



Maggie Ring Forest *"I gave the land so my grandchildren and everyone else's grandchildren can enjoy these woods. I want them to enjoy some of God's good earth." Maggie Ring*

In April, the Mahoosuc Land Trust accepted a conservation easement on 83 acres of land along the west shore of South Pond in Greenwood. The property, known as the Maggie Ring Forest, will be owned by the Town of Greenwood and used as town forest and recreation area. The property is wooded. It rises steeply from the shore of South Pond and includes rocky outcrops that provide excellent views. In accepting the conservation easement MLT and the Town are beginning a collaborative effort to insure that Maggie Ring's restrictions on the property are enforced and that the new Town Forest will always be managed to benefit the public.



Maggie Ring with three of her great grandchildren (left to right) Caroline, Harry & Charlotte Marks

Maggie Ring is a lifelong resident of Greenwood who decided to give her woodlot on South Pond to her home town. Maggie wanted the property to be open to the public, free of development and alteration, and to be used for low impact muscle-powered recreation like hiking and bird watching.

Maggie asked the Town to take ownership of the property and gave a conservation easement to the Land Trust. The Town will be responsible for managing the property on a day to day basis. The MLT will be responsible for periodically monitoring the property to insure that conditions of the gift to the town are being met.

Blaine Mills, a resident of Greenwood, has designed a series of low impact hiking trails leading to the rock outcrops with scenic views. One trail will leave the property and lead to the summit of Peaked Mountain. A small parking area will be located on the Greenwood Road. The trails and parking will be maintained by the Town.

Puzzle Mountain Land Donation

"I have been fortunate to know several members of the MLT, and their unconditional interest in the environment and their dedication to the goals of conservation have complemented the interest they have in the outdoor activities that we are so fortunate to have available to us. My family and myself are convinced that the transfer of Puzzle Mountain to the MLT will afford the best possible stewardship for this unique property. Seemingly, mountains are immune from degradation, but if we look around us we immediately see that the opposite is true. They can and do suffer the scars and bruises that man so often inflicts upon them." Bob Stewart

In February, Bob Stewart of Cumberland presented a gift of approximately 500 acres of land to the Mahoosuc Land Trust. The parcel encompasses the three summits of Puzzle Mountain and five miles of the Grafton Loop Trail corridor. The gift is the largest gift of land to the Mahoosuc Land Trust to date. The parcel will be known as the "Stewart Family Preserve."

The land will be conserved in its current state, with public access via the Grafton Loop Trail, and a snowmobile trail, with the potential for other trails in the future. The MLT may also create a management plan that includes the harvesting of timber from a portion of the land at some future date.

Puzzle Mountain, (elevation 3,142 ft) is located in the southeast portion of the Town of Newry. The mountain has three open summits with outstanding views. It is a prominent local landmark visible throughout the area. It dominates the view looking north northeast from Main Street in Bethel.

Robert Stewart is an active outdoorsman, businessman and philanthropist. He has worked for the last decade fulfilling his dream of building the Grafton Loop Trail. The trail leads south from the Appalachian Trail near the summit of Baldpate Mountain, along the ridges on both sides of the Bear River Valley. The Loop Trail rejoins the Appalachian Trail near the summit of Old Speck Mountain.

The trail on the northeast side of the valley has been open for 2 years and the rest is expected to open in the fall of this year. "Bob is more knowledgeable about and committed to a single piece of land than anyone I know," said Landon Fake, President of the MLT Board of Directors. "He has climbed Puzzle literally hundreds of times and brought dozens if not hundreds of others with him. If you want to talk to him, it's often easiest to go climb the mountain with him. We are enormously grateful."



Bob Stewart, Jim Reuter & Tom Talarico looking at the view of Grafton Notch from the Ledges on Puzzle Mountain.



Frenchman Falls on Bull Branch Brook in Riley, protected by MLT in 2003

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Volunteers needed at the Gateway and Frenchman's Hole ...

The Mahoosuc Land Trust has opportunities for volunteers who want to help maintain the Intervale Gateway property and clean up Frenchman's Hole. Volunteers are very important to the MLT and enable the organization to fulfill its responsibility to provide exemplary stewardship on its land.

Gateway Extension Timber Stand Improvement

The Gateway Extension is a four acre Land Trust property located adjacent to the MLT's Intervale Gateway Preserve located on Route 26 just south of Bethel. The Gateway Preserve was acquired in 1995 to protect the outstanding view from the highway. The Extension was purchased in 2001 and added to the Gateway. The Extension was planted with white pine in the 1960s. The Stewardship Committee is seeking volunteers to trim the pine stand. The Committee will divide the Extension into 50 foot by 50 foot grids. The grids are intended to divide the lot into small, manageable parcels requiring two to three volunteer hours to complete. Each volunteer group will thin one grid. Thinning includes removal of the lower branches of the pines. The Stewardship Committee will provide guidelines for thinning and trimming.

Frenchman's Hole Clean Up

Frenchman's Hole is a very popular public swimming spot on the Bull Branch of the Sunday River in Riley Township. The MLT advocated for public acquisition of the land surrounding Frenchman's and raised the local share of the cost of public acquisition by the Maine Department of Conservation. The MLT has an agreement with the Department of Conservation to pick up trash on a regular basis throughout the summer season. Volunteers visit the site usually on Monday after the weekend use, remove trash and report unusual events. The amount of trash varies widely from week to week. The Stewardship Committee has prepared written guidelines for Frenchman's clean up.

To sign up to work at the Gateway or to clean up Frenchman's, contact Ginger Kelly at the Land Trust office (824-3806 or mlt@megalink.net) or Jim Reuter, Chairman of the Stewardship Committee (824-7237 or jim@smithreuter.com)

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President's Message

As you have noticed by the other articles in this newsletter, MLT continues to grow and take on more and bigger projects. Our volunteer board and committee members have been putting in long hours. We have gone from a part time executive director a year ago to two part-time employees and a full-time executive director this year. In order to house our new staff and the inevitable files and maps and other resources we have had to move to a new office in the White Mountain National Forest office on Route 2. We miss our old in-town location but the new one is much bigger and instead of rent we pay only the utilities and plowing.

I'm pleased to announce that Ginger Kelly has been hired to coordinate volunteer projects. This means that we will be able to make better use of you, our members, and give you opportunities to help out in productive ways. We are also excited that Jim Mitchell is now full-time and is a resident of the area. This has already paid off in his ability to connect with our constituency and promote our projects.

Much of this growth has been made possible by a grant from the Betterment Foundation. When the land trust started in 1989, they funded us for the first 3 years, expecting us to make it our own by the fourth year. This grant is similar in that their funding runs out after 3 years and we will need to have our new larger operation self-supporting again. The inherent challenge in the grant makes me at once nervous, excited, and proud that their confidence in us 16 years ago paid off and they are willing to bet on us again. It is the board, the staff, and most of all, the members and larger community that have and will continue to make this possible. Thank you.

Landon Fake, President



MLT Sponsors a Peak Experience: The 10th Mountain Division

Author McKay Jenkins presented a program based on his book **The Last Ridge: the US Army's 10th Mountain Division and the Assault on Hitler's Europe** for the Local Knowledge series on February 20. The program drew a large crowd (about 175) that included many veterans and even some veterans of the battle for Riva Ridge in Italy. Professor Jenkins described his research, the history of the founding of the division, and his contacts with veterans who recorded or described to him their experiences. He said, "The 'Greatest Generation' gets a lot of hype, but these guys really deserve it."

Four veterans of the 10th Mountain Division in World War II attended. They were Peter Rosenberg of Bryant Pond; Dexter Wheeler of Orrington; Earlon Blood of Lancaster, Mass. and Bryant Pond; and Sylvanus Glover of Andover. The event was the highlight of this year's Local Knowledge series.

McKay Jenkins is Tilghman Professor of English at the University of Delaware. His appearance and stay were made both possible and pleasant by a number of people. The organizing committee especially wishes to thank Debby and William Andrews and Rick Churchill. Professor Jenkins was pleased and impressed by the professional quality of the occasion. That quality was the direct result of the efforts of Beth Brough, Ginger Kelly, Becky Kendall, Lucia Owen, Jan Stowell and Frank Vogt. Jim Mitchell's efforts along with Lucia Owen's also garnered a Maine Humanities Council grant to fund the program.

The other Local Knowledge programs this year were no less interesting. Enthusiastic reviews came after Dr. Andy Weik's presentation on wild turkeys in Maine. Tim Glidden's description and analysis of the Land for Maine's Future Board and its activities educated and informed all who attended. The final program, Jennifer Loomis on bluebirds, entertained a very large audience. As usual, the membership committee of the land trust welcomes suggestions for future programs.



McKay Jenkins with veterans of the 10th Mountain Division at the Local Knowledge Series, February 20, 2005. Left to right: Peter Rosenberg of Bryant Pond, McKay Jenkins, Dexter Wheeler of Orrington, Earlon Blood of Lancaster, MA & Bryant Pond, and Sylvanus Glover of Andover.

Movie Madness

The Twelve Dogs of Christmas is a movie that was filmed in Bethel with many local people appearing as extras. The premier performance was held December 4th & 5th in the Helen Berry Auditorium at Telstar High School with all three performances full.

Personnel from the movie production staff, Daenen Merrill, Kapri Merrill and Sean Covell, as well as many local performers were on hand for the Saturday night gala. Longtime first grade teacher Carolyn Gould enjoyed seeing

her granddaughter Samantha Mallory play an angel in the finale, so much that she returned for all three shows, the first to see the

people, the second to see the cars, and the third to see the buildings and settings. Afterwards she remarked, "It was nice to see a good family movie."

The premier was a benefit for the Mahoosuc Land Trust Trails Committee, Area Youth Football Program and Crescent Park Schools Boston Field Trip and raised \$3,011.00 for each group.

Ginger Kelly



Jim Mitchell, Executive Director of MLT, receiving a check for the Land Trust's Bethel Trails Committee from Julie Parks, organizer of the premiere of the Twelve Dogs of Christmas.

Second Annual E-Bay Auction enables MLT to meet its 2004 Budget Goals

The 2004 Mahoosuc Land Trust E-Bay Auction was a huge success, enabling MLT to meet its budget goals last year. The net sales from auction were \$4,300, an increase of 28% from the organization's first E-Bay auction in 2003. The organization thanks every member who donated to the auction.

The Mahoosuc Land Trust has a bare bones budget and an unprecedented opportunity to conserve important land. All our financial resources are provided by our members. The auction is our only alternative to asking members directly for money (other than the annual appeal). We post the auction on E-Bay because the Internet market is huge. We are able to connect with the right buyer and receive more income than if we held an auction in town.

In early September, the Land Trust solicited donations of items to sell on the E-bay auction web site. About 80 MLT members responded with gifts ranging from books to an autographed baseball. All the donated items were packed for shipping as members dropped them off at the Land Trust.

Conni St. Pierre posted all the donated items on E-Bay. Ten days later the auction closed. Many of the buyers waited until the last minute before placing bids on items. Many buyers paid for their purchases with Paypal, an Internet based electronic payment service. As soon as the payment was received, the item was shipped. The buyers came from all across the United States as well as Europe and Asia.

The Board is planning another auction this year. Please consider donating unused or no longer needed items to the 2005 E-Bay Auction. The income will enable the Land Trust to continue working toward its goals of conserving important local land.



Land Protection Projects

GILEAD

Mahoosuc Land Trust has continued working on acquiring the critically important 30 acre boat/fishing access site with frontage on the Wild and Androscoggin Rivers.

We have continued discussions and negotiations with the owner, Bayroot LLC, to resubmit a proposal for acquisition to the Land for Maine's Future Board.

BUCK'S LEDGES

Buck's Ledges is 640 acres in Woodstock, best known for its exceptional views of neighboring lakes and mountains. There is a very important local snowmobile trail through the property. These are some of the important public conservation values and traditional uses that MLT wishes to protect and continue.

After careful analysis of the public conservation values of this property and the fundraising capacity of this community, the board of directors has determined that the best conservation strategy is to work with a responsible developer to do a limited residential development. This is possible because the configuration of the land can potentially support both limited development and conservation in a mutually beneficial relationship. We will soon be sending out a Request for Proposals to a limited number of developers to start the process of developing this unique relationship.

We have been developing broad public support for this project in anticipation of fundraising. In May, we

organized a public meeting with the Woodstock Town Select Board. In addition to a slide presentation by Marcel Polak, 45 people attended, all of whom supported this project. As a result of the strong public support, the Woodstock Select Board unanimously agreed to sign a letter of support. This letter of support is important for future fundraising efforts.

RUMFORD WHITECAP

The 733 Rumford Whiecap property is best known for its extensive bald ledges with magnificent 360 degree views. People of all ages hike up there in summer to enjoy the renowned blueberry picking. During winter it's a destination for snowshoeing and telemark skiing.

The best conservation strategy for this property is to purchase it outright. The most likely source of funding will be the Land for Maine's Future Bond. As soon as the legislature approves a new bond and the voters approve it, we will submit an application.

We are also developing broad local support for this project and recently organized a public meeting with the Rumford Select Board to request a letter of support. Local residents spoke in support of the project and the board voted on August 18 when they signed a letter supporting the project.

MLT has also contacted abutting landowners and those with the current access trails through their properties to develop short and long term agreements. *Marcel Polak*

3rd Annual Garden Tour



Four gardens in Bryant Pond, Greenwood and North Norway were the focus of 2005 Sunday Afternoons in the Garden. The gardens were all designed to fit their landscapes. Lunch was enjoyed along with the gorgeous views at Beth and Walter Brough's Mt Abram home. Sculptures were the main attraction at Gil Whitman's garden.

Pat and Henry Stewart's garden is terraced between their house and Indian Pond with a bog garden at the base of the hill.

Those who trekked down the Greenwood Road to Donna Primozich's in North Norway were rewarded with one of the most spectacular gardens in the area. The paths through the trees are lined with hostas, ferns and astilbes. Benches for sitting and garden pieces often just poking

out from under the plants all were as welcoming as Donna herself.

Suggestions of gardens to visit next year are always appreciated.

Annual Meeting Sunday, October 23rd, 2005 • 7 pm
McLaughlin Science Center, Gould Academy, Bethel
Beginning with Habitat ~ Presented by Colleen Ryan of the Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Department
 Program is specific to Bethel/Western Maine

- Landscape planning to balance growth with protection of natural resources & wildlife habitat
- Slides and detailed maps
- Identification of rare species habitat, deer yards, wetlands, etc., in our area
- Questions and input encouraged!

Members and Guests Welcome. Refreshments to follow. FMI: 824-3806



Gifts to the Mahoosuc Land Trust from October 22, 2004 to May 31, 2005

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 Joy Yarnell

To Help Save the Monarch, Spare the Milkweed

Three years ago, we had a meadow full of monarch butterflies. Last year I counted only two in my garden.

The milkweed plant is key to the monarchs' survival. Monarch butterflies lay their eggs only on the undersides of leaves of milkweed plants. When these eggs hatch, the larvae will feed exclusively on the milkweed leaves for about two weeks, growing larger and shedding at each stage until the large caterpillar creates the beautiful blue-green chrysalis suspended beneath a milkweed plant leaf. About 15 days later the adult butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. Without the milkweed host plant, the monarch butterfly could not complete its life cycle and successfully migrate. In short, it could not survive.

It is of concern that much of the milkweed plant, essential to monarchs, is being destroyed along the North American migration routes. How much is debatable, and exactly how or why is up to some speculation. Factors such as development and sprawl, roadside mowing and spraying all may play a part. Some consider milkweed a noxious plant, an untidy weed to be eliminated with weedkillers (which also kill any butterfly close to the targeted plant).

Each year in late August or early September, a generation of monarch butterflies will emerge from their chrysalises. Within a few days those beautiful new butterflies will begin a 2,500 mile odyssey from Maine, other northeastern states and southern Canada to the Central Highlands of Mexico. Arriving there at their wintering grounds in about four to five weeks, the butterflies cover up to 250 miles per day, flying and gliding on the prevailing air currents, sometimes sharing air space with migrating hawks. On this journey the migrating butterflies will need nectar and water to drink, so they keep moving southward ahead of cold weather, finding patches of flowers and watering spots along their route at night.

Once in Mexico, the butterflies gather in a dozen specific overwintering areas in the Transvolcanic Range of mountains at 10,000-11,000 feet. Here they are sheltered in tall dense gray-green forests of Oyamel fir trees. Each two to four acre roosting site will host millions of butterflies which clump tightly together much like swarms of bees, where these Monarch butterflies will spend the winter. (November through March). Freak winter snowstorms, such as occurred Jan. 12-16, 2002, are devastating to the insects, which get too cold and wet, fall to the ground and die. An estimated 5 to 7 million butterflies perished in that storm alone.

If sun warms the air enough by noon, butterflies begin to move their wings to warm themselves. You can actually hear the flapping of those wings. Midday some insects will fly off to a nearby spring or to the dew drops condensed on leaves and ground moss to drink. They will not need food all winter, only water.

In mid March, these monarchs will "awaken," mate and begin their journey northward from the mountains of Central Mexico, first to the southern coast of Texas where the female will lay eggs on milkweed plants and die within a few days. The new generation will take 3-4 weeks to produce adult butterflies, which will then continue northward, following the growth cycles of the milkweed over and over for about six generations, until the Monarchs reach the northernmost extent of their journey. On this northern migration, the butterflies do not have the benefit of prevailing air currents, and so must fly. It is thus all the more important for them to have continuous food sources as they travel the 2,500 miles "home" to Maine and southern Canada.

Much has been learned about this miraculous creature and its extraordinary journey since scientists began tagging the butterflies to track their migration patterns about 35 years ago, but there is still much to learn and understand. Meanwhile, we can all do our own small part in protecting their habitats by nurturing the milkweed plants that grow so easily in our area, and by planting more where we can.

Recommended reading: "Four Wings and a Prayer: caught in the mystery of the monarch butterfly," by Sue Halpern.

Sally Taylor



Local Knowledge Program

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

Wednesday, November 16th - Dr. Robert K. Story, Jr, MD
Hiking to the Base Camp of Mt. Everest

Wednesday, January 18th - Dr. Dan Vogt,
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY, SUNY PLATTSBURG
Cold Mice and Hot Bees

Wednesday, March 29th - Garrett and Alexandra Conover**
*Winterwalk 2006 - Closing the Loop - including a look at
the entire 400-mile round trip*

Wednesday, April 26th - Jerry Schneider
Butterflies: Habit and Habitat

7 pm ~ Trustees' Auditorium, McLaughlin Science Center,
**March 29th - in Bingham Auditorium

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Annual Appeal Committee

Walter Hatch, Susan Herilihy and William Andrews are members of the new Annual Appeal Committee.

The Annual Appeal is our most important fund raising activity, providing resources for Land Trust projects.

The Committee is planning the appeal which will begin in October.

A List of Needs

The new Land Trust office is located in the rear section of the White Mountain National Forest Visitor Center on Route 2 in Bethel.

The new office needs...

- ↘ ADJUSTABLE OFFICE CHAIR ↙
- ↘ TWO DRAWER FILE CABINET ↙
- ↘ FOUR DRAWER FILE CABINET ↙
- ↘ STURDY TABLE ↙

(eight feet long and sturdy enough to hold a heavy copy machine)

- ↘ VACUUM CLEANER ↙

If you have any of these items and you no longer need them, please consider donating the items to the Land Trust. Your donation will be tax deductible and will help the Land Trust.

Bethel Area Trails Busy... Seeking Involvement!

Since the Trails Forum held at Telstar in January, the Land Trust's Trails Committee (Bethel Area Trails) has tackled numerous projects:

- Meeting with the new recreation bridge contractors, the Town of Bethel, and landowners to determine how the bridge will interconnect with other local recreational and snowmobile trails,

- Working with the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce, state and local officials, and businesses to celebrate the opening of the new bridge,

- Applying for grants to fund both the extensive mapping, Geographic Information System (GIS), and planning work of the committee, as well as the future construction of extensions of the Bethel Pathway toward Angevine Park swimming pond, Telstar High School, and the Sunday River Valley,

- Implementing a Professionals' Fees for Trails program, led by REMAX in the Mountains, which donates a percentage of commissions at closings to the Trails Committee,

- Obtaining letters of support from many supporting organizations in the area in an application for technical assistance from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program,

- Researching local and state records to determine potential trail locations over public roads and rights of way,

- Preparing a Fall 2005 survey to gauge how pedestrian and bike friendly our local communities are,

- Applying and receiving \$1200 grants from both Healthy Maine Partnerships and New England Grassroots Environment Fund to fund mapping and GIS work to aid in determining trail route feasibility,

The trails committee welcomes the involvement of land trust members and friends interested in assisting in any of these efforts, by contacting:

Ginger Kelly, MLT Volunteer Coordinator
at 824-3806 (gingerkell@megalink.net) or

Kirk Siegel, Trails Committee Coordinator
at 824-0717 (kirks@megalink.net)