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MAHOOSUC
LAND TRUST
P.O. Box 981
Bethel, Maine 04217
(207) 824-3806
info@mahoosuc.org
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~ Upcoming Events ~

Wednesday January 16, 2008

Native Cree and Inuit Guides of the North with Kevin Slater and Polly Mahoney

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Labrador Canoe Crossing: Ice Rock and Tides with Ann Ingerson and David Brown

Wednesday March 5, 2008

Wild Orchids in Maine: Rare Flowers in our Backyard with Michael Hicks

Wednesday, April 16, 2008

In the Company of Loons: Loon Photography with Jennifer Loomis

All Programs will be held the at 7 PM at Trustees Auditorium, McLaughlin Science Building at Gould Academy

ANNUAL APPEAL INCREASES TO BE MATCHED

Good news about our Annual Appeal! For the second year, a generous supporter of MLT has offered an incentive for members and friends to increase their contributions over last year. Such increases will be matched one-to-one, up to a total of \$2,500. Thus, each \$100 of increase generates an additional \$100. As our October 10 appeal letter stressed, increased contributions are a key factor in allowing MLT to continue successful protection of our area's natural assets. Let's rise to the challenge.

Walter Hatch

NEW GRAFTON LOOP TRAIL PARKING LOT

Bob Stewart, an MLT board member from Cumberland, has long been a local landowner with an interest in the region. In 2005 he donated Puzzle Mountain, including about 600 acres and the three summits of the mountain, to MLT. Bob's intention is to ensure that the mountain be kept in its natural state to be enjoyed by the public. He also wants to protect the section of the Grafton Loop trail that he was instrumental in creating which passes over the mountain.

Bob has just added another piece to the Puzzle property by donating the land for trailhead parking alongside Route 26 to MLT. The current parking area will be laid out and graveled to hold 20 cars. It will be jointly managed by MLT and the Loop Trail Coalition. If you haven't parked there and hiked Puzzle in the fall, we highly recommend doing so.

Landon Fake

VOLUNTEERS FROM OUTWARD BOUND WORKED ON THE GATEWAY PRESERVE

Young volunteers from Outward Bound worked six afternoons this summer trimming and clearing brush on the wooded part of the Gateway Preserve. The purpose of the work is to open the three-acre pine grove to more sun light and stimulate the growth of diverse species of plants on the site. The volunteers, part of an Outward Bound class, came from all over the United States.



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jm@mahoosuc.org

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gk@mahoosuc.org

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President's Message

In reading this issue of the newsletter you will get a sense of the huge increase in activity that has taken place at Mahoosuc Land Trust since our outstanding victory in obtaining the south side of Rumford Whitecap last summer. Sincere thanks again to all of you who made that purchase possible and in so doing set us on a new trajectory as an organization.

The most recent excitement is the reorganization of the Development Committee under the chairmanship of our newest board member Ginger Lawson. Ginger and her husband Larry Ely have worked with and alongside the trust for several years on projects in the Shelburne, NH area. Since joining the board in October she has given insight into her vast understanding and skill in the field of organizational

outreach gained through a career that currently involves writing and installing hospital software to make all those high-tech machines in the operating, intensive care, and emergency rooms work the way they are supposed to. Ginger has big plans for the outreach and branding of MLT to make it the non-profit that everyone wants to belong to, and one where a "Culture of Gratitude" is pervasive as we seek to acquire new members and partners to expand our work of conserving land and traditional land uses for all.

Please welcome Ginger. You will be hearing from her soon!

Steve Wight, President

BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientists studying the impacts of global climate change are now making predictions about what will happen to some of our birds in the Northeastern United States. Both common loons and black-capped chickadees are expected to decline significantly - by more than one-quarter - says this new study.

Experts from a variety of institutions, including the Vermont Institute of Natural Science and the US Forest Service have authored an article called "Potential effects of climate change on birds of the Northeast."

Birds are predicted to change in number, and also in distribution. There are both "winner" and "loser" birds as the Northeast warms, as some will increase and some will decrease.

The predictions about what will happen to 150 types of birds are based upon long-term bird studies and models of climate, elevation and tree species. In this and other studies, vegetation changes are expected throughout Maine - spruces and firs, sugar maples and other northern hardwood trees are expected to decline while oaks and pines increase.

The Northeast will actually gain in its total number of bird species, as birds from warmer southern areas move north, according to the authors. Birds that are year-round residents will generally be helped by a warmer climate, as cold winters now limit their numbers and range.

However, the resident birds to increase do not include the ruffed grouse or black-capped chickadee, whose habitat will be reduced. Long-distance migrants and birds of wetlands, such as common loons who nest at lake edges, will lose population.

Among those birds most at risk are those that live on our mountaintops, such as Bicknell's thrush. This thrush would suffer a loss of more than half of its habitat with 1 °C of warming. Even the low end of temperature change is expected to be 2.8 °C.

Just when these changes to birds will occur, however, is an open question. The authors note that vegetation tends to change slowly in response to climate. The long-term nature of the predictions in a complex environment also has many uncertainties, but such predictions are vital as we prepare for the future. We hopefully we will reduce further climate change impacts to birds and people.

The article by N.L. Rodenhouse and others will appear in the journal *Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies for Global Change*. For more information see the article online at: http://www.northeastclimateimpacts.org/pdf/miti/rodenhouse_et_al.pdf

The USDA Forest Service climate change tree atlas is found at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/delaware/atlas/>

Ken Hotopp

Noteworthy

The Bethel Trail Extension Dedication

On Sunday, October 14, 2007 the Bethel Pathway Extension was dedicated. The trail has been extended from the recreational bridge down under the highway bridge, along the river, behind the Big Adventure and out to the North Road. Extending the trail was a community effort involving the support of many community members. The trails committee volunteers spread topsoil along the edges of the new pavement prior to the dedication ceremony.

Howard Frank Mosher Lecture

The MLT is proud to have sponsored a slide lecture featuring Howard Frank Mosher on the evening of November 17. Mosher is a noted New England author of ten books and a resident of Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. He entertained the audience with stories about moving to the Northeast Kingdom as a young man, and meeting people who later became the basis for characters in his books.

Bruce and Becky Bailey Award

Kirk Siegel, former president and founder of the Mahoosuc Land Trust, was awarded the first Bruce and Becky Bailey award at the annual meeting on October, 24. Kirk served as president from 1989 to 1994. He currently serves as co-chairman of the land trust's Trails Committee and general counsel.

The award honors Bruce and Becky Bailey, long-term residents of Bethel and supporters of the Mahoosuc Land Trust.

Mahoosuc Land Trust Garden Tour

The Land Trust is grateful to Leslie Kavenaugh, Mary Millard, Cindy Mills, Pinky Rinebold, Sally Sawyer, and Becky Secrest, who opened their gardens for our fifth garden tour. Touring five gardens was just the beginning. The gardeners were on hand to explain their garden design. The gardens were in bloom and gorgeous, and the weather was great. Included with the garden tour was tea at the Victoria Inn, graciously donated by Stacey Sahin. People who came really appreciated being able to see remote gardens. The land trust appreciates the efforts of everyone involved.

Whitecap Celebration

After months of diligent work raising funds to purchase the Rumford Whitecap Mountain Preserve, Darlene and Jenna Ginsburg helped host the event at their Perennial Inn at Rumford Point on Sunday afternoon August 5th. Under the big tent we had music, food and fellowship. Bob Iles, Chairman of the Whitecap Committee thanked all of his committee members for their superlative job. He also thanked members of the conservation community who had so generously supported the project with their donations.

