



## ANNUAL APPEAL INCREASES TO BE MATCHED



M. Dirk MacKnight

This is both a reminder and an announcement of some late news about our Annual Appeal. To help boost us over the top, a generous supporter of MLT has recently offered an incentive for members and friends to increase their contributions over last year. For the remainder of this 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 Appeal letter stressed, increased contributions are a key factor in allowing MLT to continue successfully in protecting our area's natural assets. Let's rise to the challenge.

Return Service Requested

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Mahoosuc Land Trust  
*presents*

2006  
&  
2007

## Local Knowledge

*A Series of Programs by Local Experts on Topics of Local Interest and Beyond...*

### WINTER SKIING IN BAXTER STATE PARK

Wednesday, November 8, 2006

Speaker: Roger Zimmerman of Bethel

### 2006 TRIP TO MT. EVEREST

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Speaker: Bill Yeo, formerly of Bethel

### ARCHEOLOGY OF OXFORD COUNTY

Wednesday, February 7, 2007

Speaker: Ellen Cowie, Archeology Research Dept.,  
University of Maine, Farmington

### INVASIVE PLANTS

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Speaker: Christopher Mattrick,  
White Mountain National Forest,  
Laconia, New Hampshire

ALL LECTURES WILL BE HELD IN THE MCLAUGHLIN SCIENCE CENTER AUDITORIUM AT 7:00 PM

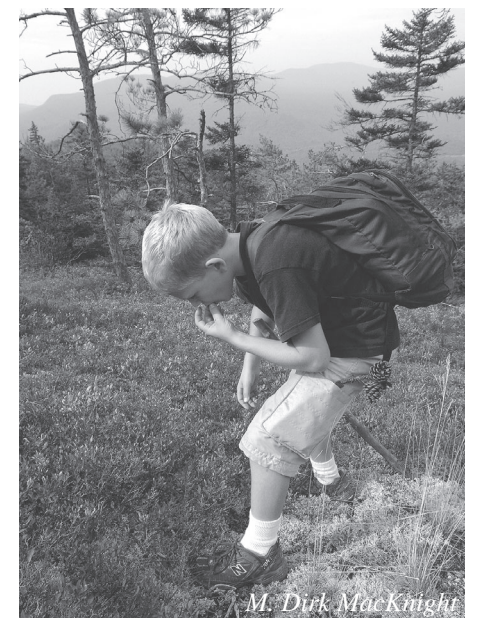
## Mahoosuc Land Trust Rumford Whitecap Mountain Project

Rumford Whitecap Mountain (elevation 2,214 feet), located between Andover and Rumford, has been a hiking destination for the people of Western Maine for many generations. The extensive bald summit affords outstanding 360° views of the surrounding area including the Presidential and Mahoosuc Mountain ranges. Blueberries are abundant. Thousands of people visit the mountain every year for hiking, berry picking, and in the winter for telemark skiing on its snowfields.

The Land Trust identified Rumford Whitecap Mountain as a land priority when it was sold by the paper mill in Rumford to a timber investment group in December 2003. The Land Trust formed the Rumford Whitecap Mountain Committee, which began researching ways to protect the public use of the mountain. In the spring of 2006, the Land Trust applied to the Land for Maine's Future Board (LMFB) for funding to purchase Rumford Whitecap. LMFB awarded MLT \$243,000 for the project.

The Whitecap Committee is planning a capital campaign to raise the remaining funds needed to purchase Rumford Whitecap.

The Rumford Whitecap Project is our largest fund-raising venture to date. The committee needs volunteers to prepare mailings and campaign materials, host donor cultivation events, write grants and enter data. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Bob Iles at 392-1208.



M. Dirk MacKnight

## President's Message

The past few months have been the busiest in MLT history. Rapid changes in ownership of large land parcels in the area recently have created unprecedented opportunities and challenges to the conservation community. Also the explosion in development activity has brought a renewed interest in the creation of a recreational infrastructure in the communities we serve. I am extremely proud of the way our board, committees, staff and volunteers have stepped up to accept these challenges and seize the opportunities presented to help preserve and enhance the environmental and economic health of the area.

In the last fifteen years nearly all of the large land parcels in the area of the Northern Mahoosucs have changed hands, some as many as six times! These changes have brought to the region new owners with new reasons for investing in land. The large paper companies, who held the land for ninety-five years from 1895 to 1990, have sold to timber investment groups that have much shorter ownership plans. In our immediate area the sale by Mead Paper Company of its entire 600,000 acres to Bay Root, LLC threatens to end the gift of public access that we have enjoyed for nearly a century.

With every challenge comes opportunity; thus the flurry of activity at MLT. We have scrambled to prioritize the value of parcels suddenly available for sale and to search for funding to purchase lands essential to the

preservation of the lifestyle of our local residents and visitors. We are fortunate to be able to partner with several other local and regional organizations in this effort under the banner of the Mahoosuc Initiative. We have learned a great deal from our partners about the network of regional and national sources of help in this effort and are particularly grateful to all the individuals who completed Participatory GIS Maps to indicate the natural resource features they hold most dear.

In addition to land protection projects, MLT has an extremely active group of people working diligently to provide more trails throughout the area. Trails over multiple ownerships are like strings of pearls. When one parcel is lost- for whatever reason- the entire trail is in jeopardy unless a rerouting can be negotiated. Current trails efforts include the lengthening of the paved pathway along the Androscoggin River, the creation of Safe Routes to Schools, the securing of easements for mountain hiking trails, the preservation of snowmobile corridors, and the planning of trail routes to connect the communities within the area.

These efforts are being undertaken by volunteers. We need volunteers. If you would like to become an active part of the excitement, please call Ginger Kelly at the office. She will be happy to hear from you.

*Steve Wight, President*

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Steve Wight, Newry

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## The Mahoosuc Conservation Initiative

The Mahoosuc Land Trust is a partner in an innovative collaboration that is working to develop a conservation plan for the Mahoosuc Mountain region.

The partners are the Mahoosuc Land Trust, Androscoggin River Watershed Council, the Appalachian Mountain Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Northern Forest Alliance, Northern White Mountain Chamber of Commerce and the Wilderness Society.

The project is a response to the rapidly changing landscape and land ownership patterns of the region.

The first step is the production of the Mahoosuc Region Resource Report (MRRR). The report will identify and document places worthy of protection and local stakeholders' conservation priorities.

The Participatory Geographic Information System Survey is an important tool to gather information for the report. The PGISS was mailed to all members of the Land Trust and distributed at public events and meetings throughout the region. Residents and visitors were asked to identify places they consider important or significant on a map. This information was digitized, and will be used to identify areas of significance and targets for land conservation in the MRRR.

The MRRR will be complete in early 2007. MLT will host public meetings to present the report. When the dates of the meeting are set, we will notify all Land Trust members. If you wish to read the report before the meetings, it will be available on a disc at the Land Trust.

## Noteworthy

**WEBSITE** – *We have a new website!* Please visit the new website at [www.mahoosuc.org](http://www.mahoosuc.org).

**ANNUAL MEETING** – The Annual Meeting was held on October 22 in the McLaughlin Science Center auditorium. Steve Wight presented the President's Report and Jim Mitchell, the Executive Director's Report. Both urged the members that it is "time to be bold" in our pursuit of protecting land in the Mahoosuc Region. An exciting lecture was presented by David Brown, who is a teacher, tracker and naturalist. Through slides and a video he showed us how animals leave information that helps us to learn about the dramatic, beautiful, but often brutal lives of animals in our mountains and forests.

**FALL FOLIAGE FLOTILLA – A ROUSING SUCCESS** – The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Fall Foliage Flotilla was held on October 7. It was a glorious fall day and President Steve's birthday! Twenty-one paddlers ranging in age from three to seventy-three, plus Mikey, the dog, put onto the Magalloway River at Wilson's Mills on Rt. 16. All enjoyed spectacular foliage. The group took a leisurely lunch stop in the sunshine at the covered bridge that spans the river at Aziscoos Valley Campground and continued on to the takeout at Magalloway Schoolhouse. A wonderful time was had by all.



*The entire school population at Crescent Park School celebrated International Walk to School Month by walking the route of the sidewalk proposed in the Safe Routes to School grant application. Currently, students are not allowed to walk or bike to school without an adult because there is no sidewalk. The grant awards are due to be announced in early 2007. Photo by Alison Aloisio/Bethel Citizen.*