

# Mahoosuc Land Trust 2022 Annual Report





A Note Of Gratitude

"Plink!" The sound of the season's first drop of sap hitting the bucket always brings great joy. But tapping the family maples earlier than ever—just after Groundhog Day this year–tugged at my heart differently. Torn between celebrating the seasonal rhythms of our woods and streams, and worrying about how we are altering them, I find hope in our work and would like to thank all who have joined us in taking action to care for these lands and waters we love, use, and play on.

In 2022, Mahoosuc Land Trust reaffirmed its commitment to conserving large landscapes and critical areas that will allow habitats to shift and endure as the climate warms. Working with you, we:

 Conserved Buck's Ledge with the Town of Woodstock to make recreation accessible for generations while protecting peregrine falcon

The MLT team from left to right: Becca Hoskins, Spenser Williams, Barbara Murphy, and Kirk Siegel

habitat and rare natural plants.

- Built hiking and ski trails with Shelburne Trails Club at MLT's Shelburne Riverlands, a keystone in our Androscoggin River focus area.
- Managed MLT's new 12,268-acre Crooked River Headwaters conservation easement.
- Closed on our first forever wild land, providing a benchmark to measure future climate change in a way that more traditionally managed land cannot.

Our second response in 2022 to meet global change affecting our region was a formal organizational launch of Habitat for All (HFA) as MLT's signature educational initiative. With MLT's Habitat Garden becoming a fully-fledged learning center, visitors recognize the massive cumulative impact of small-scale conservation actions taken in backyards, neighborhoods, schoolyards, and other public spaces. By acknowledging and celebrating these actions, HFA enables more people to know

that they, too, are conservationists.

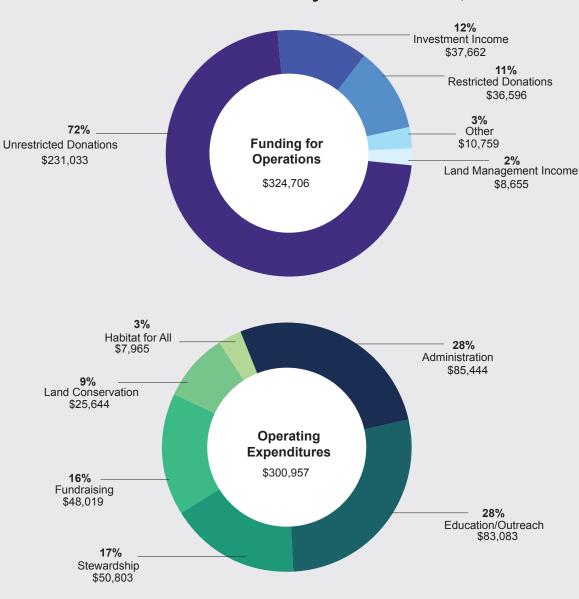
Along with a growing cadre of volunteers, a top-notch staff is critical for these dual efforts. Your increased support is making it possible to assemble this great and synergistic team. Barbara's leadership of HFA will "flower" into a much larger portion of her work, so we tapped Becca–originally our much-loved artist-in-residence–as membership and outreach manager in 2022. And by the end of 2023, we hope to add a half-time development staff person to allow Barbara to grow the HFA program.

Spenser's role as land steward becomes even more important as our conservation footprint has more than doubled since his fortuitous arrival in 2021. Grant funding and special gifts make some of this possible, but our loyal donors and friends are by far our most important partners.

On behalf of the staff and board, thank you for being an integral part of these efforts, and we hope to see you on the trail, in the Habitat Garden, in the backcountry ski glades, or at the Valentine Farm center!

--Kirk Siegel, Executive Director

### Mahoosuc Land Trust By the Numbers, 2022



#### **Expenditure Categories Include:**

Administration: Staff time, volunteer management, strategic planning, professional improvement, financial planning Fundraising: Appeals, campaigns, membership management, grant writing, membership drives, events Education and Outreach: Community engagement, events, website, newsletters and social media Stewardship: Trail builiding, signage, maintenance and planning, volunteer coordination, easement monitoring Land Conservation: landowner outreach, ecological assessments, hazardous waste inspections, property evaluation Habitat for All: Habitat Garden, Birding trail, visiting speakers, Monarch Festival



# Now Protecting 22,412 acres

in Maine and New Hampshire

342 Monarchs tagged at Valentine Farm



#### **User Visits in 2022**

16,232 at Step Falls
11,408 at Valentine Farm
9,350 at Rumford Whitecap





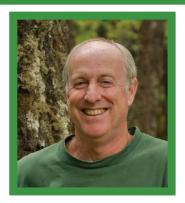
## **188 New Members**



Calendar of Events For more info, visit www.mahoosuc.org/events-1	
Mushrooms 101 with Amanda Moran (4 weeks)	March 21, 6-7pm in person and online
Talking With Birds with Dan Gardoqui	March 29, 6pm webinar
Baby Birds: An Artist Looks Into the Nest with Julie Zickefoos	April 5, 6pm webinar
Be a Better Gardener (4 weeks)	April 12, 6-7:30pm at Telstar High School
The Magic of Vernal Pools with Dan Gardoqui	April 13, 6pm in person and online
Personal Habitat with Julie Zickefoos	May 10, 6pm webinar
Exploring the Natural World with iNaturalist	May 17, in person and online
Building Networks for Life with Doug Tallamy	August 12, 12-4pm at the Gem Theater and online
Annual Meeting with Opening Remarks by Richard Blanco	August 13, 11-12pm at Valentine Farm
Monarch Festival	August 13, 12-4pm at Valentine Farm



**Richard Blanco** is an American poet, public speaker, author, civil engineer, and Bethel resident. He is also the first immigrant, the first Latino, and the first openly gay U.S. inaugural poet for Barack Obama's second inauguration. We are thrilled to announce that Richard will be giving the opening remarks at the 2023 Annual Meeting, which takes place at 11am, before the Monarch Festival on August 13, 2023.



**Doug Tallamy** is an entomologist, ecologist, conservationist, and the author of several books including *Nature's Best Hope* and *Bringing Nature Home*. Join us on August 12 for good conversation and food provided by the Gem. Opening comments begin at 6:45, followed by a presentation by Doug from 7-8 with an audience Q&A at the end.

# Thank you to all 574 of our generous supporters!

We would like to offer a special thanks to our new members, who are highlighted in green.

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Anonymous

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Alice Arlen

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