

The Mountain Ear

The Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2012



FORESTRY 101 by Sarah Levine

When GPMCT's forester, Roger Greene, decided to offer a free forestry course this past summer to the public, he told us that his main goals were first, to educate us about strategies for rehabilitating a forest (like the Wildlands) in an early stage of recovery, and second, to recruit volunteers to help him with the rehab process.

Monday, July 16, twelve people aged 17 to 70 with widely varying knowledge of silviculture gathered at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in Orland for the first of four weekly sessions. Our mornings were spent seated in the air-conditioned conference room while Roger, marker in hand, stood before us filling our ears and great sheets of paper with the Four Stages of Forest Succession, Taking an Inventory, and Basic Principles of Data Analysis. Noting any befuddlement, he would clarify again and again, answering inane questions with patience and humor.

Having eaten our brown bag lunches and studied our handouts filled with statistics and graphs, we then made for the Wildlands' Dead River section to view the problems that repeated and poorly planned harvesting over many years has wrought in the forest—and hear Roger's plans for how to heal it. After three hours pushing through dense stands of beech saplings and stumbling down overgrown skidder trails in high heat and humidity (which sometimes felt more like Southeast Asia than Maine), we returned to the Hatchery.

Roger explained which tree species produce the most valuable timber (saw logs), the less

valuable (pole logs), and which are only good for firewood, pulp and chips. We learned that some previous owners had cut selectively, i.e. "taken the best and left the rest," and some had cut heavily, leaving only a few (mostly damaged) larger trees along roadsides and streams. As most of the Dead River property faces southwest, great swaths of formerly mixed forest have been replaced by opportunistic, sun-loving beech. Today, many Wildlands hardwood stands are 70 to 80% diseased beech saplings, which will die long before they reach marketable height.



Forestry students Paige and Karen Cote and Rufus Wanning with Roger Greene

PHOTO: H. KRICHELS

The Trust's primary goals for the Wildlands are to protect and improve wildlife habitat, provide recreation and education for the public, and over time, to generate some income to pay property taxes. But how, given what we'd seen, could our damaged forest ever generate an income?

continued page 2

Conserving Land,
Water and Wildlife
Habitat for the
Communities
of Northwest
Hancock County

PO Box 266
Orland, ME 04472
207-469-7190
207-469-7148 fax
info@greatpondtrust.org
www.greatpondtrust.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Sarah LeVine
President
- Emily Hawkins
Treasurer
- Barbara Malm
Secretary
- James Boothby
- Will Houston
- Gunilla Kettis
- Paul Liebow, MD
- Jack MacBrayne
- Bob Mercer
- Ted Van Leer
- Nick Webster
- John Wedin
- Roger Wood

STAFF

- Cheri Domina
Executive Director
- Brian Keegstra
Wildlands Steward

THE MOUNTAIN EAR
Published by the Great Pond
Mountain Conservation Trust

Editor: Cheri Domina
Design: KMW Design, Ellsworth
Contributions: Scott Bennett,
Cheri Domina, Hans Krichels,
Sarah LeVine, Bob Mercer,
Sue Shaw, Marcia Sly,
Fern Stearns

Printed on recycled paper.

What's Inside

- From the President 2
- Books I Have Enjoyed..... 2
- Dam Study 3
- GPMCT Shorts..... 4
- Upcoming Events 5
- Membership Matters 6
- Popple Grove Progress..... 8



Volunteer Profile page 6

From the President's Desk

Sarah LeVine

Our busy summer began with the delivery of more than a dozen brightly painted sawhorses constructed and donated by KidsPeace. Placed at intervals throughout the Wildlands to alert drivers to rough spots, drainage ditches and closed roads, they add a colorful note to the landscape.

The completion of three paths in the Wildlands and hard work by staff and volunteers grooming many miles of existing trails has enhanced the hiking experience in our 4,300-acre property (for details, see "Walking the Wildlands," in this issue). Weekends, volunteers led hikes in the Wildlands, and in fall we introduced "Peak-a-Week" hikes to the highest peaks in northwest Hancock County towns: Great Pond Mountain in Orland, McCloud Mountain on Verona Island, Bald Mountain in Dedham, Jacob Buck Mountain in Bucksport and Wallamatogus in Penobscot.

A natural play space for children in the Wildlands took shape over the summer (see the article on the Popple Grove). In future summers we hope to enhance equally enchanting spots in other areas of the Wildlands, notably one within easy walking distance of North Gate.

In addition to projects mentioned above, KidsPeace kids have worked alongside volunteers on several projects from pruning and cleaning experimental forest plots to creating wheelchair access at South Gate. We are most grateful to them.

A high point of summer was the silviculture course that Forester Roger Greene offered interested community members. Over six hours on four successive Mondays, we learned the very basics of forest rehabilitation and management... knowledge we hope to put to good use assisting Roger in the Wildlands.

After a summer and fall filled with a wide variety of events, from the Alewife Run paddle on Orland River Day to a primitive fire-starting demonstration, we look forward to an energetic winter of snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

See you in the Wildlands!

Forestry 101 from page 1

Roger explained that if we leave the Wildlands alone for 150 years, it will eventually regenerate into a valuable, mixed-growth forest. But by following a careful management plan, the forest can be "turned around" in 40-60 years, earning a respectable income via selective harvest. Achieving this goal requires an investment of money (some from grants and donors) and labor (some supplied by dedicated volunteers).

Roger has set up several one-acre plots in which he and volunteers are trying out ways to regenerate the forest. On our last Monday afternoon, we set out in teams armed with small saws and loppers to clear circles 14 feet in diameter around maple, oak, and yellow birch saplings that Roger had marked with blue paint.

"Once they don't have to fight for light with those beech saplings, they'll

flourish," Roger assured us. "Come back in 40 years, and we'll see some very fine trees."

"But Roger, in 40 years some of us—you included—will be well over 100," someone pointed out.

"I intend to live to 150 and see this thing through," Roger replied. His joyously confident grin convinced me that he will—and that he'll like what he sees. ♡

Want to volunteer for Wildlands forestry projects, or donate to the Forestry Fund? Call Wildlands Steward Brian Keegstra at 479-2673 or e-mail brian@greatpondtrust.org for more information.

Books I Have Enjoyed

by Bob Mercer



Watchers at the Pond by Franklin Russell

Watchers at the Pond is a lesson in natural history exploring "the mysteries, the wonder, the hazards of life, procreation and death within the teeming universe of a pond." Most books on natural history are very academic and dull. This book is written like a murder mystery. It begins with the frozen pond in winter, then progresses as the pond and the life around it moves through each season in succession.

In one segment the author describes what a red-tailed hawk sees as he circles over the pond: "The red-tailed hawk looked at the northern forest now but saw only a late sun coloring the snow... The snowshoe hare knew another dimension of the pond. He waited by the ice, his breath fogging the air. He waited, watching the red-tailed hawk pivoting overhead. He waited, smelling the fox. The hawk turned south, and the fox appeared from a thicket, plowing through chest high snow, and then disappeared into the shadows of the forest. The hare rose slowly from his crouch. Trembling, he sniffed. The pond to him was an arena of dangers..."

This is the way the whole book is written, and it covers everything from the micro-organisms in the pond to the larger predators. If you would like a great lesson in natural history that is not only very informative but also a great read, I highly recommend *Watchers at the Pond* as another "must-own" book.

The book was published in 1981, but you can still get it on Amazon and other sites, and BookStacks in Bucksport would be glad to order it for anyone. ♡

GPMCT partners with Orland for Dam Study

by Cheri Domina

Now that the head-of-tide dam in Orland Village belongs to the Town of Orland, what should be done with it? Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust is partnering with the Town of Orland's Dam Committee to help the Town answer that question.

From the 1930s until 2011, Bucksport's paper mill (now owned by Verso Paper) has owned the water rights and the three dams in the Orland/Narramissic watershed. In 2011, Verso Paper repaired fish ladders at both Alamoosook and Toddy Pond dams and turned over the village dam to the Town. Verso's alternative was to abandon it. Orland citizens voted to accept the dam.

The citizens of Orland have always been proud to have the third largest alewife run in the State of Maine. Closely regulated by the Town, harvesting of alewives helped fund the Town's consolidated school in the 1950s. Working with the Maine Department of Marine Resources (DMR) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Dam Committee learned in 2011 that the Town's alewife run may be threatened

in the long term by inadequate fish passage at the village dam, because not enough alewives spawn in upstream lakes and ponds. In 2012, the Orland/Narramissic River was one of only 22 runs on the East Coast where alewife harvesting was still allowed. Orland's alewife trap just below the village dam harvested 220,000 fish in 2011,

The citizens of Orland have always been proud to have the third largest alewife run in the State of Maine.

compared with 600,000 to 800,000 in the 1960s and 70s. According to the DMR, Orland's run won't be eligible for harvest if it continues to decline—and if alewives are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

While the dam's fish ladder allows alewives to pass, it will not pass most other migratory fish. According to US Fish & Wildlife Service, fish-friendly alteration or removal of the dam has the potential to open up access to 36 miles of stream network and create rich saltmarsh habitat. Species most likely

to benefit include alewife and blueback herring, American eel, sea lamprey and sea-run trout. Habitat may also exist for rainbow smelt, American shad, Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon, striped bass, Atlantic tomcod and Atlantic salmon. Improved fish passage in the Orland/Narramissic River would dovetail with the Penobscot River Restoration

Project's opening of many miles of fish habitat upriver, as the Veazie and Great Works dams are removed.

In September, engineers from Stantec Consulting Services began a feasibility study of alternatives for the dam by inspecting and surveying the dam and conducting field studies of the Narramissic River, studying the structure and sediments of the river bottom and the river's hydrology and hydraulics. This winter, they will gather data on fish and wildlife, history, recreation on the river, and public safety and groundwater issues for local residents. Stantec and the Town will host a public meeting in February 2013 to report on what they find. The final report, due in April, will present the current condition of the dam and fish ladder, and costs and benefits of all options for the dam and its fish passage—from doing nothing, to dam and fish ladder repair, to alternate structures, to dam removal. It will be up to the townspeople to choose an option.

Funds for the Orland study are coming from GOMC-NOAA Habitat Restoration Grants Program, Maine Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, Davis Conservation Foundation, Town of Orland, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Verso Paper. With the full approval and support of the Board of Directors, GPMCT staff wrote grant applications for funding and will help administer funds, and the Trust is operating as a partner and fiscal sponsor for the Town on the project. This is just one of many ways in which GPMCT works in our community to protect and preserve the region's environment and wildlife habitat. ♡



GPMCT Shorts

Foresters tour the Wildlands... On August 24 and 31, more than 100 forestry professionals from all over Maine converged on the Wildlands for tours sponsored by the Maine Division of the Society of American Foresters. The theme presented by Wildlands Forester Roger Greene was "Forests through Time—Problems with Stands in Early Development." On both Fridays, caravans of foresters and a few Trust members wended their way through the Wildlands, stopping at nine sites for woody discussions ranging from crop-tree release to snag tree creation to best ways to reduce or remove diseased beech. To an untrained observer, the day was a crash course in silviculture and forest management—not to mention an opportunity to meet 100 people who are passionate about forests. See GPMCT's Gallery on our website for photos of the event.



marshmallows in the shadow of Great Pond Mountain. Thanks, Isaac!

Bottles and Cans... Savvy about preserving the Wildlands and saving the Earth? Bring your returnables to the Orland market in Orland Village and you can donate the proceeds to GPMCT.

Thank you to... Rufus Wanning, Geo Atwood, Fern Stearns and Jennifer Riefler for all around Stewardship help... Jen Riefler, Scott Bennett, Fern Stearns and David Casey for Paths work... Emily Hawkins, Jennifer Riefler, Hans Krichels, Sarah LeVine, Bob Mercer, John Wedin for help at summer fairs... Geo Atwood and Connie Tuller for their work with the KidsPeace crew... Linda Bohm, Dick Hale, Judy Hale, Geo Atwood and Rufus Wanning for boundary work.

New map plotter... Orion Timberland donated a large-format map plotter to GPMCT this summer, which will help create maps of trails, forest stands, wildlife habitat and more all over our four-town area. The plotter will be especially helpful for printing out maps of Wildlands forest types created this year by Sewall Co., to help with forest management planning.

Access for All... In June, KidsPeace teens worked to construct a wheelchair bypass around the South Gate on Route 1, and brought one of their own along as a test driver. Shawn McCue judged

the trail a little soft for traction at first, so more gravel was added. Bypasses are also being constructed this fall at North Gate and Dead River Gate, which will allow wheelchairs and small, motorized mobility devices to pass.



Thanks to... Steward Brian Keegstra and many volunteers, we've completed our 9 wildlife brushpiles for 2012 in the Wildlands. We have more to do in 2013, and they make great community service projects. Got a Scout, school or other group looking for fun work? Want to help create homes for birds and bunnies? Contact Brian at brian@greatpondtrust.org or call 207 479-2673.



PHOTOS: H. KRICHELS

Learning Primitive Skills... On August 20, Maine Primitive Skills School Elder Isaac Dorr led a small crew through the construction of a primitive shelter in the Wildlands. Check it out—the structure stands across the Valley Road from the Popple Grove children's area, just a short walk from South Gate on Route 1.

Dorr next shared his skills September 21, demonstrating the fine art of starting a fire with nothing more than a bow, a block, a few sticks, and a bag of woody tinder. Afterwards, as woodcock flittered through the gathering dusk, participants toasted

Nest Boxes Produce Fledglings... Thanks to volunteers like Jerry Marancik and Sue Shaw, we'll have 20 more bird boxes in place next spring for Wildlands tree swallows, bluebirds, chickadees and other species. Sue monitored 13 nest boxes this summer (as part of Downeast Audubon's Bluebird Trail), which produced 5 Eastern bluebirds, 10 tree swallows and 3 black-capped chickadees. Predators (including bears) and weather can take a heavy toll on nestlings—thanks for watching our nest boxes from a distance! These photos show baby bluebirds in a nest box.



Fall/Winter Events

Keep up to date on ALL our events, news and volunteer opportunities by visiting our website, www.greatpondtrust.org, or by joining our e-list. Please contact us at info@greatpondtrust.org.

October

Wildlands Trail Run and Barefoot Demo

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28 at NOON

Lace up your running shoes for the annual Wildlands Trail Run, Sunday, October 28. This 7-mile run in the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands takes in gravel roads and single-track with plenty of hills. Expect roots, rocks, mud and moose! Registration starts at 10:30am. The race begins at noon at the Wildlands' Hothole Brook parking area. Pre-register for \$10; \$15 on race day. Bring a friend and your entry is only \$5. Proceeds benefit Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!**

For more information, trail map, registration form, and volunteer sign-up, visit the GPMCT website, www.greatpondtrust.org or contact Peter Keeney at 288-3909 or pktrldrt@myfairpoint.net. Theresa Withee of Camden will explain and demonstrate the principles of barefoot running after the race.



PHOTO: C. DOMINA

Orland, 0.2 mi west of the Winkumpaug Rd. intersection, or South Gate on Rte. 1, just south of the Rte.176 junction in East Orland. If it snows, please check the website for updates, changes or cancellations. For more information, 469-7190, info@greatpondtrust.org or www.greatpondtrust.org.



January

State of Maine Championship Snowshoe Race

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20, 2013 at NOON
CRAIG BROOK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

Our annual Wildlands snowshoe run is the Maine qualifier for the 2013 Dion National Snowshoe Championships to be held in Bend, Oregon March 15-17. Run for the glory – or just for fun! This 4.9-mile run and walk on snowshoes starts at noon (register 10-11:30 am) from Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, Hatchery Road off Rte. 1 in East Orland, and traverses snow-covered dirt roads and a bit of single track trail with plenty of up and down running. No snow? Bring winter running shoes. Entry fee is \$15 for pre-registration, or \$20 on race day, which benefits GPMCT. Visit www.greatpondtrust.org and check out the snowshoe race page under "links" for more information on this race (especially official guidelines to qualify), or to register online. You can also contact Peter John Keeney, 35 Greeley Avenue, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, 207 288-3909 and pktrldrt@myfairpoint.net.

December

Christmas Greens Gathering

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 2 & 9, 12-3PM
GREAT POND MOUNTAIN WILDLANDS, ORLAND

Get your Christmas tree the old-fashioned way—bring family and friends to the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands Sundays, December 2 or 9, 12-3pm for a hayride, bonfire, hot cocoa and goodies, and cut your own wild, open-grown balsam fir for \$25. Additional trees only \$10 each. Cutting help and handsaws will be available; no chainsaws please. Proceeds benefit GPMCT; and the cutting helps thin overcrowded forest! Visitors can access the Wildlands from North Gate on Bald Mountain Road in North

February

Full Moon Ski & Hike

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2012 at 6:30PM
GREAT POND MOUNTAIN WILDLANDS, ORLAND

Join us for a full moon ski, snowshoe or hike (whatever conditions allow) to the Baker Brook Lean-to from the Wildlands North Gate. Meet at North Gate at 6:30 pm, dress in layers and bring a warm drink. Hike is about 1.2 miles round trip, with a sojourn at the lean-to mid-way to build a fire and roast some marshmallows. Call Jennifer at 469-2045 or e-mail jriefler@mdirss.org; check our website for updates or weather cancellations. Rain/snow date is Feb. 23.



Great Pond Mountain 2013 Calendar

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, founded in 1993, will celebrate its twentieth birthday in 2013 by sharing images of one of eastern Maine's most-treasured mountains. The Great Pond Mountain 2013 calendar features dozens of photos of the mountain and its flora and fauna, captured by local amateur and professional photographers in all seasons. Calendars are available at BookStacks in Bucksport, at the GPMCT office in Orland, or by mail order. Cost is \$12, or \$15 each if shipped.

To order a calendar, call Executive Director Cheri Domina at (207) 469-7190, or e-mail info@greatpondtrust.org.

Membership Matters

Ask yourself:

- Do you want more places where you can ride a bike or a horse, hike or hunt, ski or snowmobile with your friends and family?
- Do your kids need more nature in their lives?
- Would you like to have a place nearby to go camping?
- Do you want to help wildlife thrive in Hancock County?
- Do you want to see healthy local forests contributing to Maine's economy?
- Would you like to know that YOUR favorite wild place, local farm, or scenic view is going to be there for your grandkids someday?

Who is conservation for? If you answered yes to the first six questions, you know conservation is for YOU—and it's for everybody! Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust is the conservation organization working on these important questions for the communities of northwestern Hancock County. When you make an annual membership gift to GPMCT, you're contributing to the conservation of wild lands and working lands that make your town a great place to live, work and play—and helping to answer these questions far into the future.

Print out and mail the membership form in the newsletter, or go to our website (www.greatpondtrust.org) to join or renew your membership today. Your gift of \$25-\$40-\$100-\$250-\$500-\$1,000 or more will help us with work during the coming year.

Your Gift helps with:

- Blazing and maintaining trails and roads in the 4,500-acre Great Pond Mountain Wildlands
- Printing maps and trail guides
- Opening the Wildlands gate for easier access for everybody
- Building and placing nest boxes for birds and bats
- Mowing fields for wildlife habitat and scenic views
- Thinning young tree stands to create healthy forests
- Creating an inventory of our forest so we can plan for the future
- Planting chestnut trees
- Marking the boundaries of the property we hold in trust
- Conducting a survey of resources in our 4-town region

Your membership *IS* the organization, and because of that, it's invaluable. While conservation of land, wildlife, and other natural resources is often seen as the work of organizations, it's the people behind the organizations that really drive the efforts.



Thinking Ahead

Please consider joining the Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle by naming GPMCT in your will or as beneficiary of life insurance or retirement funds, by creating a charitable trust, or through other estate planning. You or your heirs may realize tax benefits, and you'll be providing the Trust with support for its mission without jeopardizing your current financial situation. Consult with your attorney or financial advisor, and let us know about your plans.



Volunteer Profile: Connie Tuller by Fern Stearns

Seems like no matter which Wildlands project is mentioned, Connie Tuller has been there, done that. Chestnut seedlings? Connie helped plant some of those in 2010. Hikes? Connie both hikes and leads hikes, and she especially likes to show newcomers the beaver dam on Mead Mountain Trail. Christmas trees? If you've been to any of the Christmas tree events, you've likely seen her helping there. Teen community service projects? This past summer she worked with KidsGiveBack Coordinator Hans Krichels, Wildlands Steward Brian Keegstra and the kids from KidsPeace in Ellsworth as they created log/brush habitat for small animals, among other projects.

"Connie has a big heart," says Krichels, "and she loves the kids." Undoubtedly they love her in return.

Connie first learned about GPMCT through WERU-FM's community calendar, which prompted her to visit the Trust's website. She quickly decided that the Wildlands would be a good place to continue her lifelong love of walking in the woods. Some people with such a love go hiking alone, but Connie is not a loner. She says, "What I like best is meeting other people who are interested in nature and conservation, helping to get people out into the woods for recreation and exercise, and learning more myself about the forest. I like the possibilities for exercise that the Wildlands offers—it's a safe place for walking, thinking, or working on projects with others."

Connie grew up in Connecticut on a farm that was in her family for at least eight generations, and loved the outdoors. She raised chickens, enjoyed going to summer camp, and worked at various camps while attending Bates College and Southern Connecticut State University.

In 1983 Connie brought her skills to Frankfort, Maine, where she and her husband farmed for 20 years and raised four children. For almost 30 years, Connie also taught elementary and special education in MSAD 34 and RSU 20.

Now, as she gets ready to retire, Connie does more volunteering than ever, not only in the Wildlands, but at WERU-FM Community Radio in Orland and as leader of a 4-H club. In her spare time she enjoys raising chickens and homing pigeons. ✧

Walking the Wildlands by Scott Bennett

The Paths Committee is pleased to announce that several trails—some a couple of years in the making—are finally ready for use.

The Birches Path is complete, and by connecting Mountain View Road with Flying Moose Trail, it makes possible a nice loop hike. Look for several different forest types and impressive views as well.

We have also finished work on the Red Pine Path, which provides a shortcut from Valley Road, near the center parking area, to Flag Hill Road. You'll cross a glacial gravel deposit and see a Red Pine plantation and some new bog-bridging.

Finally, we are excited to announce completion of the new Birding Path. The path starts on Hothole Pond Trail about 500 feet past the beaver pond. It follows a pleasant tote road for about a half mile, where it ends atop a ledge with views of Great Pond Mountain and an alder swamp on Hothole Brook. You can also look for a large beaver pond on the left about 3/4 of the way there.

We recently heard some comments that the Esker Path was in need of better marking. I admit I grumbled a bit because sometimes there's only so much that can be done with rustic paths. But I went out and took a walk

to see what was up. Sometimes I see people and sometimes I don't when I take these walks—but the ground, leaves on the ground and tree branches tell the story of how many people are using our paths and where they're having problems. The Esker Path has been in place for a few years, and much of the path is worn-in and easy to follow. A couple of spots aren't so easy, and I found "wrong turns" getting worn in instead. Often the answer is a slight re-route to make the way more obvious. Such maintenance work isn't as exciting as scouting and building new trails, but it's still vitally important.

Volunteer support for our work days this summer has been meager, and much of the work has been left to only a couple of people. If you've been thinking about helping with trail work, we need YOU! Even two more people make a difference. Please join us!

Sunday, Oct. 21 will be our last workday this year. We're meeting at 1pm at South Gate and will be working on the north end of the Esker Path to make sure that it remains an enjoyable and easily navigable part of our trail system. Call Scott at 825-4709 or e-mail scottcom36@roadrunner.com for more information. ✧



PHOTO: H. KRICHELS

Yes, I want to join GPMCT, renew or make a gift!

Membership benefits include *The Mountain Ear*, our newsletter, which comes out twice a year, invitations to special events, and voting participation at the GPMCT annual meeting.

Please make checks payable to GPMCT and mail to: **GPMCT PO Box 266, Orland, ME 04472**

Donations are also accepted online at www.greatpondtrust.org

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Gift (fill in amount) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineer \$500 | \$_____ for the general endowment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Summit Club \$1,000 | \$_____ for Wildlands stewardship |
| | | \$_____ other _____ |

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

I wish my gift to be anonymous.

This gift is a: Tribute Memorial

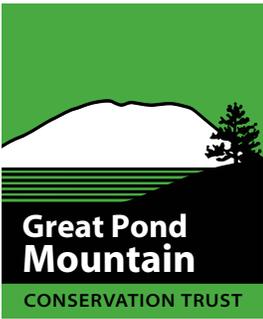
in the name of _____

Thank you!

I've mentioned GPMCT in my will or would like information about estate planning

Please contact me about: Volunteering Land conservation options A monthly gift

Contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.



The Mountain Ear
PO Box 266
Orland, Maine 04472

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 73
Bangor, ME
04605



Find us on Facebook! Or, visit www.greatpondtrust.org

Come Explore Popple Grove

Have you been to Popple Grove? A short walk from the Wildands' South Gate will bring you there. It's the



PHOTO S. LEVINE

Popple Grove is a short walk for young kids and grandkids...like Rosie and Isabella Winger first of a handful of inviting natural areas volunteers are nurturing in the Wildands where young children can

explore, discover, and play in the woods, while adults relax and enjoy a quiet moment. This “enchanted grove” in a cluster of poplar trees near Valley Road entices children with simple pleasures—boulders to climb, short paths to explore, a balance beam and a natural sandbox. A wildlife brushpile behind the grove may yield a glimpse of a snowshoe hare or a singing winter wren. Visit in summer and you’ll be treated to wild raspberries!

Volunteer Paul Liebow has masterminded the project, doing research and creating plans. Teens and staff from KidsPeace in Ellsworth did considerable brush-clearing around the boulders and poplars, transported cedar timbers to the site, and sifted piles of sand at the gravel pit, assisted by Steward Brian Keegstra, former Steward Tricia Rouleau, and volunteers Geo Atwood and Connie Tuller. This fall, volunteers cleared the paths winding throughout the area and hauled woodchips donated by

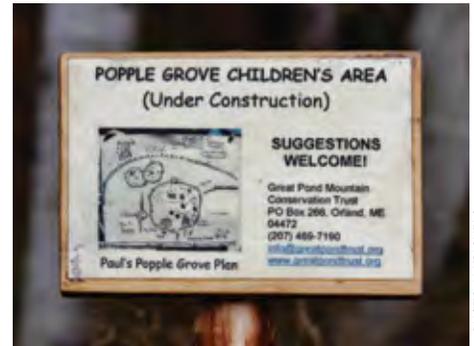


PHOTO H. KRICHELS

A small sign marks the entrance to Popple Grove

Wardwell Construction and Trucking, John Kimball, Bob Jones, and Doris Graves to carpet the grove’s uneven forest floor. A sculpted climbing tree is also in the works. All ideas are welcome, and volunteers will be quickly put to work. ✧

For more information, contact Brian Keegstra at 479-2673 or (brian@greatpondtrust.org), Paul Liebow (palakaseal@aol.com), or Hans Krichels (hkrichels@myfairpoint.net). Photos of the grove are on the website's News page at www.greatpondtrust.org.