



Notes

Spring 2010 Volume 18 No. 1

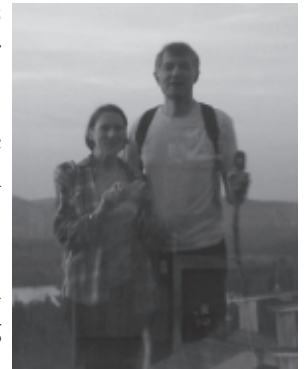
Conserving special places for all

LARRY STIFLER/MARY MCFADDEN CHALLENGE

The generosity of conservationists is a constant surprise and inspiration to us. Several months ago, Larry Stifler and Mary McFadden contacted us with an open offer of help. When we asked what their goals were, their response was, “tell us your wish list, our goal is simply to help the land trust in the best way that we can.” So we did!

We are thrilled to announce that Larry and Mary are funding a \$50,000 Challenge in 2010. This is a rare opportunity in that the money will be used to fund our operating budget and to build our operational reserves. In these times, this is a significant gift. So here is our challenge for the year:

All **new** donations to membership and annual appeal or **increases** above 2009 levels will be matched on a **1-to-1** basis up to \$50,000. As a further incentive, Larry and Mary have created a **2-for-1** match for any new Summit Society members – those who donate at least \$1,000 a year. A new \$1,000 donation will raise an additional \$2,000 for the land trust via this challenge. Current Summit Society members who increase their donation will also have the increased amount matched **2-for-1**. We have our work cut out for us; raising \$50,000 **new** dollars is a big job. If there was ever a year to bring in new members and stretch our giving, this is it. We would like to thank Larry and Mary for being wonderful neighbors and making such a significant donation to conservation. We are very grateful for this opportunity.



*Mary McFadden
and Larry Stifler*

In 1978 Larry and Mary went snowshoeing on Peabody Mountain in Albany and fell in love with the area. They bought the mountain site and constructed a post and beam home a few years later. Their property, called Northern Retreat, is managed for sustainable forestry, water quality, wildlife habitat, recreation and traditional uses. The Stiflers are longtime members of the Mahoosuc Land Trust and active in land conservation in Massachusetts, where they established the Wareham Land Trust in 2001. The historic Bumpus Mine is located on their land and they share their interest in Maine minerals with the community. Last year they published a book, [Maine Feldspar, Families and Feuds, Oxford County Mining History](#), written by Vandall King about the area's rich mineral history. “We hope our incentive will help bring new support as well as new members to sustain the important work of the Mahoosuc Land Trust,” said Larry about the challenge grant. Adds Mary, “The Mahoosuc Land Trust deserves as much support from the community as it can get to save the critical lands that define the very character of this beautiful area.”

WILDLIFE CORRIDOR STUDY

The Mahoosuc Land Trust has received funding from the Davis Conservation Fund to conduct a study to identify and map wildlife travel corridors in the Mahoosuc Region of Maine. The study is a collaborative project with the Androscoggin River Watershed Council, the Maine Audubon Society, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Quebec Labrador Foundation – Center for Community GIS.

The study will be based on existing information that has been mapped by various federal and state agencies and conservation organizations. After careful interpretation of this information and aerial photography, a consultant and volunteers will review priority sites in the field to confirm the mapping.

The land trust will conduct a volunteer training in the late summer. If you have an interest in participating in the study, contact the land trust. This is a great opportunity to learn about GPS mapping, explore the backcountry and help the land trust.

The results of the study will be used to prioritize land conservation projects and to work with landowners to conserve these important areas.

President's Message

As we marked the 20th anniversary of the Mahoosuc Land Trust in 2009, we found ourselves heavily involved in working with land owners seeking ways to conserve their lands. The land trust acquired its first New Hampshire conservation easement in Shelburne and is currently working on what will be its largest easement spanning three local towns in Maine.

Working through the land trust accreditation process and implementing Land Trust Alliance standards and practices has strengthened the organization's ability to ensure that it is meeting its land stewardship responsibilities. The Board and all the land trust committees are all working hard to complete the accreditation process. Thank you to all who are working on improving the land trust's capacity to pursue its mission.

As you read the article on the Larry Stifler/Mary McFadden Challenge opportunity for the Mahoosuc Land Trust, you may ask yourself how you can help. Everyone can assist by spreading the word about the land trust and by recruiting new members. Tell your friends and neighbors about the Mahoosuc Land Trust's efforts and encourage them to join

us. If all who read this were to enlist one new member, the result would be tremendous. If by chance you have forgotten to renew your own membership, please renew now. Remember that all increased giving by individuals over the amount given last year will be matched. This is the time to give that extra gift.

Please join me in my new mantra borrowed from the Starship Enterprise, "May the Forest be with Us!"

Steve Wight, President



Northern Retreat Hike, July 2009

WHITECAP NEWS

During this past winter while Whitecap's trails have been enjoyed by skiers and snowshoers, the Whitecap Stewardship Committee has been working on plans for the coming summer. A trail management plan was completed by Caribou Recreation Development (Mike Cooper). With the plan completed, we applied to Land for Maine's Future to fund the access improvements. Our goal is to improve water bars and drainage, as well as re-routing a short section of the Starr Trail. All of this work, designed to make the trail more user friendly, will be completed in the fall by Mike Cooper and a trail crew from the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) or the Maine Conservation Corps.

We have also received funding to have an intern, Joel Alex, work with us this summer to collate our forest management plan and trail management plan into one property management plan. Funding for Joel's work was made possible by a



Whitecap Hike celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Mahoosuc Land Trust

Maine Land Trust Network / Land Trust Alliance Excellence Program grant. Hopefully the Whitecap property will be certified in the American Tree Farm Program, enabling us to apply for some funding from the USDA Conservation Security Program. This funding could be applied to either stewardship or projects to benefit the Whitecap property.

Every summer we appreciate the volunteers from the Rumford Peak-a-Week hiking group and the Maine Chapter of the AMC, as well as our Whitecap Stewardship Committee members, who keep these trails in shape. If you would like to enjoy a day on the mountain working with others, call the land trust office at 824-3806 and we will include you in the fun. See schedule in Noteworthy.

Noteworthy

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE SERIES 2009-2010

Each time the Local Knowledge Committee gets ready to plan the next year's series, we are amazed that so many possibilities present themselves. We thought we'd run out of ideas a long time ago. This year, the ninth year of the series, was no exception. We are very pleased with the variety and quality - again.

We began in November with Randy Bennett, Executive Director and Curator of the Bethel Historical Society, giving a presentation on the history of the White Mountain Club of Portland (1873 - 1884).

Steven Seames worked long and hard to arrange the program on historic maps of Maine, with Barry Allen, a professional land surveyor as the speaker. The maps in the exhibit came from many private collections as well as state and local archives. The attendance at this event, held at the Bethel Inn Conference Center, overwhelmed our expectations. People came from all over the state, with many coming from out of state as well. This was certainly a banner occasion.

Jim Mann of Mt. Mann Jewelers of Bethel presented an excellent program featuring pictures and specimens of gems and minerals of Maine and New Hampshire at the Shelburne, NH, Town Hall on April 7.

For the final event, David Brown returned, this time to speak about bird migration and to lead a birding trip. Twenty enthusiastic birders went on the field trip, despite the cold, wet weather. Twelve bird species were identified from their calls.

At the annual meeting this year, we were pleased to have Bernd Heinrich with us again, this time to introduce us to Bumble Bee Economics. Walter Hatch received the Bruce & Becky Bailey Award for outstanding volunteer service to the land trust. The University of Maine 4H Camp provided a new and very appropriate venue, and MLT treasurer William Andrews provided the atmospheric lighting.

Thanks to the committee - Lucia Owen, Jan Stowell, Becky Kendall, Frank Vogt, Steve Seames, ably enabled by Jolan Ippolito and Jim Mitchell. As always, we welcome suggestions for the coming year, though once again we seem to have many to choose from already.



*Bonnie Pooley, Walter and Carolyn Hatch,
Steve Wight at presentation of
Bruce and Becky Bailey Award to Walter.*

CONSERVATION IN SHELBURNE

Congratulations to the Philbrook Farm Inn in Shelburne, NH for the completion of their conservation easement. The Farm worked with The Conservation Fund on the project and completed it in December of 2009, protecting approximately 800 acres including the summit of Mt. Cabot and 150 acres along the Androscoggin River. The donation of the easement on First Mountain to the Mahoosuc Land Trust helped secure the funding from the New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program to help protect this historic property. The easement will be held by the state of New Hampshire.

INTERNS

Maya Velasco volunteered as an intern at the land trust during the fall of 2009 and early this past winter. Maya had spent the summer of 2009 as the Camp Dodge Head Crew Leader for the Appalachian Mountain Club. She was an invaluable resource for the land trust as we worked to strengthen our policies and procedures to include the Land Trust Alliance accreditation standards. Thank you, Maya, for all of your work on developing and updating policies and practices.

Joel Alex has returned to the land trust as a summer intern to write a management plan for the Whitecap Mountain Preserve. Joel will work with the Whitecap Stewardship Committee and community members to incorporate and formalize the plan. Joel worked as an intern last summer to write the management plans for all of the islands and Androscoggin River properties for the land trust.

TRAIL WORK DAYS

Rumford Whitecap: June 5, 2010, National Trails Day will be a trail work day. Meet at 9AM at the parking lot on the East Andover Road at the trail head.

Rumford Whitecap: On June 11 the **Bates Outing Club Alumni** will be heading up a trail work day. Again, meet at 9AM at the parking lot on the East Andover Road at the trail head.

Trail behind MLT Office: June 6 trail cleanup day behind the MLT office. Meet at 2PM.

SUMMIT SOCIETY

The Summit Society was launched in 2008 to recognize members who donate at least \$1,000 to our annual operating funds. We were delighted to have had 20 Summit Society members in 2009. The Summit Society is a fun way to meet fellow conservationists and attend several interesting events. This year we will visit Forest Lodge on the Rapid River and have a summer wine and cheese social. In March we watched the maple sugaring at Goose Eye Farm in Newry and enjoyed tasty samples. We'd love to have you join us. Please contact the land trust for more information. All new Summit Society members money will be matched 2:1 in 2010.

GIFT IDEAS

Looking for a gift with lasting pleasure? Give a membership to the Mahoosuc Land Trust for birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions. A gift announcement will be sent out, in your name, with a photograph of a special place the land trust has conserved. Your gift will be a gift for the future as well as for the present.

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TRAILS COMMITTEE DREAMS NEAR FRUITION

The Mahoosuc Land Trust Trails Committee is pleased to report that by the end of this summer we will be able to celebrate the tangible results of many months of planning and grant writing. The Bethel Pathway will be significantly extended so that the many people who use it for exercise and recreation will have much more room for strolling and striding.

First of all, the Gateway portion of the Pathway, already funded by a Recreational Trails Program submitted by the Town of Bethel, will be constructed by Jack Cross. This segment of the Pathway will go from the corner of the Intervale Road and Route 26 along the edge of MLT's Gateway land, swing right at the corner of Sunset Road, and end about halfway up Sunset. As it crosses a little stream, we will construct a bridge to pass over a wetland area. We hope eventually for benches and perennial plantings along this lovely stretch with its magnificent views.

Recently, the Mahoosuc Land Trust received another Recreational Trails Program grant to fund trail construction between Davis Park and the Gateway portion, taking walkers safely between Route 26 and the Alder River over to Intervale Road. By the end of the summer the Pathway will stretch from a foot path behind the Good Food Store, behind the Mayville businesses, across the North Road, past Bethel Outdoor Adventure, through the covered bridge, past Davis Park and all the way up to Sunset Road.

The Trails Committee welcomes new volunteers as we look toward a huge celebration this fall of the progress made in creating walking paths and trails. Please let us know if you would be willing to participate in the planning of our next steps or would prefer to join work parties to continue constructing trails. Call the MLT office at 824-3806.



*Jeremy Nellis, Barbara Russell and Jeff Parsons
at Trail Committee meeting.*