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Member Profile

Walt and Carol Hatch are the kind of land trust supporters who bring a smile to the faces of all board members. Walt's hands-on involvement in all aspects of the land trust and with Carol's support have contributed greatly to our success. Walt joined the land trust in the early days, became a board member in 1997 and treasurer in 2002. His endless volunteer hours as well as their generous financial support have been invaluable to the trust.

Walt & Carol began vacationing in the area in the 1970s and moved here in 1987. They came because of their love for the beautiful natural surroundings and the small town feel. With Carol or one of their five daughters, Walt could often be found paddling the river, hiking the trails or, with Carol, playing a round of golf. These days one of Walt's favorite activities is going to Frenchman's Hole with Carol each week during summer months for monitoring and cleanup work.

Asked why he donates his time and money so generously, Walter replies that he wants to see the beauty of the area conserved and resources such as clean water and wildlife protected. I think we are on our way to reaching that goal with Walt and Carol's help.



Walter and Carolyn Hatch



THE MAHOOSUC LAND TRUST SUBMITS TWO APPLICATIONS TO THE LAND FOR MAINE'S FUTURE PROGRAM

The Land for Maine's Future Program is a state government program that funds conservation projects across Maine. It is funded by a bond issue approved by the voters of Maine in November, 2007.

The two projects submitted by the Mahoosuc Land Trust are:

Buck's Ledges – Buck's Ledges are the prominent, scenic rock faces visible across North Pond from Route 26 traveling south from Locke's Mills. The Ledges are part of a 655-acre parcel that also includes the summit of Moody Mountain and Lapham's Ledges. This land has high scenic value and has been used by local residents for hiking, hunting and snowmobiling. For more information about Buck's Ledges contact MLT volunteer Jane Chandler.



Buck's Ledges

Middle Intervale Farm – Middle Intervale Farm is a seventh-generation dairy farm located on Intervale Road in Bethel. The farm contains some of the best agricultural soils in Oxford County. The current farmer/owner, John Carter, is working with the land trust to place a farmland easement on the farm. The easement will protect this highly productive farmland.



Dairy Cattle at Middle Intervale Farm

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many opportunities to use your knowledge, skills and talents to help the Mahoosuc Land Trust. You can volunteer to work or with your friends or by yourself, either at the office, at your home or on Mahoosuc Land Trust properties.

THE LANDS COMMITTEE ~ The Lands Committee monitors and advises the board and staff on land protection projects. The committee needs members with natural resource conservation, legal or real estate backgrounds.

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ~ The Development Committee plans membership campaigns, implements the annual appeal, and planned-giving programs and is working to build the land trust endowment. It is a new committee in need of committed volunteers.

President's Message

As President of MLT it is my distinct pleasure to serve as facilitator and cheerleader for all the exciting and varied projects that the trust has going on at any point in time. I think you will agree with me - after reading this issue of the newsletter - that we have really increased our appetite, capacity and geographic reach in the past few months in support of our mission of conserving special places for the economic and social benefit of the residents and visitors of the communities we serve.

Please join me in thanking members who have recently stepped forward to take on new leadership roles in support of our increased activity. Our nineteen board members are extremely committed to our work and meet several times a month for committee and board work. We are thrilled that board member Ginger Lawson has agreed to head our Development Committee and that she will be ably supported by new staffer Jolan Ippolito, who played such a big role in our Whitecap Campaign. William Andrews has agreed to serve as assistant and understudy to our esteemed Treasurer Walter Hatch. Jim List has taken the reins of the Trails Committee and has brought organization and energy to that high-profile group as they work toward exciting expansions of existing pathways and trails in Bethel village and beyond. Lucia Owen now chairs the new Community Relations and Events Committee that is planning new fun ways to bring the community together in the coming months. Landon Fake has accepted the chair of the Lands Committee that is working with Larry Ely and Ginger Lawson to bring lands in Shelburne, New

Hampshire under easements held by MLT. Staffer Ginger Kelley is our representative to the Mahoosuc Initiative, a multi-organization collaborative working to empower leadership in the communities in the Mahoosuc Region of Maine and New Hampshire and to support economic development through creation of a conservation ethic. Jane Chandler, who has enthusiastically accepted the chairmanship of a campaign to purchase Moody Mountain and Buck's Ledges in Woodstock, has worked with Marcel Polak and Amy Scott to prepare an application to the Land for Maine's Future Board for this funding cycle. Bob Iles is continuing his work for the Whitecap Campaign by working with Stephen Seames and others to find owners of mineral rights on our newly purchased lands and encourage them to transfer them to the trust.

Join me as well in thanking our Executive Director, Jim Mitchell, who keeps the operation moving smoothly and who has spent many days over the winter working with landowners considering various protections for their lands. He prepared and submitted a detailed LMF application for funding of an easement on John Carter's Intervale Farm that will secure John's dream of keeping the seven-generation family farm in agricultural production for many generations to come.

Please also think of ways that you might aid the exciting work that we are about. Give me, Jim, or Ginger Kelly a call. We would be happy to have you and your particular skills and interests on the team!

Steve Wight
President

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ARCHIVIST ~

We currently have a need for a volunteer to organize newspaper and magazine clippings into a chronological notebook. This volunteer will also monitor local newspapers and clip and organize the trust's photographs.

THE COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE ~

The Community Relations and Events Committee is responsible for all special land trust events and publications. Events include the local knowledge series, the garden tour and other events. Publications include the semi-annual newsletter and the website - www.mahoosuc.org. The committee is looking for volunteers with graphics, writing, editing and computer skills. Anyone wishing to act as an official land trust photographer would be especially welcome.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ~

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for maintaining land trust properties and monitoring easements. It develops land management plans for all land trust holding

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STEWARDSHIP INTERN

The Mahoosuc Land Trust is pleased to welcome Maia Pinsky, an intern with the Quebec Labrador Foundation. Maia, originally from Orono, Maine, is a 2005 graduate from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. She will work with the Stewardship Committee updating our management plans for the Stewart Family Preserve and the Intervale Gateway.

GARDEN TOUR

The Mahoosuc Land Trust sixth annual Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, July 12, 2008, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The tour will include a highly productive vegetable garden as well as a hybrid day-lily garden. The owners will share their enthusiasm, knowledge and experience including how to cross-breed day lilies. The tour includes tea and scones at the Victoria Inn in Bethel.

Tickets are \$15 and will be available at the Mahoosuc Land Trust office at 18 Mayville Road, Route 2 and 26, Bethel, behind the White Mountain National Forest Center.

Sponsors include: Deerwood Farm and Gardens, Good Food Store, Michael Mills Landscaping and Irrigation Systems, Mountain Greenery Green House, Pooh Corner Farm Greenhouse and Florist, Tib's Landscaping LLC, Stonework by Brian Fairfield, and the Sunday River Ski Area.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION

You can help the Mahoosuc Land Trust save printing and postage costs by sending us your e-mail address. Please send an e-mail to mlt@mahoosuc.org with the words electronic newsletter in the subject line.

SUMMIT SOCIETY

Become a Charter Member of the Mahoosuc Land Trust Summit Society

The Mahoosuc Land Trust is excited to announce the creation of the Summit Society. The Summit Society recognizes our generous donors whose unrestricted gifts during the year total \$1000 or more to support our organization and its conservation work. Unrestricted gifts include membership and annual appeal giving.

The name Summit Society has been chosen to honor the many outstanding peaks in the Mahoosuc Mountain Range, a region where the Mahoosuc Land Trust has been instrumental in many conservation efforts. As we build towards the long-term endowment of the land trust, we'll be creating specific Mahoosuc peaks to climb in our donor levels.

As a member of the Summit Society, you'll enjoy unique opportunities to see firsthand the valuable conservation work your contributions make possible. Each year you will be invited to special Summit Society events and activities. This year's events include a boat tour of Umbagog Lake in Upton, a tour of the Philbrick Farm Inn and hike to First Mountain in Shelburne, NH, and a fall hike on Puzzle Mountain in Newry. You will also receive a quarterly bulletin from the president of the land trust to update you on current happenings.

We are very grateful for the support of every single member of the Mahoosuc Land Trust, and we hope you will consider becoming a charter member of the Summit Society this year. Please contact the office if you would like more information.

MAHOOSUC LAND TRUST ACCEPTS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON CHANDLER FAMILY WOODLOT AND FIELD

The Mahoosuc Land Trust has received a conservation easement on 212 acres of woodland including a five-acre field on the South Arm Road in Andover. The working forest easement is the gift of Henry P. Chandler of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire, and John P. and Martha Webb Chandler of Laconia, New Hampshire.

The easement is planned for the permanent use of the woodlot for sustainable timber harvesting and wildlife habitat. The land may not be sub-divided or developed.

The easement is the result of two years of discussions between the Chandler Family and the Mahoosuc Land Trust and was completed in December and recorded at the Oxford County Registry of Deeds at South Paris on December 28.

A conservation easement is an agreement between the land trust and a family or individual that limits the use of the land. Conservation easements are flexible,

permanent agreements that enable the donor to continue to own, live on, farm, or cut timber on the land. The conditions of the easement will remain on the land permanently.

Ownership of the Chandler family's South Arm Road parcel spans six generations. Parts of several tracts are included in the 212 acres, the first having been acquired in the late 1780s by Ezekial Merrill, the first European settler in Andover. Additions starting in the late 1880s were made by Merrill's grandson Henry Varnum Poor and his son, whose family ownership continued to the mid 1930s, when the land was bought by Poor's grandson Henry P. Chandler Sr., father of owners Henry and John.

On the property is part of the carriage path network established by Poor in the late 1880s. Surrounded by woods is a five-acre field, a former farm site kept clear by successive owners for a hundred years.

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust that protects the unique values of a parcel of land, such as agricultural, habitat, scenic, recreational or timber in perpetuity. The landowner continues to own the land, which can be sold or passed on to heirs.

A conservation easement benefits both the landowner and the public. The donation of a conservation easement can result in tax benefits and guide future land-use decisions. It can benefit the public by conserving scenic, recreational, ecological and economic values. A conservation easement can support commercial forestry and agriculture by preventing the conversion of the best timber and farmland to other uses.

Easements are flexible and written to meet the needs of both the donor and the land trust.



John and Martha Chandler at the Summit Society gathering at the Sunday River inn in May.

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| George and Jennifer Bennett | Tim and Nina Chan | David and Kristy Donaldson | George and Rose Fraser |
| Randall H. Bennett | Benton T. Chandler | Robert and Georgia Donati | Michael Freed |
| Carolyn Bennett | Harriet F. Chandler | Charles P. Donnelly | Eben and Barbara Freeman |