another their favorite swim spot on Damariscotta Lake or the woods where they grew up exploring or hunting. Others may find their sense of place on the working waterfronts harvesting clams or oysters, or along the coast soaking lobster pots. But as a collective, it means protecting large tracts of land that act as wild refuges for plant and animal species, as well as protecting areas that connect them to ensure the landscape is resilient to fight the impacts of climate change and development, and provide places to recreate and realize one's sense of place. The people of the State of Maine all have a great appreciation for the outdoors and the places that hold special meaning to them, and the desire to keep Maine wild, and we are here to help with that!

We aim to protect these special places by working with our neighbors, municipalities, and a variety of partners to maintain the quality of life here on the midcoast that is rooted in nature and community. We work with landowners to find innovative ways to protect their land from the pressures of increasing development, and to maintain these wild places for future generations while realizing economic benefits. But we can't do it without your help! The time is now! We encourage you to engage with Midcoast Conservancy by volunteering on a trail stewardship crew or water quality monitoring team, helping out at an event, becoming a member, and encouraging your friends, family, and neighbors to do the same. Together we are a force for nature, and our midcoast community!



# NEW FACES AT MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY



## AIR RHODES

Air has already made the newly-created position of Deputy Director their own in the five months since they joined the staff. Air's role is to ensure the organization has the resources, strategy, and managerial support it needs to conserve lands and waters now and into perpetuity. They hold a Masters in Nonprofit Management from The New School, and a postgraduate degree in environmental ethics from the University of Melbourne. Air comes to the Midcoast with their Mainer wife and bevy of pets from Beacon, NY, where they have served as a City Council member; co-led the city's Conservation Advisory Committee; and co-led a regional agriculture education nonprofit, Land to Learn. Air is a woodworker, bird watcher, nature photographer, hiker, canoer, and all-around outdoors person.



## KATE RAYMOND

We call her Kate the Great; her database and organizing talents have magnified our efficiency tenfold since she arrived in June. As our Database Coordinator, Kate is tasked with managing Midcoast Conservancy's donor records and membership renewals. She also supports the organization by providing accurate data reporting, which helps to inform Midcoast Conservancy's strategy and decision-making for the future. Kate comes to Midcoast Conservancy with more than 15 years of professional non-profit fundraising and public sector experience and holds both a M.A. from the University of New Hampshire and a B.A. from the University of Maine. As a life-long Mainer Kate has a passion for preserving the natural beauty of her home state and the Midcoast region. When not in the office, she serves on a local non-profit Board of Directors and spends much of her time volunteering.



# DAMARISCOTTA LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

By Patricia Nease

Photo: Keith Carver

THE DAMARISCOTTA LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL FORMED WHEN THE DAMARISCOTTA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (DLWA), FOUNDED IN 1966, MERGED WITH THREE OTHER CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS IN THE MIDCOAST REGION IN 2016 TO BECOME MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY.

The Damariscotta Lake Council is a fierce advocate and steward of the lake and its long term environmental health. We also serve as the eyes and ears on Damariscotta Lake for the leadership of Midcoast Conservancy. We are committed to enhancing the quality of life in and around the lake, assuring enjoyment for all of its natural and human residents. We promote access to healthy recreation, protect the water quality of the lake, educate the next generation of stewards, provide information to community residents and seasonal visitors, and promote stewardship of the watershed.

We are always looking for passionate and committed volunteers! Council members consist of long-time and new residents of Damariscotta Lake, as well as non-residents, dedicated to protecting Damariscotta Lake and its watershed for all! Please let us know if you are interested in serving on the Damariscotta Lake Council.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS:**  
Pris Watson (Chair), Deb Bancroft (Secretary), Marty Welt, Carter & Brent Douglass, Ellen Kentz, Carolyn Gabbe, Cilla Horst, Dean & Joy Levy.

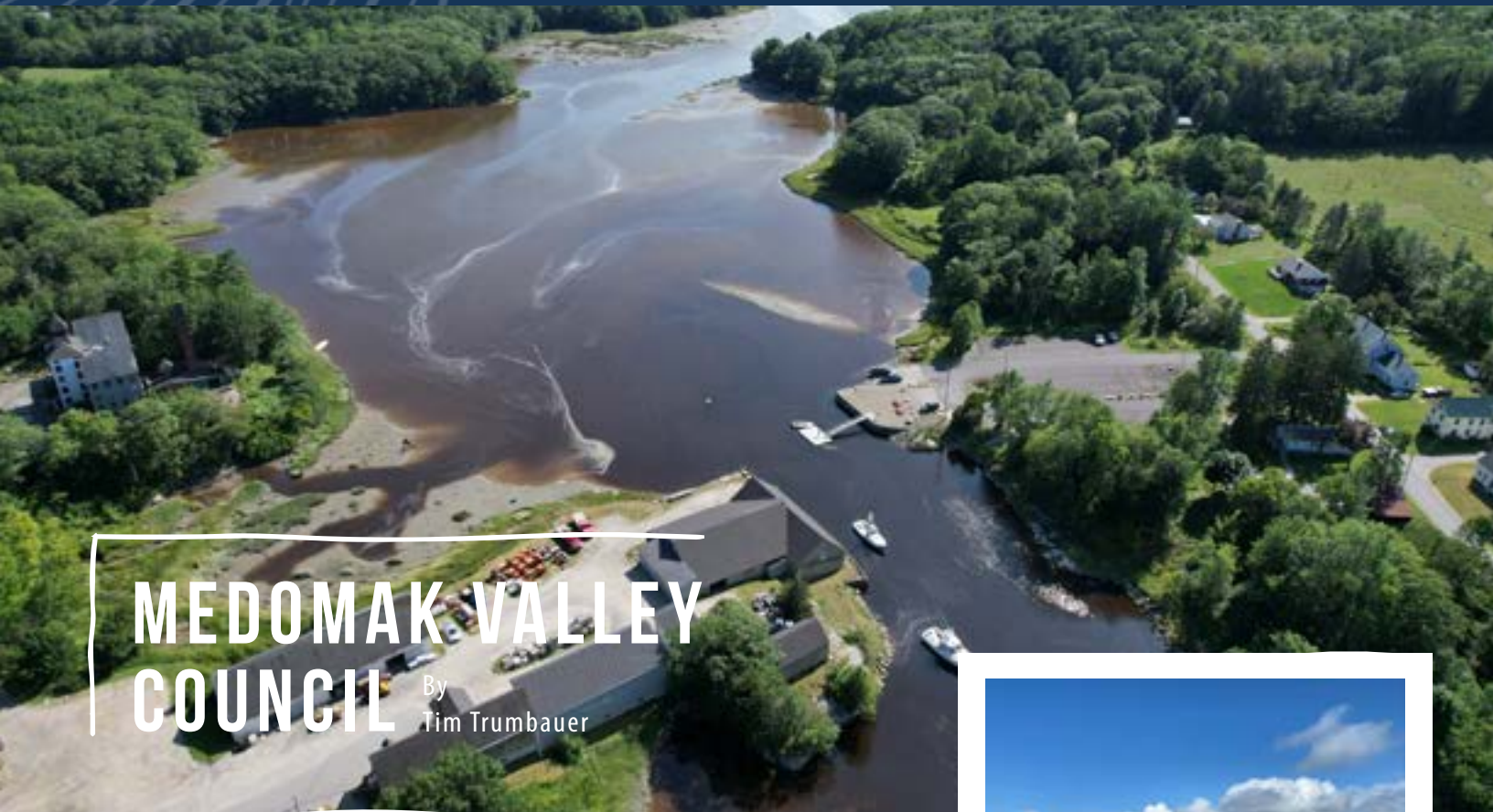


# SUMMER PHOTO ALBUM



Photos (R to L): State Senator, Chloe Maxmin speaking at our Linger on the Lake event on Damariscotta Lake; Medomak Mixer Hosts with Executive Director Pete Nichols; Guests at our Sheepscot Soiree event along the Sheepscot River; Group of hikers at a Wednesday Wander; Crowd dancing to live music at Live Edge





# MEDOMAK VALLEY COUNCIL

By  
Tim Trumbauer

I WAS FORTUNATE TO GROW UP ALONG THE BANKS OF THE CHESTER RIVER, A BRACKISH TRIBUTARY OF THE CHESAPEAKE BAY THAT SERVES AS THE CULTURAL, ECONOMIC, AND ECOLOGICAL NUCLEUS OF A PROUD LOCAL COMMUNITY. A MERE 800 MILES UP THE ATLANTIC COAST, THE MEDOMAK RIVER FEELS JUST LIKE HOME.

From the headwaters in Liberty, the Medomak quietly flows through a mostly wooded and hilly landscape dotted with homes, blueberry fields, and beaver dams. After 32 miles, the river meets the tide in Waldoboro, and after another eight miles, ultimately merges with the sea past Muscongus Bay. This varied landscape of hills, valleys, ponds, mudflats, islands and brine over a relatively small area help make the Medomak the perfect place for alewives, clams, elvers, blueberries, and even us humans, to thrive.

Midcoast Conservancy's official efforts to conserve lands and waters throughout the Medomak Valley can be traced back to 1991 when a small, motivated group of local residents founded the Medomak Valley Land Trust (MVLT). The dedicated work of these volunteers, through years of outreach at the local farmers market, offering boat rides on Waldoboro Day, and hosting community events like the "RiverFest" and the "Summer Sizzle," helped to coalesce the community around the protection of local lands and waters.

MVLT quickly became a pioneer in strategic, regional land preservation and water quality protection. In 2018, the organization took another great leap and joined Midcoast Conservancy, expanding regional conservation efforts and influence, while simultaneously maintaining the grassroots, community-oriented legacy of the founders through the formation of the Medomak Valley Council. Today, Midcoast Conservancy's



Medomak Valley Council, like the founding members of MVLT, consists of local residents who care an awful lot for the health of the ecological and human communities of the Medomak Valley. Indeed, many founding members of MVLT still sit on the Medomak Valley Council. We are proud of our accomplishments and humbled by the challenges ahead to protect and restore our local lands and waters.

If you are interested in joining the Medomak Valley Council or otherwise volunteering or supporting our land and water conservation work in the Medomak Valley, please contact me at [tim.t@midcoastconservancy.org](mailto:tim.t@midcoastconservancy.org). We look forward to sharing our progress, priorities, and stories on these pages in future editions of "The Drift." Thank you for supporting our work!

Photos: Tim Trumbauer



# SHEEPSCOT HEADWATERS COUNCIL

By  
Pete Nichols

MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY'S SHEEPSCOT HEADWATERS COUNCIL WAS ONE OF THE FOUR ORGANIZATIONS THAT MERGED TO FORM MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY IN 2016. ORIGINALLY THE SHEEPSCOT WELLSRING LAND ALLIANCE (SWLA), THIS GROUP OF DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS CAME TOGETHER TO PROTECT LANDS AND WATERS TO SUSTAIN BIODIVERSITY IN THE UPPER SHEEPSCOT RIVER REGION IN WALDO COUNTY THROUGH LAND CONSERVATION, ADVOCACY, AND EDUCATION.

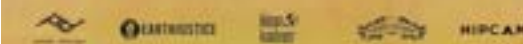
Over the years, SWLA partnered with landowners to conserve more than 1,500 acres that are open to the public free of charge for outdoor classrooms, non-motorized recreation, fishing, and hunting. There is also public 20-mile trail network in the towns of Montville and Freedom and the Haystack Mountain Trail in Liberty. SWLA was also one of the original partner organizations that constructed the 47-mile "Hills to Sea" trail, a footpath that stretches from Unity to Belfast. Now, as a Council of Midcoast Conservancy, the Sheepscot Headwaters Council continues to host educational events, maintain hiking trails and to identify important wild places in the region worthy of protection.

We invite everyone to join us for this year's Wild & Scenic Film Festival on Sunday, November 14th! Once again, it will be a virtual event that you can enjoy at home; if you can't watch it on the 14th from 4-6 pm, all ticket holders will be able to access the film festival for an additional five days. This year's line-up will take you to the Slate Islands of Ontario, the Florida Everglades, Hawaii and the site of the Paradise, CA, wildfire, and introduce you to people making a difference for our natural world in ways large and small. Inspiration guaranteed!

TO READ MORE AND GET TICKETS, GO TO [HTTPS://BIT.LY/MCFILMFEST](https://bit.ly/mcfilmfest)



SUN, NOV 14, 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM  
A VIRTUAL FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE







# SHEEPSCOT VALLEY COUNCIL

by Chris Schorn

Photos: Jess Ruhlin Donohoe



# HIDDEN VALLEY NATURE CENTER COUNCIL

By Andy Bezon

Photo: Jim Trumbauer

THE PEALS OF LAUGHTER COMING FROM THE MEETING ROOM SHOOK THE RAFTERS. I LOOKED OVER MY CUBICLE WALL TO ANNA QUESTIONINGLY. CHUCKLING, SHE SAID, “THE SHEEPSCOT VALLEY CREW SURE KNOWS HOW TO THROW A MEETING!” AS IF TO PUNCTUATE HER EXPLANATION, ANOTHER ROUND OF CHEERS AND LAUGHTER RESONATED AROUND THE BUILDING. I SWEAR MY COFFEE CUP RATTLED.

To this day, I have no idea what they were “meeting” about in there, but I know a lot of peanut M&Ms were consumed, and I know I was bearing witness to some of the greatest, most passionate, and most joyful conservation leaders that the Sheepscot River watershed has ever experienced.

That may have been during happier, pre-COVID times, during my first

weeks on the job, but the Sheepscot Valley Council members are still going strong, with smiles on their faces, a funny story to share, an ardor for their watershed, and a few M&Ms in their pockets for later. Over the past year, a volunteer crew helmed by Gerry Flanagan has taken charge of bridge repair projects at Stetser Preserve, Bass Falls Preserve, and Trout Brook Preserve. Along with our staff, they have partnered with the Wiscasset, Waterville & Farmington Railway Museum to build new trails at Trout Brook, preparing the way for a joint educational exhibit and partnership that will allow museum visitors to take the historic train to our preserve and disembark for a hike! Council members have participated in advocacy for fish passage, event coordination, and volunteer recruiting—all with the exuberance and passion that has been endemic to their community since the founding of the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association in 1969. Must be something in the water.



To learn more about the Sheepscot Valley Council or to get involved, please contact me at [chris.s@midcoastconservancy.org](mailto:chris.s@midcoastconservancy.org).

HVNC IS BOTH A GEM OF WILDERNESS (WITH 1000 ACRES, 30 MILES OF TRAILS, AND A MILE OF SHORE FRONTAGE ON LITTLE DYER POND) AND A HUB OF COMMUNITY ACTIVITY WITH SCORES OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS EACH YEAR. HVNC’S FOUNDING PRINCIPLES WERE NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION, OUTDOOR EDUCATION, AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY. AFTER 14 YEARS OF GROWTH AND THE MERGER INTO MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY SIX YEARS AGO, THESE PRINCIPLES CONTINUE TO GUIDE OUR WORK.

The HVNC Council is a grassroots group of folks who care about the land, the trees, the resources we protect and our community. We welcome new members who have enthusiasm and a desire to participate. You might want a meditative, solitary, quiet task like stacking wood at one of the five huts available for rent, or clearing debris from the trails. Or you might want more contact with the public: you could help rent ski or bike equipment, act as an Ambassador as you welcome and inform visitors of what’s available, teach kids xc skiing at the six-week ski clinic, or volunteer at one of our many large events like the winter biathlon, fall trail race or Live Edge

music festival. You could lead a hike, a full moon paddle, or a nature program, or work with the many students who visit HVNC on a regular basis. We seek creative folks with grand (or small) ideas on all aspects of HVNC. Working closely with staff, volunteers have been responsible for the vast array of the successes at HVNC. We encourage suggestions for ways to develop, expand or improve our programs and offerings. We seek innovators and workers to help bring these ideas to fruition. The range of activities is limited only by your imagination, creativity and energy.



You can volunteer for any of these opportunities without being on the Council but then you’d miss regular gatherings around a shared meal, and the greater give-and-take. Long-lasting relationships have been spawned by work on the Council. We meet monthly, usually on Wednesdays at 5:30-7:30. All are welcome! Regular attendance is not mandatory; if you are interested in a particular aspect of our work, you may prefer to attend only certain meetings. If you want to get involved, please contact Bambi at [bambisfarm@gmail.com](mailto:bambisfarm@gmail.com). We are guided by the motto of Gary Hayward, one of our founding members: “Just For the Fun of It!”



# ON A SCALE THAT MATTERS: CONSERVING 30,000 ACRES IN THE MIDCOAST BY 2030

by Pete Nichols, Executive Director

IT IS COMMONLY KNOWN THAT MIDCOAST MAINE, WITH ALL OF ITS NATURAL SPLendor, IS A DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE. THE VAST FORESTS, WILD RIVERS, PRISTINE LAKES AND PONDS, VIBRANT COASTLINE, AND CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY DEFINITELY MAKE THE REGION NOT ONLY A DESTINATION, BUT A PLACE TO CALL HOME. THIS HAS CERTAINLY BEEN THE CASE IN THE PAST TWO YEARS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. THE PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED THE WAY PEOPLE PRIORITIZE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE AND, PARTICULARLY IN THE AGE OF REMOTE WORKING, HAS LED MANY TO SEARCH FOR PLACES LIKE THE MIDCOAST TO SETTLE IN AND MAKE THEIR HOME. THE PAST YEAR HAS DEEPENED THE LOVE AND APPRECIATION THAT MANY PEOPLE IN OUR REGION FEEL FOR NATURE, AND FOR THE WORK THAT PAST GENERATIONS HAVE DONE TO CONSERVE NATURAL PLACES AND WILDLIFE FOR US TO ENJOY.

Photo: Tim Trumbauer

As midcoast residents, we are well aware of the amazing quality of life we enjoy in the region; we also realize there is a point where increased development, and the associated impacts, can begin to affect and overwhelm the systems we have in place to support our existing communities—in particular the wild places and ecosystems that we cherish and consider a vital piece of the fabric of our midcoast community.

We have all started to notice the impacts of the changing climate here on the midcoast. While the impacts may not be as stark as the hurricanes and tropical storms occurring with greater frequency in the Gulf of Mexico, or the wildfires of the western United States, they are there. The record rainfall this past summer, the storm surges from the remnants of Hurricane Ida, and the smoke-tinged skies from the western wildfires are just a few of the most recent data points to support those phenomena.

While some believe that these events may be outliers, scientific evidence<sup>1</sup> reveals that these are not just data points, but developing trends.

- Maine’s annual temperature has increased 3.2 degrees F since 1895, and extreme heat days are expected to be two to four times more frequent by 2050.
- Warming has shortened Maine’s winters and lengthened the summers by two weeks on average over the last century, a trend that’s expected to continue as temperatures increase.
- Warming winters reduce snowpack and change snowmelt, and river and lake ice-out dates, causing ripple effects through Maine’s biodiversity, agriculture, inland lakes and streams, and winter-based recreation.
- Recent “ocean heat waves” have occurred in the Gulf of Maine, which is warming faster than 99

percent of the world’s oceans and is beginning to lose its subarctic characteristics.

- In the U.S., approximately 12,000 wildlife species need conservation assistance to avoid the threat of extinction. The disappearance of bees and other pollinators is reducing crop yields and threatens food security. Already, there are three billion fewer birds in North America than there were 50 years ago.<sup>2</sup>

The fact of the matter is simple: the global climate is shifting and thinking globally is definitely the broader goal, but the best way for us to battle the global climate crisis is to act locally and lead by example here in Maine.

So, what does that mean for the midcoast of Maine? Very simply stated, a lot. Shrinking snowpacks result in less water in our rivers and lakes, poor water quality that results in public health crises, and ecological impacts to fish and the wildlife that rely on abundant and clean water. Severe drought, which we have begun to experience here, brings cascading effects to Maine’s forest and agriculture sectors and the threat of wildfire. A warming, rising, and more acidic Gulf of Maine results in coastal erosion, greater storm surges, and impacts to our working waterfront economies that rely on fishing, clamming, oyster production, and of course the lobster harvest.

While this may seem quite a dismal narrative, there is much we can do to mitigate these impacts on the midcoast, and the team at Midcoast Conservancy does not plan on sitting idly by. We are taking action to prepare for what is to come and we want each of you to join us as part of the solution to this crisis, for the good of the midcoast and our community.

## 30,000 ACRES BY 2030

Identifying that there is a problem is the first step to finding solutions. We know that, in fact, the climate is changing. We are also seeing that there is a greater desire of many to relocate to the midcoast, which puts uncommon pressure on the real estate market and also results in fragmentation on the landscape through urbanization which greatly impacts the forest, farmlands, wildlife and biodiversity that are the essence of the midcoast and the State of Maine.

Soon after taking office, President Biden issued an executive order to tackle the climate crisis domestically and abroad. In it, he established a national goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and freshwater and 30 percent of U.S. ocean areas by 2030, through an initiative commonly referred to as 30x30. This initiative seeks to reverse the negative impacts of biodiversity decline and climate change by protecting more natural

## IN THE SPIRIT, AND BELIEF IN THE TENETS, OF THE 30 X 30 INITIATIVE, MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY IS DEDICATED TO PROTECTING 30,000 ACRES OF THE MIDCOAST REGION BY 2030.

areas, and to increase access to nature for communities that lack it. Upon his announcement, President Biden directed his administration to create a report that

outlines how 30x30 will support the efforts of people across the country to achieve the nation’s habitat conservation goals<sup>3</sup>.

Recent nationwide polling shows Americans strongly back the protection of the nation’s natural heritage; four out of five U.S. voters favor a plan to protect at least 30 percent of America’s land, ocean areas, and inland waters by the year 2030 because they understand it will be good for their well-being and the environment. Conservation and environmental groups have also shown their support, as more than 300 groups from across the nation signed a letter in



early April. The Maine Climate Council added a goal of conserving 30 percent of the land in Maine by 2030 in its comprehensive climate change plan.

At Midcoast Conservancy, we currently have nearly 14,000 acres protected in some form of conservation through either direct acquisition or conservation easements with landowners. Midcoast Conservancy's service area is 450 square miles, covering the Sheepscot River, Damariscotta Lake, and Medomak River watersheds. Protecting 30% of the land mass would require a sixfold increase of our current efforts, a daunting feat by a single organization for certain. While that goal may not be realistic, it is something to strive for, albeit in a stepwise fashion.

In the spirit, and belief in the tenets, of the 30 x 30 Initiative, Midcoast Conservancy is dedicated to protecting 30,000 acres of the midcoast region by 2030. Aspiring to this goal—doubling our current conservation efforts—will contribute significantly to protecting and restoring the vital lands and waters of the midcoast on a scale that matters, act to mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure the quality of life our residents and communities deserve.

### PROTECT, RESTORE, CONNECT

Now is the time to develop and pursue locally-led strategies to protect, restore, and connect the lands, waters, and wildlife upon which we all depend. The most effective and enduring conservation strategies are those that reflect the priorities, needs, and perspectives of the families and communities that know, live, work, and care for the lands and waters; are scientifically sound; build trust in

communities; and improve access for hunting, fishing, hiking, boating, and other forms of outdoor recreation. So, how do we do this? First, we come together as a community through education, conversations, and collaborative implementation. Secondly, we employ the best science and conservation strategies to identify the areas we need to protect in order to maintain healthy forests and waterways, public access, and biodiversity in the region.

An important aspect of our work here at Midcoast Conservancy is with landowners, municipalities and other partners, explaining the options each may have to protect key areas. This may take shape through assisting towns with developing comprehensive plans or land use ordinances that prioritize land protection and open space. For individual landowners, it could be developing strategies for donating their land now or via their will, or selling their land at a discount to Midcoast Conservancy, knowing that the land they love will be protected into perpetuity and shared as a public-access preserve. It could look like shaping a conservation easement that reflects the needs of the landowner, allowing for continued ownership and multiple uses, from forestry and agriculture to access for hunting, fishing, and other activities, while realizing tax incentives.

The bottom line is that there are a variety of land conservation tools available to you that can be tailored to meet your needs. Midcoast Conservancy is a nationally-accredited land trust, meeting the highest standards for land conservation and we are here to help protect your land for the benefit of future generations and as part of the

solution for maintaining the quality of life here on midcoast Maine.

If ever there was a time to come together as a community to protect the natural and wild places on the midcoast, it is now. The threats are present and real, the climate is shifting, and urbanization is at our doorstep. Our solution is to work diligently to protect 30,000 acres of this magical place we call home. We hope you join us on this journey!

### POTENTIAL BENEFITS THAT CONSERVATION EASEMENTS OFFER LANDOWNERS<sup>4</sup>

- Easements provide permanent protection, applying to all future landowners. A land trust or government agency upholds the restrictions over time.
- Landowners retain title to their property and may continue to live on it, sell it, or pass it on to heirs, knowing that it will always remain protected.
- Easements can aid in estate planning, reducing estate taxes that could force the sale of family lands. Donated easements also can provide a charitable income tax deduction.
- Easements can reduce property tax by eliminating unwanted but highly valuable development potential.
- Easements can minimize family conflicts when lands pass to the next generation.

# LAND CONSERVATION THAT MATTERS

By  
Anna Fiedler

ALTHOUGH EVERY LAND CONSERVATION PROJECT IS UNIQUE, ONE ELEMENT IS COMMON TO ALL: PARTNERSHIP WITH LANDOWNERS MAKES IT POSSIBLE AND WILL BE CRITICAL FOR MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY TO REACH OUR GOAL OF 30,000 ACRES CONSERVED BY 2030. WHATEVER THE SCOPE AND SCALE OF A PROJECT, THE THING WE HEAR MOST FROM EVERY LANDOWNER INTERESTED IN PROTECTING LAND IS THAT IT MATTERS TO THEM. THAT IS AT THE HEART OF THIS WORK FOR ALL WHO PARTICIPATE IN IT, AND FOR ALL WHO WILL ENJOY ITS BENEFITS FOR GENERATIONS. IN 2021, MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY HAS PROTECTED SEVERAL KEY PARCELS, EACH CRITICAL TO THAT AMBITIOUS 30X30 GOAL.

In March 2021, Midcoast Conservancy received a donation of 94 acres, forming the Janet Winslow Preserve in Waldoboro, from Edgar Moody and John Winslow. Said Edgar Moody, "It was very important to me to carry out Janet's wishes that this land be conserved. The land and all the life that calls it home meant a great deal to her, and it matters a great deal to me that it will remain available for wildlife and public use for generations to come." John Winslow added, "Janet loved nature and cared about the environment her whole life. She lived simply. It was her wish to leave her land protected and wild. I, along with her family and friends, am so delighted that 94 acres in the great State of Maine will never be developed now because people like her, and caring organizations like Midcoast Conservancy, are committed to keeping it that way."

In April 2021, Midcoast Conservancy partnered with landowner Mary Merrifield of Washington and Maine Farmland Trust to place an Agricultural Conservation Easement on Merrifield's land. Said Merrifield of her donated conservation easement, "I put my heart and soul into this place. I want to see this place and all God has put here safeguarded for future generations, including all the animals here. I want future generations to be able to

experience what I see here, including deer, bald eagle, and peregrine falcons. The land and this place give me so much. This is my way of giving back, saying thank you to mother nature, and showing respect and love for this earth."

In August 2021, Midcoast Conservancy purchased a high-priority 57-acre addition to its Reverend Joseph Barth Memorial Demonstration and Experimental Forest in Newcastle from Nick and Sandra Barth. Said Nick Barth, "Conservation work is what I've done most of my life, even before SVCA was formed. This is an extension of my life's work protecting and preserving forestland. My father purchased this land in the 1960's and I'm glad to see the pieces coming together for this land to be an ecologically-managed forest well into the future." The project was made possible by generous funding from: Maine Coast Heritage Trust, William P. Wharton Trust, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Fields Pond Foundation, John Sage Foundation, Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust and private donors, including Roland Barth and Nick and Sandra Barth.

In September 2021, Midcoast Conservancy accepted a donation of 544 acres for wildlife in Somerville and Washington, named EarthSong Sanctuary, from Smoky Payson. For



Smoky, the call to take action now for Earth's climate is critical. His generous gift of EarthSong stipulates that its purpose is to support ecological integrity and biological diversity; habitat for native plant, animal, and other species; ameliorating climate change; and for water quality and watershed protection.

While each property is different, as are the motivations for the landowners who partnered with Midcoast Conservancy, each one matters deeply for all of us as it provides habitat, filters air and water, and sequesters carbon – and is critical to mitigating the effects of climate change.

1 MCC STS. 2020. Scientific Assessment of Climate Change and Its Effects in Maine. A Report by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (STS) of the Maine Climate Council (MCC). Augusta, Maine. 370 pp

2 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, "The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services," 2019, available at <https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020->

3 Biden Administration Lays Out 30x30 Vision to Conserve Nature, NRDC Blog, 2021

4 Conservation Options: A guide for Landowners, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, 1994



# MIDCOAST MUSINGS

MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY MEMBERS SHARE THEIR REFLECTIONS

CHECK OUT OUR COMPREHENSIVE MAP OF ALL OF OUR PRESERVES. IT'S PERFECT FOR HANGING ON YOUR FRIDGE OR WALL, AND FOR HELPING YOU PLAN YOUR NEXT MIDCOAST ADVENTURE!

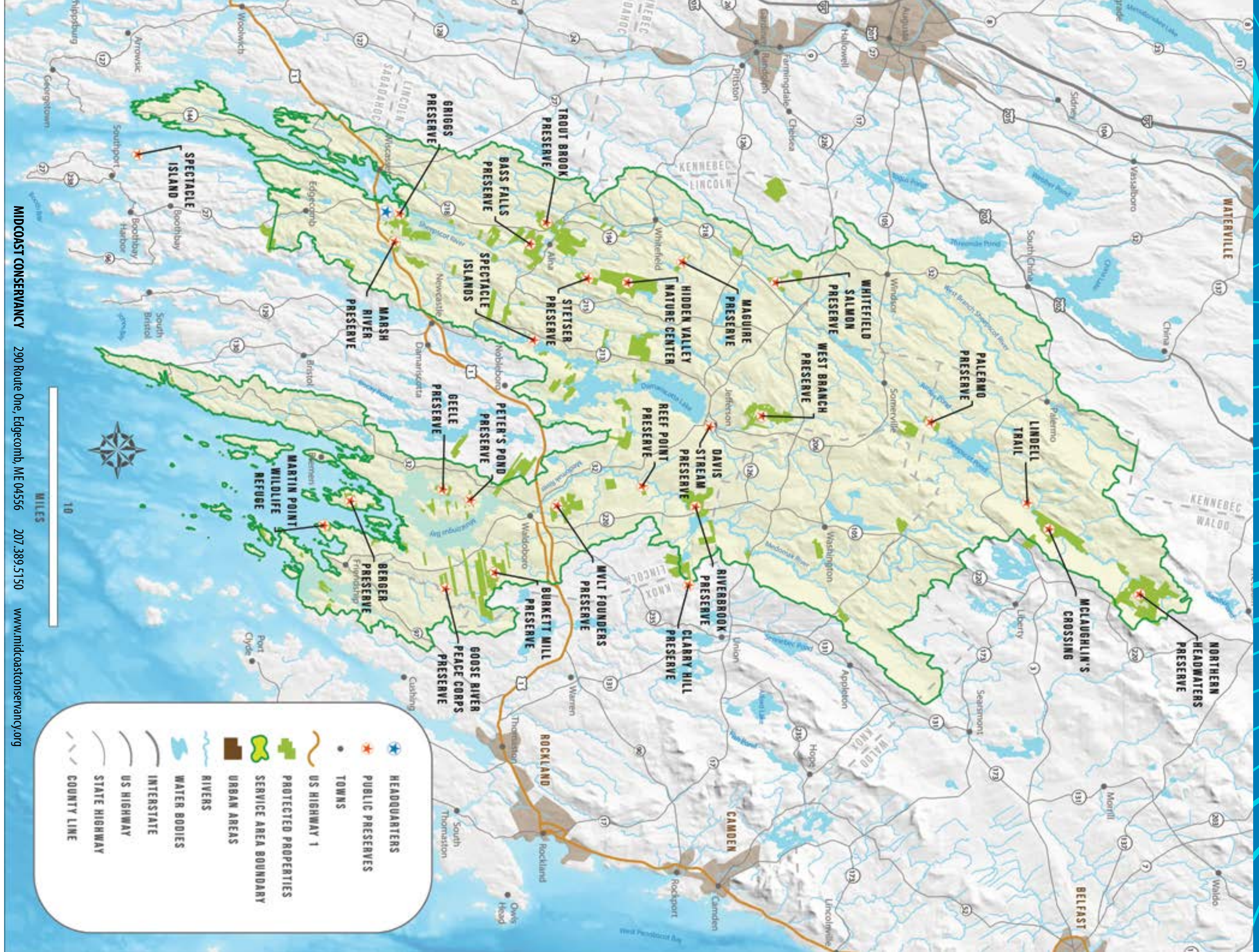
“ AS A STEWARD FOR BASS FALLS, I’VE DEVELOPED A STRONG, NURTURING BOND TO THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF THE PRESERVE’S FORESTS, BIRDS, AND WILDLIFE, AND IT’S BEEN A PRIVILEGE TO MEET AND ENJOY THE GROWING NUMBER OF APPRECIATIVE HIKERS WHO HAVE DISCOVERED THIS SPECIAL SANCTUARY. —CHRIS KENOYER, ALNA

“ AS A FREQUENT VISITOR TO DAVIS STREAM I’VE NOTICED THAT EVEN THOUGH IT IS A RELATIVELY SMALL TRACT COMPARED TO OTHER PRESERVES, THE VALUE IS EVIDENT IN THE AMOUNT OF WILDLIFE WE HAVE WITNESSED! OWLS, BEAVERS, TURTLES, COUNTLESS BIRDS AND SQUIRRELS ARE AMONG THE ANIMALS WHO HAVE A PERMANENT PLACE TO CALL HOME. SMALL SCALE MATTERS TOO! —ADDIE JOSLYN, JEFFERSON

SALTMARSH WINDS SWEEP THROUGH TAMARACKS; ASPENS SHAKE. HEMLOCK, AND SPRUCE, A BALANCED BALLET. —MELISSA BARBOUR WALDOBORO

“ MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY HAS ELEVATED THE STATUS OF ‘THE LAND’ TO AN EQUAL PLAYER WHICH INCLUDES ALL THAT IS ON IT. AS ONE WHO LOVES ‘THE LAND’ I COULD NOT BE MORE PLEASED. —BOB BROOKS, MONTVILLE

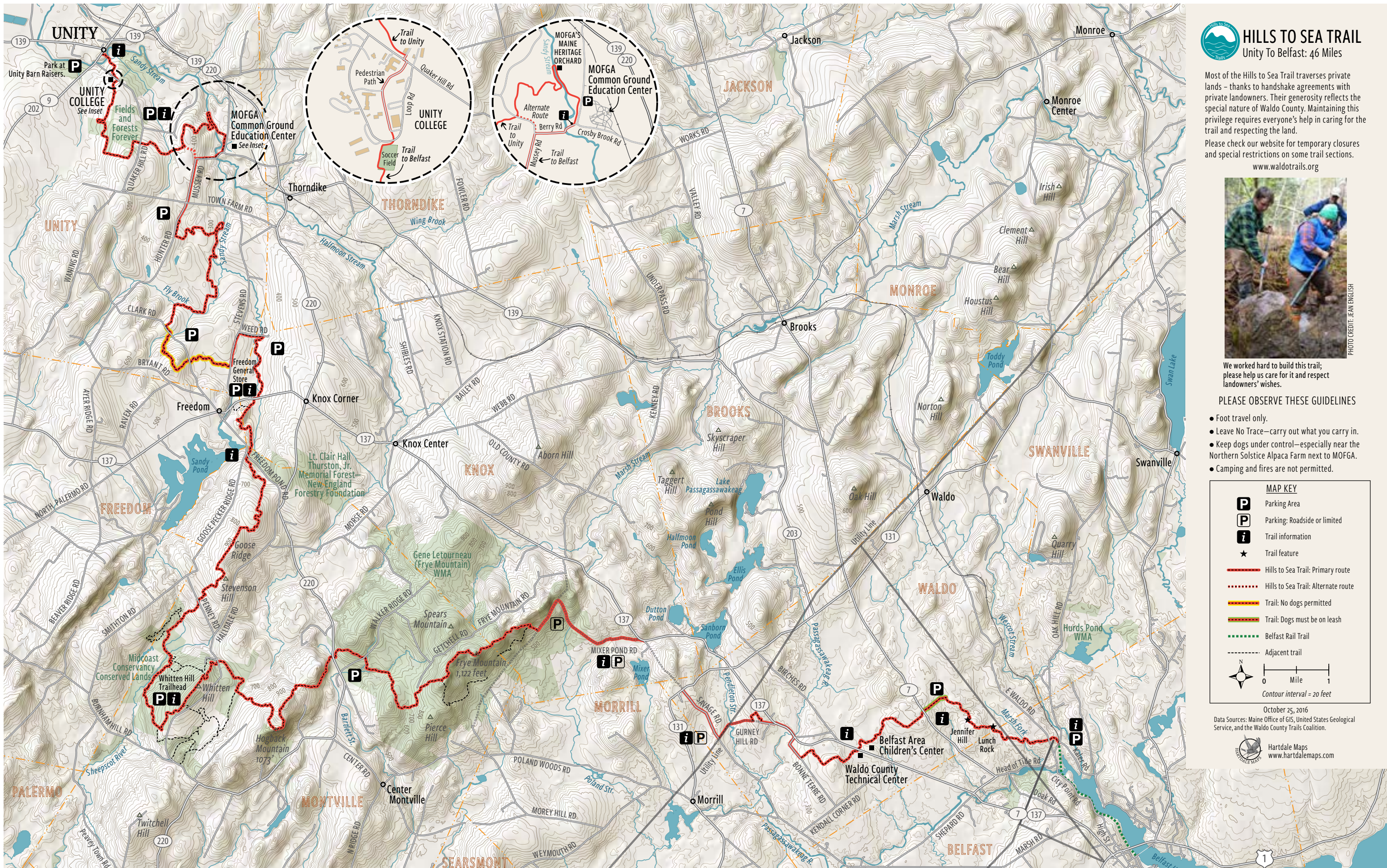
“ NOTHING LIKE A HEADWATERS HIKE OR SNOWSHOE TO RESTORE ONE’S SOUL FROM THE ASSAULT OF OUR MODERN PLAGUES; COVID, CLIMATE CRISIS, TWO-TIERED HEALTHCARE/EDUCATION/HOUSING, ZOOM FATIGUE, INFORMATION OVERLOAD, TO NAME A FEW! —BOB KOHL, LIBERTY



# PROTECTED LANDS & PUBLIC PRESERVES

MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY'S





We worked hard to build this trail; please help us care for it and respect landowners' wishes.

**PLEASE OBSERVE THESE GUIDELINES**

- Foot travel only.
- Leave No Trace—carry out what you carry in.
- Keep dogs under control—especially near the Northern Solstice Alpaca Farm next to MOFGA.
- Camping and fires are not permitted.



# HILLS TO SEA TRAIL: CONNECTING THE LANDSCAPES OF THE MIDCOAST

THE 47-MILE-LONG HILLS TO SEA TRAIL STRETCHES FROM UNITY TO BELFAST, WINDING ITS WAY THROUGH WALDO COUNTY'S PASTORAL LANDSCAPE OF FORESTS, FARMS AND SMALL RURAL TOWNS. THE FOOTPATH TRAVERSES 7,000 ACRES OF CONSERVED LAND AND THE PRIVATELY-OWNED LANDS OF MORE THAN 60 PARTICIPATING LANDOWNERS WHOSE GENEROSITY MAKES THE TRAIL POSSIBLE.

The trail is for foot travel only including hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. There are eight kiosks along the route and year-round parking is available at five locations: Unity Village, Freedom Village, Whitten Hill Trailhead in Montville, the Rte 7 crossing in Waldo and Oak Hill Rd in Belfast by the Belfast & Moosehead Lake RR station.

Camping is not permitted along the trail; however, there are overnight accommodations near the trail that include camping, a yurt, cabins and B&Bs. Some sections of the trail close during hunting seasons beginning in late September by landowner request. Closures are listed on the website and at kiosks. Detailed section maps of the trail can be downloaded from the website or Avenza Maps.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE TRAIL  
VISIT [WWW.HILLSTOSEA.ORG](http://WWW.HILLSTOSEA.ORG).**

**47**  
miles long

Crosses land  
of more than  
**60**  
private landowners

Traverses  
**7,000**  
acres of  
conserved land

Part of a  
network of  
**85+**  
miles of contiguous  
footpaths

Connects with  
**11**  
farms and MOFGA's  
Common Ground  
Education Ctr.  
& the Unity  
Agricultural Ctr.

The Coalition has  
built trails at  
**05**  
outlying schools

Connects  
**04**  
schools/child  
care centers

HILLS TO SEA TRAIL IS THE THIRD LONGEST FOOTPATH IN MAINE AFTER THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL AND INT'L APPALACHIAN TRAIL.

TRAIL WAS BUILT ENTIRELY BY VOLUNTEERS

FEATURED IN 2018 "PASSPORT TO MAINE'S OUTDOORS," A PROJECT OF THE LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM AND LL BEAN.

INTERACTIVE INTERPRETIVE MATERIALS ON CAN BE FOUND ON THE HILLS TO SEA WEBSITE FOR USE ON THE TRAIL.

IN 2017 HILLS TO SEA TRAIL COALITION RECEIVED THE "TRAIL PARTNERSHIP AWARD" FROM AMERICAN TRAILS AT THE 23RD INTERNATIONAL TRAILS SYMPOSIUM IN DAYTON, OHIO.

PLACES FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS ALONG AND NEAR TRAIL ARE BEING DEVELOPED.





# ON NOTICING NATURE

by Chuck Dinsmore

WE'VE BEEN FORTUNATE IN OUR REGION TO HAVE RECOVERED FROM DROUGHT-LIKE CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER. CONSEQUENTLY, WITH

THE ABUNDANCE OF RAINS IN RECENT WEEKS, THE GIFTS OF NATURE HAVE UNFOLDED REMARKABLY WELL! IF YOU'VE ROUTINELY HIKED ANY OF OUR MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY PRESERVES AND EMPLOYED ALL OF YOUR SENSES, YOU LIKELY NOTICED THE CHANGING, OR PERHAPS MORE ACCURATELY THE SUCCESSION, OF WOODLAND FRAGRANCES. FROM THE LOVELY FLOWERS OF EARLY SPRING'S WOODLAND EPHEMERALS ADVERTISING THEMSELVES WITH THEIR SWEET FRAGRANCES TO POLLINATORS BEFORE TREE LEAF-OUT, WE HAVE NOW TRANSITIONED INTO A PERIOD DISPLAYING AN

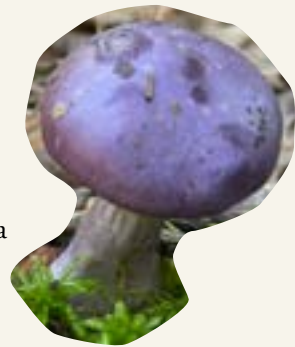
EXTRAORDINARY ERUPTION, A VERITABLE EXPLOSION, OF FUNGAL FRUITING BODIES, A.K.A. MUSHROOMS!



Interestingly, most fungi do their critical work behind the scenes, hidden in the forest floor, without producing a noticeable 'toadstool'. My nose alerted me to their pungent presence while my eyes wondered at their abundance and diversity—have you ever before seen so many different coral mushrooms, or colors and sizes of the caps on others? My palate has thrilled to the gustatory experience of adding sautéed slices to a variety of dishes. Confession and concession: there are only two types, which I feel confident to harvest; fortunately for me, both are considered 'choice'!

Recent popular as well as scientific literature, including a couple of best sellers noted below, has given me a deeper awareness of and appreciation for the central role of fungi in the origins and evolution of all life on the planet—who knew? Walking through the woods with that knowledge, and at a naturalist's pace, offers an understanding of how interdependent the members of our diverse ecosystems are in the hidden worlds below. And for me, an environmental ethic of 'leave no trace' gains new meaning and urgency when taking into consideration the greater concentration and diversity of life beneath our feet than what meets the eye in a typical walkabout.

These are a few of my recent mental meanderings, shared with the hope that you, too, will gain an even deeper relationship with our wonder-filled natural world.



Thank you for being a part of our Midcoast Community!

## SUGGESTED READINGS:

Merlin Sheldrake's (2020) *Entangled Life*, a well-written deep dive into mycology research and observations.

Suzanne Simard's (2021) *Finding the Mother Tree*, a beautifully-written autobiography by a brilliant forest ecologist whose pioneering research discovered and identified the forest's incredibly complex interconnections.



# LAKESMART AWARD: THE GOLD STANDARD

By Patricia Nease

## WHAT IS LAKESMART?

LakeSmart is a free, non-regulatory program where trained staff and volunteers conduct a property evaluation to identify sources of erosion and nutrient pollution. Following the property evaluation the landowner is provided personalized recommendations for minimizing erosion and pollution.

## WHY ARE WE WORRIED ABOUT EROSION?

Erosion brings phosphorus into water bodies as it binds to soil particles. Any soil that washes into the lake also brings nutrients!

## WHY IS LAKESMART IMPORTANT?

LakeSmart is great for a whole host of reasons! It not only identifies ways you can improve your protection of water quality, it is the first step to engaging the services of the YCC program; becoming LakeSmart certified can help encourage your neighbors to also become certified! LakeSmart properties also are the gold standard for protecting the lake from harmful algal blooms like we've had with cyanobacteria.

## WHAT DOES LAKESMART HAVE TO DO WITH CYANOBACTERIA?

Cyanobacteria outbreaks are exacerbated by inputs of nutrients from erosion and septic pollution. When you enroll in the LakeSmart program we'll walk you through easy ways to prevent erosion from entering the lake and help provide cost sharing options for fixes, when possible, through YCC and other grant programs.



## WHAT IS THIS YCC PROGRAM YOU KEEP MENTIONING?

YCC, or Youth Conservation Corps (aka the Buffer Brigade), is one of our cost-sharing programs for installing best management practices (BMPs) for erosion on properties. Landowners typically pay the cost of the materials required, but the labor is free (covered through EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 funding). We hire local youth who install anything from buffer plantings to infiltration steps on your property. They're also educated on what a best management practice is, why we care about erosion control, and become experts in prescribing BMPs specific to various issues.

## THIS ALL SOUNDS GREAT! HOW DO I ENROLL IN LAKESMART?

We're currently asking folks to fill out a brief questionnaire that will get you started. Patricia will reach out to schedule a property evaluation. You don't need to be on the property when we conduct the evaluation, but it can be helpful!

To access the form visit <https://bit.ly/mclakesmartform> or scan the QR code:





# PARTNERING ON THE MEDOMAK TO INCREASE IMPACT

by Tim Trumbauer

MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY HAS A TRADITION OF STRATEGICALLY PARTNERING WITH ALIGNED ORGANIZATIONS TO ACCELERATE AND MAXIMIZE THE SCALE OF OUR IMPACT. ONE SUCH PARTNERSHIP IS WITH THE MAINE COASTAL OBSERVING ALLIANCE (MCOA). FOUNDED IN 2014, MCOA IS A CONSORTIUM OF CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT COASTAL MAINE, AND IS SUPPORTED BY TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE MAINE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, UNIVERSITY OF MAINE DARLING MARINE CENTER, MAINE SEA GRANT, AND MORE.

Midcoast Conservancy, with support from MCOA and local volunteers, monitors water quality at five sites on the Medomak estuary from Waldoboro to Muscongus Bay and additional sites on the Sheepscot River estuary, for temperature, pH, water clarity, nutrients, and more. Midcoast Conservancy uses the data collected to analyze water quality trends and climate change impacts, identify potential pollution sources, and support policy decisions. By setting consistent, science-based monitoring procedures, our partnership with MCOA also ensures that water quality data are precise, accurate, and credible. Not only is our

collaboration with MCOA incredibly useful for water quality data analysis, it's also fun! I had the pleasure of piloting Celeste Mosher, an MCOA scientist, and Glen Melvin, a local volunteer and clammer, on a recent Medomak sampling trip. Between monitoring stations, our conversation meandered from the rich local history of clammers and lobstermen, to enchanting anecdotes about sampling voyages in years past. As a newcomer "from away", I was touched by the welcoming spirit and eagerness to share the stories about the Medomak.

We are always looking for volunteer captains on the Medomak and



Above: Brooke Pacy of Waldoboro is one of many volunteers who offered her time and vessel to assist in water quality monitoring efforts on the Medomak River.

Sheepscot Rivers. If you have access to a boat and are interested in helping us monitor water quality, please contact me at [tim.t@midcoastconservancy.org](mailto:tim.t@midcoastconservancy.org).

We are so grateful that our MCOA partners help us to protect and restore vital lands and waters on a scale that matters. Find more information about MCOA at [www.mcoascience.org](http://www.mcoascience.org).



# HVNC: ACCESS ON A SCALE THAT MATTERS

by Ali Stevenson

WHEN IT COMES TO THE MISSION OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE ON A SCALE THAT MATTERS, HIDDEN VALLEY NATURE CENTER IS ONE OF MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY'S SUPER POWERS! THROUGH PROGRAMS, EVENTS AND COMMUNITY LEADER TRAININGS, WE ARE ABLE TO CONNECT PEOPLE WITH EXPERIENCES THAT ALLOW THEM TO TAKE THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND ENTHUSIASM BACK TO THEIR OWN NEIGHBORHOODS AND EXTEND THE REACH OF OUR WORK.

The pandemic has provided an opportunity to reassess our outdoor adventure program. Previously administered by AmeriCorps volunteers who took our gear to schools and community centers, we have refocused our efforts toward bringing people to our preserves and connecting them to the natural world. By providing access to high quality outdoor gear, and educational workshops and well-maintained trails, we're removing the barriers that stand between local underserved populations and the outdoors. By empowering local schools and communities to lead their own adventures, we are able to serve far more people than we could have with only our two AmeriCorps teams.

We expanded our gear rental programs at HVNC this past year to allow more people to explore the trails using our fat tire bikes, cross-country skis

and snowshoes. Rentals provided an opportunity to try a new sport without committing to buying the gear, and our three-part bike clinic helped converts take their new passion to a higher level. The huts, yurt and campsites saw more use than ever as families and folks new to the area deepened their experience through overnight stays. Our older yurt was replaced with a brand new, fully-insulated timber frame cabin, Haybale Hut!

Programs like Wild Mushroom ID workshops, Forestry for Birds, the Fern Walk and the Bug Safari brought hundreds of curious learners to HVNC. School groups make HVNC visits a regular part of their curriculum. Our summer events, including Jazz in the Woods, the Live Edge Music Festival and the Race Through the Woods, drew even more people to the preserve, allowing us to introduce music lovers



Photo Courtesy of MEEA

and trail racers to the wonders of HVNC. In September alone, over 1,000 people visited the preserve!

HVNC serves a critical role in reaching and often creating stewards of the natural world, and in particular of Midcoast Conservancy's special places. By providing a wide range of opportunities for engaging in outdoor recreation and appreciating the beauty of nature, HVNC makes an impact on a scale that matters.

Photos (R to L): Students from Maranacook Community High School, spent a recent weekend at HVNC, thanks to a Teens to Trails Fall 2020 Trip Lottery; Nat Wheelwright, Bowdoin College Ecology Professor Emeritus, led a Natural History walk at Hidden Valley; Mountain bikers exploring the 25+ miles of trail; Maine Environmental Education Association (MEEA) staff/fellows and youth organizers met for a retreat that included exploring HVNC by foot and canoe!



Photos: Tim Trumbauer



# FIRST LIGHT LEARNING JOURNEY

by Chris Schorn

“WHAT IF WE COULD FASHION A RESTORATION PLAN THAT GREW FROM UNDERSTANDING MULTIPLE MEANINGS OF LAND? LAND AS SUSTAINER. LAND AS IDENTITY. LAND AS GROCERY STORE AND PHARMACY. LAND AS CONNECTION TO OUR ANCESTORS. LAND AS MORAL OBLIGATION. LAND AS SACRED. LAND AS SELF.”  
—ROBIN WALL KIMMERER

For the past three years, our organization has been engaged with the First Light Learning Journey—a bridge between conservation organizations and Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet and Mi'kmaq Communities that seeks to expand Wabanaki access and relationship to land.

Why are conservation organizations and land trusts, specifically, undertaking this work? The Wabanaki now have access to less than 1% of their ancestral homeland. But in the last 50 years, land conservation groups in Maine have come to steward almost 23% of the state's land, including countless places of great importance to the Wabanaki

people. What represents a great success for us means just another frustrating round of keep-away, played with culturally vital resources and places held sacred by the Wabanaki.

For the most part, our role in the Learning Journey has consisted of listening to stories of the Wabanaki experience; reflecting on our role as a beneficiary—and thus perpetuator—of white colonial violence and dispossession; and understanding that a greater restoration of Wabanaki rights and sovereignty is needed if we truly are to live up to our responsibilities as land stewards—and as Mainers.

Though the Learning Journey's curriculum is finishing this fall, our organization's journey towards making necessary change in our work, with the hope of “repairing and returning at the speed of trust”, continues. Please stay tuned; in future issues of "The Drift", we will explain the issues at hand, communicate what we've learned, and share our resolutions for change.

We invite you to visit [firstlightlearningjourney.net](http://firstlightlearningjourney.net) for more information on historical resources, tribal sovereignty, indigenous land loss, and land restoration and rematriation.

Photo: Keith Carver

## UPSTREAM RIPPLES

by Shri Verrill

WITH A SMOOTH WOODEN PADDLE IN MY HAND AT THE STERN OF OUR BORROWED CANOE, MY EYES RESTED WITH AN EASY GAZE ON THE FORESTED RIDGE THAT RECLINES LIKE A RESTING SENTINEL OVER BRANCH POND IN WHAT IS NOW CHINA, MAINE. NESTLED IN THE FORESTED HEADWATERS OF THE SHEEPSCOT RIVER WATERSHED, THE POND WAS FIRST DAMMED TO SUPPORT A GRIST MILL IN 1817. THE IMPOUNDED POND HOLDS OVER 300 ACRES OF HABITAT SUITABLE FOR ALEWIFE SPAWNING AND MYRIAD OTHER FISH, WILDLIFE, AND NATIVE PLANTS TO THRIVE.

Pausing for a minute to watch a soaring bald eagle tracing graceful arcs across the sky, my paddle drips create a series of ripples that flow into a wake, making their way downstream as we glide northward into the wind.

These waters surge up from the cool earth, drain down through shaded forests, over, through, and around tangled roots, stones, and gravel, and from a small inlet to the northeast that meanders just under three miles down from the northeast originating stream



that feeds the West Branch. And from the blessed rain.

People have been paddling in the waters of the Sheepscot River, first known as “Pahshepsakook”, an Abenaki name meaning pahshe – divided; apak – rocks; ook – water place, since the ice sheet retreated over 10,000 years ago.

Re-establishing fish passage into this pond for sea-run fish means reviving the ancient nutrient exchange between fresh water, brackish, and the marine environment. Just as the drops sliding off my paddle have traveled through the earth, air, and water, so too do the nutrients stream from sea-run fish into the forests, hills, birds and wildlife through primary producers like plants that in turn provide food for herbivores, carnivores, and even apex predators like humans! Water drops carry nutrients that effect change and nurture the food web at micro and macro levels, from the drop off my paddle to the nutrient exchange throughout the whole watershed.

I feel a kinship with the people of this place. Families here have developed a deep connection with the seasonal flux of life and the bountiful harvest and catch often celebrated at feasts at the



end of summer. I'd like to think that anyone reading this now may in a few years sit down to a meal freshly caught, dug, or picked and wonder if alewives contributed to the nutrients that will imminently nourish their friends and family.

*Now that's a scale that matters!*





# MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY IN THE NEWS



SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT OUR WORK IS A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF WORK ON “A SCALE THAT MATTERS”. THIS FALL, WE’VE LAUNCHED TWO NEWS OUTLETS, ONE IN PRINT AND THE OTHER ON YOUR TV SCREEN!

**T**he premiere of “Midcoast Matters” on Lincoln County Television (LCTV) was an episode called “Joining Forces” and featured Pete Nichols talking with three champions of the midcoast: Pris Watson, Buck O’Herin and Tracy Moskovitz. Future episodes will take viewers around our service area and focus on an array of issues critical to land and water protection and ecological restoration.

Our weekly column in the Lincoln County News, also called “Midcoast Matters”, debuted in late September; weekly dispatches will highlight our work, our special places, and feature “guest” authors sharing their stories and voices with the wider community of the paper’s readership.

If you have ideas about topics for future columns, please contact Ali at [ali@midcoastconservancy.org](mailto:ali@midcoastconservancy.org); we want to shine a light on what is important to you!

# THE SUM OF ITS PARTS

By Isobel Curtis

WITH FALL APPROACHING, I AM LEFT TO TAKE STOCK OF ALL WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED THIS FIELD SEASON. I SEE THE HUNDREDS OF FACES I’VE MET AND MILES OF TRAIL I’VE WALKED, ALL MELDING TOGETHER IN A COLORFUL BLUR. YET INSTEAD OF COMBING THROUGH THESE MEMORIES AND EXTRACTING THE NUMBER OF BRIDGES BUILT OR HIKES GUIDED, I WANT TO ZOOM OUT AND WEIGH THEIR VALUE COLLECTIVELY.

**C**ommunity is the tangible yet immeasurable sum of all these individual interactions—a network that emerges from the myriad connections and conversations that happen on the trail. As the saying goes, the resulting whole is greater than the sum of its parts! When our community grows, the possible connections between component parts (people) increases exponentially. New functions and properties arise as a result of these novel combinations of skill, knowledge, and people power. We don’t just scale up in size, but in diversity and resiliency of function.

I want to ground this abstract process in an anecdote. Earlier this summer, I got to know one of our dedicated volunteers at an invasive plant training held by the Maine Forest Service and Natural Areas Program. I learned of his years of experience controlling invasive plants and shared my interest in managing them on Midcoast

**EMERGENT PROPERTIES (DEF.):** COLLECTIVE PHENOMENA OR BEHAVIORS IN COMPLEX ADAPTIVE SYSTEMS THAT ARE NOT PRESENT IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL PARTS.

Conservancy’s preserves. This new connection and combination of skills and ideas became the seed for a project: managing Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) along the Sheepscot River at Trout Brook Preserve. This seed grew into a hearty group of volunteers who have offered their time thrice now, each with laughter and zeal, to cut down knotweed canes. In a wonderfully self-perpetuating cycle, community is both the by-product and sustaining force of the work we do.

Just as the growth of our human community allows for greater diversity and resiliency of function, expanding and connecting conserved lands bolsters ecological communities in vital ways. When forest blocks are fragmented, habitat is degraded, species populations become isolated, and ecosystems become less resilient. But as the size and connectivity of forest blocks increases, we see certain functions re-emerge, such as the ability to support large predators.

So it is with our communities, and ourselves: connection is everything. For this reason, we must continue building connectivity in our human and non-human communities over entire watersheds. This is the work that matters, at the scale that matters.





# MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

WE SAY OFTEN THAT MEMBERSHIP MATTERS BECAUSE IT'S TRUE! YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT HAS A FINANCIAL IMPACT, OF COURSE, BUT EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT SHOWS YOUR COMMITMENT TO CARING FOR THIS PLACE WE ALL LOVE, AND TO CONNECTING WITH THE OTHER PEOPLE AND THE WORK THAT MAKE THAT POSSIBLE.

You give gift memberships to expand our reach, you answer our calls for volunteers, you invite new people to our preserves and events. Our members are the mycelium of our organization, spreading the message far and wide. Thank you for your membership: you are making a difference each and every day.



SCAN THE QR CODE TO BECOME A MEMBER TODAY, AND RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING MEMBER BENEFITS:

- 40% discount on all cabin rentals at Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC)
- Discounts on courses including Timber Framing, Chainsaw Safety, and Ski Clinics
- Invitation to Member Events
- Free unlimited use of preserves, including 25+ miles of groomed ski trails at HVNC
- Biannual printed newsletter & bimonthly e-news communication

# VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

WE CAN'T SAY IT ENOUGH: THANK YOU!

Without our volunteers, we could not do the work to protect, restore and connect the lands and waters of the midcoast. The ripple effect of trail crews lugging tools and lumber deep into preserves to maintain trail health, of the dozens of helping hands that make our events run so smoothly, the council meetings that are the eyes and ears of our regional communities, and the hours spent monitoring water quality in our

lakes and rivers is how we can make a difference, pure and simple.

This year, we said thank you by holding our first Volunteer Appreciation Day! We turned the tables and had staff prepping the site at HVNC, working the grill, sorting recycling and pouring the beer while local band The Gainers kept us rocking and rolling. We are already looking forward to next year; this new tradition is a keeper!



# HONORARY & MEMORIAL GIFTS

## HONORARY GIFTS

**In Honor of Michelle Blagdon**  
Girl Scout Troop #2003 & Jennifer McKane

**In Honor of William McDougall**  
Brian McDougall

**In Honor of Jamie Saft**  
Fredric Rosen

**In Honor of Tim Trumbauer**  
William Robinson

**In Honor of Brent Vanni**  
Linda Barber

**In Honor of Amanda Widing**  
Priscilla Welter  
Bevin Blaber

**In Honor of Nancy Winslow**  
Jane Hutchinson

## MEMORIAL GIFTS

**In Memory of Charles H. Dodge**  
Maurice Harmon

**In Memory of David Jones**  
Hemlock Park Association

**In Memory of Ted & Terry Persons**  
Gail & Glenn Bowman

**In Memory of Nancy Ellis Duffy**  
Carolyn Hardman  
David & Sharon Miller  
Katherine Pennington  
Cathy Davison  
Paula Spector  
Kay & Peter Liss  
Sharon Donaghy  
Richard & Jeannie Thompson  
Carol Manley  
Brandt Living Trust, Christopher & Lana Brandt, Trustees  
Brenda Grosse Goth  
Peter & Susan Glueck  
Bill & Karen Mook  
Albert & Sandy Andrejcek

Robert & Pamela Hull  
Peter Salmansohn  
Martha Grant  
Janine Garceau  
Donalee Dolan  
Barbara & William Babb  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Kenneth Lincoln, Jr.  
Patricia & Joseph Lepak

**In Memory of Roland Barth**  
Wendy Stothman  
Gail Solomon  
Katherine Aitken-Young  
Alnoba Cilley  
Kay Morrow  
John Conboy  
Alice Carey  
Janet Shipman & Jay Cushman  
Linda Norman  
Dorothy Trueman Renda  
Vickery Cleaves & Paul Lazarus  
Caroline Davis Janover  
John & Maggie Atwood  
Elizabeth & Gordon Davis  
Suzanne Meidel

# REMEMBERING ROLAND

ROLAND SAWYER BARTH, EDUCATOR, SAILOR, FARMER, CONSERVATIONIST, 84, PASSED AWAY PEACEFULLY ON SEPT. 12, 2021, IN MAINE SURROUNDED BY HIS FAMILY.

Conservation was part of his genetic makeup. The Barth family founded SVCA and today the family accounts for 10 protected properties, including almost 300 acres of Roland's iconic home, farm and

forest land on Hollywood Blvd in Alna. Roland's passion for community and vision of landscape scale conservation led to nine neighbors joining his lead to protect thousands of acres up and down Hollywood Blvd. A debt of gratitude is owed to this generous man.

Gifts may be made to Midcoast Conservancy in honor of Roland.







Cover Photo: Aerial of Damariscotta Lake  
Photographer: Tim Trumbauer



**MIDCOAST  
CONSERVANCY**

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