



Annual Report

GPMCT Welcomes New Leadership and Recognizes Volunteers

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust welcomed new officers and staff and three new board members, and recognized two volunteers at their 18th annual meeting, July 10 at Alamoosook Lakeside Inn.

GPMCT members elected George Schelling of Orland President in July, and chose Sarah LeVine of Surry and Belmont, Mass. as Vice-President. In October, however, Schelling regretfully tendered his resignation due to illness, and LeVine assumed the presidency. LeVine is retired from the Harvard Graduate School of Education where she was Research Associate for 27 years; she now spends most of the year on Toddy Pond in Surry.

Members also voted to elect three new trustees to the Board: Bob Mercer of Bucksport; John Wedin of Lucerne; and Jack MacBryane of Orland.



Geo Atwood, Forester Roger Greene and new board member Bob Mercer

David Gross of Bucksport and Hampden stepped down after five years as President, and received GPMCT's Legacy Award. Gross led the group through a successful campaign to purchase the 4,300-acre Wildlands, and is continuing to help the land trust prepare for national accreditation as Governance Committee chair. David also lent the Wildlands his tipi for a year!

GPMCT recognized Geo Atwood of Bucksport as Volunteer of the Year for 2010/11, for his volunteer work in the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands since 2009. A member of GPMCT's Stewardship Committee, Atwood lends his carpentry and chainsaw skills regularly, has spent dozens of afternoons helping teens from KidsPeace on community service projects, and helped coordinate and finish construction of GPMCT's new outhouse.

Director Cheri Domina highlighted the Top Ten events of 2010, and the evening concluded with Jim Dow, Director of Blue Hill Heritage Trust, discussing development of conservation focus areas using a bio-regional study. ✧

The Gross Family Legacy at GPMCT

by Sarah LeVine

David Gross is of two minds about ending his 5-year term as president of Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, he confided last July.

“On one hand, I’ll be relieved to be free of the responsibility, but on the other I’m really sad. After being so closely involved with the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands’ birth—the realization of my dad’s dream—became part of what I am. It reflects what I love above all else—the natural world and being out enjoying it.”

After 32 years teaching literature and cultural studies at the University of Oklahoma, David took early retirement in 2004, and with wife Stephanie moved back home to Maine. He was immediately invited to join GPMCT’s board.

“When I came on the board in January, 2005, GPMCT was still a small, entirely volunteer organization,” David recalled. The trust had ambitions, but no properties yet.



David’s father, Stuart Gross, founded GPMCT in 1993. Until his death in 1997, Gross worked to negotiate conservation of what is now the Wildlands. Dale Henderson Logging purchased the property in 1995, harvested it, then put it back on the market. GPMCT’s board tried again to find a conservation buyer for the 4,300 acre property – but had no success until 2005, when a local family

offered a generous grant and no-interest loan towards the \$2.4 million purchase price. With the deal clinched, GPMCT, an erstwhile sleepy organization, decided to become a landowner and leapt into fundraising gear.

Halfway through the fundraising campaign (2006), Kent Price’s term as president ended, and David was elected to succeed him.

“I was aghast at first,” David confessed. He’d never been a president and hadn’t much experience running meetings. “Terror was my first reaction, but then came my second: Dad’s dream had been to protect forever the land around Great Pond Mountain. Having spent most every summer of my life at Hancock Pond, and having climbed the mountain countless times, I realized that conserving the area was not only my legacy from dad but my personal goal as well.”

During David’s presidency, the trust developed exponentially as the Wildlands campaign ended and focus shifted to wildlife and forest management, education, expanding memberships, recruiting volunteers and hiring employees. Under David’s leadership, the group embarked last year upon the arduous process of achieving national accreditation.

To David’s delight, he was assisted by step-daughter, Maggie, who served two years as board Secretary while studying physical therapy. Sadly for us, she left for a job in Texas this fall. David and Stephanie’s four other children are grown and scattered to San Francisco, Dallas, Denver and Osaka, Japan.

David remains involved in GPMCT as Governance Committee chair. From home in Hampden, he teaches at University of Maine in Orono, where his late father, Stuart Gross, taught Spanish Literature. ✧

Thank You to our donors, June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2011

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Betty Larson
Ms. Mary DesChamps

Sophia L. French
Alamoosook Lake Association
Caroline Darst
John & Katherine French, III

J. Stephen Hinrichs
Caroline Darst

Sandy Ives
Barbara Ann Ives

Everett Mercer
Genevieve Mercer

Sara B. Page
Betty Larson
E. Donald Blodgett

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Larry Van Meter

Harrie B. Price IV
Alice Price

Hildred Reid
Carolyn & Roger Bennatti

Vicky Rhodes
Mr. Daniel Rhodes

Maynard Sawyer
Peter & Julie Lane

John G. Underhill
Betty Larson

In Honor of...

Carol Bennatti
Howard Reid

Colin Baker
Catharine S. Baker & Nicholas Snow

Sophie French's Granddaughter's wedding
Llewellyn Bigelow & Deborah Ellis

Penelope Doolittle
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Lyle & Dottie Grindle
Mr. George Tyrrell

Olga Lange & Brian Keegstra
Julia & David Arch

Sarah LeVine
Nick & Sally Webster

Paul Liebow
Susan White

Jake Maier
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Priscilla Edgecomb
Shirley Walton

Ted Van Leer
Theodore & Caroline Van Leer

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Julia Ventresco
Jane Crosen & Richard Washburn
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Osborne's Plumbing & Heating

GPMCT Welcomes 3 New Board Members



Jack MacBrayne

Jack MacBrayne of Orland is retired from a long career in the pulp and paper industry, including work at Champion's Bucksport and Sartell, MN mills. He's also a Navy veteran and an Eagle Scout. Jack serves on the Orland Planning Board and enjoys golf, sailing, camping, hunting and snowshoeing.

Bob Mercer of Bucksport taught high school science for 25 years after a short career at sea, and has spent every summer of his life on Craig Pond. A former Maine Guide, Bob enjoys hunting, fishing and canoeing, and has served as President of the Bucks Mills Rod & Gun Club.



John Wedin

John Wedin of Lucerne has worked in the pulp & paper, laboratory, and water treatment industries, and is now Branch Lake Steward for the City of Ellsworth. He currently serves on the Maine Water Utilities Association and chairs the Dedham Planning Board. ✧

Revenue, Expenses & Assets For The Year Ended May 31, 2011

Support and Revenue

Contributions	\$100,130
Grants.....	40,766
Merchandise Sales.....	791
Special Events	2,964
Interest/Dividends/Earnings.....	17,745

Total Support and Revenue..... \$162,396

Expenses

Program Services.....	72,095
General & Administrative Services	22,306
Fundraising	24,124

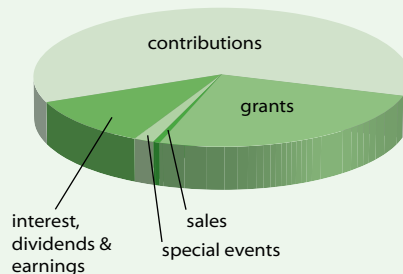
Total Expenses..... \$118,525

Change in Net Assets

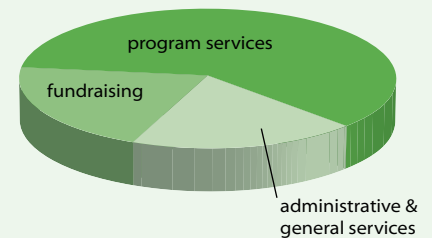
Net Assets June 1, 2010.....	4,408,407
Net Assets May 31, 2011	4,452,278

Change in Net Assets..... \$43,871

Support & Revenue



Expenses



Figures are from the audited financial statement, available on the GPMCT web site: www.GreatPondTrust.org.

Looking to the Future

You can help provide ongoing financial stability for GPMCT by becoming a donor to the endowment. It doesn't have to be a huge gift, and it won't affect your current financial situation if you create a bequest as part of your estate plan.

It's a simple thing to insert instructions in your will or living trust. Here's sample wording you can take to your attorney:

I give and bequeath to Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust (GPMCT), whose legal address is P.O. Box 266, Orland, Maine, the sum of \$_____ [or, ___% of my residuary estate] for such purposes as GPMCT shall determine are in the best interests of GPMCT.

Other estate planning methods that can benefit GPMCT include creating a charitable trust that may also provide you with income, naming GPMCT as beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy, and creating a charitable gift annuity. You or your estate may realize tax advantages, so be sure to consult your advisor.

In honor of our founder, we've created the Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle to recognize those who have included the Trust in their estate plans. If you are interested in becoming a member, or learning more about planned gifts, please contact Development Coordinator Marcia Sly at Marcia@greatpondtrust.org or (207) 590-2677. ✧