

This year's program series begins later than usual, in January. Some dates aren't final yet, and two speakers have yet to be definitely confirmed. First, on January 19, state biologist Andy Weik will present a program on wild turkeys in Maine. His program includes a video of netting turkeys for relocation that, according to those who have seen it, is surprising and funny. On April 20 wildlife photographer Jennifer Loomis returns with a program about bluebirds. Those of us who saw her photographs of wood ducks and heard her stories about them last year will certainly not miss this. The program for March we hope will be state wildlife biologist Jennifer Vauchon speaking about Maine's black bears.

Still in process is our 'signature' program, an evening in February with author McKay Jenkins. Mr. Jenkins, who teaches at the University of Delaware, has recently published a book about the 10th Mountain Division. He also has written a book about avalanches called White Death. This winter his newest book, Bloody Falls of the Coppermine: Madness, Murder and the Collision of Cultures in the Arctic, 1913, will be published. We hope to be successful in arranging for him to speak. Look for more information as the fall progresses.

The Local Knowledge program is in its fourth year, and we certainly hope that this year it will be as interesting and successful as it has been. Come and bring some friends! -- Lucia Owen



Visit the MLT website:
www.mahoosuc.org

EBAY AUCTION

(Cont. from pg. 1)



That's probably the only time anyone's ever skated in the MLT office...or ever will.

As of the time this newsletter went to press, the auction had raised over \$3900.

And it was still going on. Unsold items will be relisted on the Ebay site until they sell.

It's never too early to start putting aside items to donate for next year's Autumn Auction.

Remember MLT when you're organizing your attic, closet, or when spring cleaning comes around. Just to give you an idea, some of the items we're auctioning this year include: skis, in-line skates, glassware, collectible porcelain, jewelry, sports memorabilia, vintage fishing reels, flyfishing rod, handmade quilt, figurines, silver, pottery, gift certificates for lodging and recreation, t'ai chi lessons, vintage books, and more. Keep us in mind for next year!

-- Conni St.Pierre



Betty Moran, along with daughter-in-law Cynthia Laux, had a chance to visit MLT's Moran's Landing, on the Androscoggin, which is dedicated to her late husband.
Photo by Steve Wight



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“BLAZING NEW TRAILS”

BETHEL AREA RECREATIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

Bethel Area Trails, a new committee of the Mahoosuc Land Trust, is extending an invitation to friends and supporters of healthy, outdoor recreation in western Maine. We are seeking your involvement and support in an effort to plan, design, and implement a recreational trail system for western Maine.

Our mission:

- * to increase accessible, recreational opportunities that provide enjoyment and health benefits for local citizens;
- * to bring the well-documented economic benefits of successful trail corridors to the area by attracting tourism and establishing a reputation as a trail destination;
- * to provide "linear" conservation/recreation corridors before land subdivision fragments potential lands of superb value to the public;
- * to advocate for pedestrian and non-motorized transportation by ensuring that our communities provide such access.

The Trail Committee will achieve these purposes by:

- * seeking broad public input to determine what types of trails and trail corridors are the most desirable, using such tools as surveys and community conferences;
- * thoroughly respecting property rights of landowners and demonstrating appreciation for landowners who permit public use of their land;
- * working as partners with all parties who share mutually beneficial goals, including area towns, health and educational institutions, businesses, conservation groups, public and private landowners, residents, as well as motorized trail user groups.

Where will the trails go?

"You tell us." We want to hear from trail users, the public, local businesses, and organizations to help determine what types of trails will provide the most benefit. Suggestions that have been made to date include:

- * Extend the popular Bethel Pathway to surrounding towns;
- * Provide safe bicycle & pedestrian access to the new swimming hole on the North Road;
- * Increase handicapped access to area trails; and make our local schools bike & pedestrian accessible;

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Autumn Auction donations were piling up around Executive Director Jim Mitchell's desk as Ebay auction volunteers packed them for shipping to the lucky high bidders.
Photo by Conni St.Pierre

2nd Annual EBAY AUTUMN AUCTION

The second annual MLT Autumn Auction on Ebay has kicked off, filling the Land Trust office with all kinds of fun, unique, collectible, and valuable items. Last year's auction garnered about 40 items, while this year we're up to a whopping 77 items with more coming in even while the auction is going on. We spent days photographing, packing, and weighing items,



including these in-line skates which Sue Lincoln couldn't resist trying out in the office...(we just had to share this photo with you.)

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President's Message

Dear Members and Friends:

You hear from us at this time of year when the land trust launches its annual appeal. In the fall we ask you to help support our ongoing projects; in the spring we ask you to renew your membership.

Our treasurer has informed me that we need to raise \$18,000 before the end of the year to break even. We do not have an endowment to provide operating funds (but we are working on establishing one) and so depend on your generosity to make it through the year.

A quick list of current projects that benefit you and our local community:

◆ Frenchman's Hole: we finished raising the money to pay the local match to the state's purchase. MLT volunteers now do weekly clean-ups of the heavily-used area around the popular swimming hole.

◆ Puzzle Mountain: as you have seen in the newspaper, we are close to finalizing the acquisition of several hundred acres, including the summit. At the foot of the mountain the owner/donor is developing 5 lots. This is an excellent example of a balance of development and preservation that benefits both the donor and the community. We expect to complete the transfer in January.

◆ Wild and Androscoggin River confluence in Gilead: we are negotiating with the town, the state and current owner to purchase these 35 acres of river frontage with an existing boat launch site, snowmobile trail and fishing access.

◆ Rumford White Cap and Bucks Ledge: we are working with groups from Andover/Rumford and Greenwood/Woodstock to protect these local landmarks.

◆ Maggie Ring property in Greenwood: we are part of the process to ensure the protection of this sale/donation of land to the town.

◆ Partnerships: we are working with several other small land trusts and other organizations to consider ways of working on projects together.

◆ Local Knowledge series: our popular series of free winter presentations on wildlife, forestry and local human and natural history has an excellent schedule of upcoming events.

Your contributions in the past have made these projects possible through funding our operating expenses. We have a new, part-time administrative assistant who is keeping the records and files in order so our director can focus on managing projects. We are replacing our dysfunctional computer system with the help of local expertise at Deximer (if you have tried to communicate with us by email lately, you will understand this need).

Thank you for your support of this important work. We are a membership organization. We can't do it without you. It is your organization. If you have questions about what we do, ideas for projects or time to volunteer, please come by the office or call.

Landon Fake, President

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The Rivendell House

TRAILS (Cont from pg. 1)

* Build our local economy by linking our resorts, hotels, businesses and recreational sites.

Who will pay for trail design, construction, and maintenance?

* The Trails Committee is submitting grant applications to the State of Maine and private foundations.

* Successful trail networks in New England and around the U.S. have obtained significant grants through federal highway monies that are specifically earmarked for bicycle and pedestrian projects administered through the states.

* Private donations from individuals and businesses will also be critical.

* The Trails Committee of the Mahoosuc Land Trust has agreed to serve as the lead organization in assembling a coalition of individuals and organizations, and will provide volunteer and professional expertise.

* Several local professionals are donating a portion of their fees to the trail effort.

* Future maintenance would logically be paid for by participating municipalities, if local taxpayers believe that the expense is justified.

How can I be part of the trail effort?

* Be part of the public discussion by attending information sessions, workshops, and hearings and letting public officials know you think trails deserve support and funding.

* If you would like to receive notices regarding Trails Committee meetings and activities, please provide your email address to: kirks@megalink.net or call Kirk Siegel, Committee Coordinator, at (207) 824-0717.

--Bonnie Pooley, Chair; Kirk Siegel, Coordinator

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