

The Mountain Ear

The Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2011



Roger's Rangers Receive LL Bean Grant

This past summer, eight volunteers and Forester Roger Greene—a.k.a. “Roger’s Linear Rangers”—completed 6,429 feet (1.22 miles) of boundary tracing, brushing, spotting and painting in the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. Greene expects to complete two miles by year’s end, and another two miles next year. Boundary work will

Greene. Having our boundaries well marked will help hikers, hunters, trailbuilders and loggers on both sides of the line to know where they are.

Roger’s Linear Rangers work hard in some of Orland’s most rugged and lovely terrain, but “enthusiasm is high and I’m overwhelmed by



PHOTOS T. ROULEAU, C. DOMINA

Roger Greene and Bob Mercer marking the line; walking the newly blazed boundary.

be funded in 2012 by a \$4,700 grant from the L.L. Bean/Maine Coast Heritage Trust Trust Land Trust Grant Program, announced in October.

The Wildlands Management Plan calls for locating and marking two miles of boundary each year, out of roughly 20 total miles. GPMCT bought the 4,300-acre property in June, 2005 and completed a professional survey in 2006, but prior to this year, volunteers and staff only managed to locate the 58 corners of the land (which is in 14 parcels). As old blazes fade and we plan for trailbuilding, camping and sustainable firewood harvesting in portions of the property, the need for boundary work is becoming critical—for the Wildlands, our visitors and our neighbors!

“Job one for a landowner is making sure your boundaries are in place and visible,” says

the volunteers’ eagerness,” says Greene, who takes time for short informational sessions on line maintenance and orienteering during breaks. “We have a lot of fun.”

The group has been going out twice monthly, and after a brief hiatus, will start work again in November, typically on a Friday. Greene will be contacting those already on his list, but anyone else interested in helping out is welcome to contact him at 567-3458 or rgreene@masonbruce.com. “Be advised you’ll need good footwear and blaze orange clothing and be prepared for rough ground,” says Greene.

Big thanks to this season’s Rangers: Tony Aman, Geo Atwood, Linda Bohm, Georgia Aman, Geo Atwood, Linda Bohm, Georgia Doucette, David Gross, Gloria Howard, Bob Mercer and George Schelling, with help from Steward Tricia Rouleau. ✦

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

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From the Director Cheri Domina

Dear Friends,

I consider myself lucky to have the one of the best jobs in the world. While I sometimes curse the time I spend chained to my laptop, the work of a land trust director is never dull. I live for the mornings I can join Steward Tricia Rouleau in the field to help screw a toilet seat on a latrine, or bushwhack up a boundary line on Great Pond Mountain with the Land Protection Committee, or lead a bird walk or paddle. I got to watch biologists and wardens release a moose in the Wildlands in July (see story in this issue), along with the KidsPeace group. I'm not sure who was more excited—the kids, or the adults madly snapping photos. My parents were visiting, so the whole family got to come along, too.

The best part of the job is working with volunteers and visitors—all of you who make the organization run, and who take part in and enjoy our programs. What fun it was to tag along on a full moon hike up Great Pond Mountain this fall, and to bond with volunteers over a wienie roast in our new fire pit at Baker Brook campsite last spring. I am looking forward to cleaning culverts with you and working at the Christmas Greens Gathering.

Local farming has been on the agenda this fall—GPMCT and the Bucksport Bay Healthy Communities Coalition have spawned an exciting new collaboration involving representatives of RSU 25, Maine Farmland Trust and Downeast Farm to School to promote local foods, local farming and farm conservation in northwest Hancock County. School gardens, local foods in school lunches, and farmers forums are on the agenda this winter. We'll also be learning more about farmland soils in the area (and other important natural resources) from Janet McMahon's bio-regional survey in 2012. If you want to get involved, please contact me.

Normally, this space is reserved for the President's Column, but sadly, our new President, George Schelling, had to resign suddenly this fall due to health reasons. We are grateful that VP Sarah LeVine has graciously assumed his duties for the time being, but we will miss George's thoughtful presence on our board and committees. Be well, George!

Thank you for supporting this organization with your time and your donations. Please keep in touch with questions or comments about how we can better serve the community. Call me at 469-7190, or e-mail cheri@greatpondtrust.org.

Sincerely,

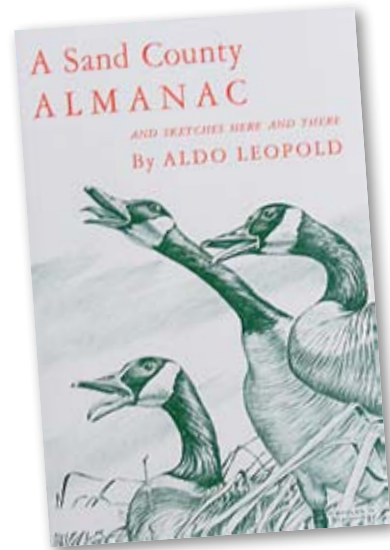
Cheri Domina, Executive Director, GPMCT

GPMCT Receives Extension Award

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust was the proud recipient this fall of the Hancock County Extension Association Leadership in Action Award for a non-profit agency. HCEA created these awards in 2010 to recognize and honor a business, a not-for-profit agency, an individual, and a youth who have made a difference in the lives of people in Hancock County through their

dedication to one or more of the ideals of University of Maine Cooperative Extension. These ideals include building community, promoting healthy living, raising environmental awareness and promoting life-long learning. Executive Director Cheri Domina accepted the award on behalf of GPMCT at HCEA's Annual Meeting September 22. ✧

Books I Have Enjoyed by Bob Mercer



A Sand County Almanac

Aldo Leopold was one of the first true ecologists—even before the title of ecologist was created—and founder of the science of Wildlife Management. He died in 1948 of a heart attack while fighting a grass fire on his neighbor's property. His book was published in 1949, the year after he died.

Leopold's whole thesis is based on the whole being the sum of its parts. That is to say, all of the parts of a biological system have to be healthy, from the large predators right down to the micro-organisms, in order for the system to be healthy. He eventually expanded this concept into what he referred to as "The Land Ethic."

"The land ethic," he wrote, "simply enlarges the boundaries of the community to include soils, water, plants and animals, or collectively: the land."

The book describes his Sand County farm in Wisconsin and how he formed his ideas on ecology. It gives a glimpse into a mind that was so brilliant and far ahead of his time that *A Sand County Almanac* is still the foundation upon which modern work in ecology is based. It is still required reading in many college courses.

This is a book that I recommend folks buy—it is still in print and any good book store will have it or can get it—and read and re-read every other year or so. This book is to ecology what the Bible is to Christianity. ✧

Wildlands Stocked with Reluctant Moose

Route One traffic came to a halt in downtown Bucksport July 26, as game wardens, state biologists and local police cornered and tranquilized a young bull moose that had been wandering the streets dodging cars. Biologists hauled the sleepy moose into the back of a pickup and sped him off to the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands in Orland,

where he was released unharmed—and quite woozy. A group of teen volunteers and staff from KidsPeace was lucky enough to be able to watch the animal being unloaded, prodded awake and steadied on his feet by the pros.

Unfortunately, "Jay" the moose didn't stay long in this safe haven. Alamoosook Lake residents spotted

him swimming across the lake a few days later, and by August 3, he was back in trouble in Bucksport again. Police and wardens rounded him up once more at the Bucksport Regional Health Center, and this time, he was trucked up north of the Airline (Rte. 9), from whence he hasn't been seen again. ✧



PHOTOS: C. DOMINA



State biologists Lee Kantar and Randy Cross, and Wardens Mark Hutcheson and Brian Tripp in the Wildlands July 26, with "Jay" the moose.



New Wildlands Map Available

Our new Wildlands map, by Leah Page, has been available this summer to download from the website, and our new brochure, which includes the trail guide info, is being stocked at the Wildlands gates (the trail guide info can also be downloaded separately from the maps). If you pick up a map at the gate, thank you for making a donation (in the donation pipe) or returning it to the box when you're done—or keeping it in your car for next time. We try to keep the boxes stocked, but we go through a lot of maps! The new brochures were designed by KMW Design of Ellsworth, and were made possible by a grant from the Maine Community Foundation's Hancock County Fund. ✧

Wildlands

Open for Winter Camping

Bundle up and bring your tent—the Wildlands is officially open for camping. Volunteers and staff, with the help of Flying Moose Lodge, have prepared the “Mitchville” site on Hothole Brook for small group camping by reservation.

Flying Moose Lodge campers and staff have backpacked to Mitchville from the camp on Craig Pond for generations, but when the Wildlands

Pond Mountain Conservation Trust.

Campers will find a small but cozy site on the bank of Hothole Brook (a rocky stream here), with a canopy of hemlocks and maples, birches and aspen. A fire pit and a latrine are available, but other than those amenities, campers are asked to practice leave-no-trace camping. The site can accommodate one medium or two small tents, and is limited to six



Bangor Boy Scout Troop #10 enjoys leave-no-trace camping in the Wildlands in May.

property was logged in the 1990s, the site and the trail to it was obliterated. Undaunted, FML campers and alumni finally located the old site last year, cleaned it up, and began camping there again, under agreement with Great

people. Leashed dogs are welcome but be warned—porcupines are abundant! Bears are also a possibility.

Wildlands campsites are hike-in only, and cars must be left outside the gates. The Mitchville site is a 1.5-mile walk from South Gate (on Rte. 1), 1.3 miles of it along Valley Road, followed by a 0.2-mile jaunt through the woods to the site.

GPMCT requests a minimum recommended donation of \$5/site for groups of 5 and under; \$10/site for 6 or more people. The fees help cover the costs of setting up and monitoring the sites.

Next spring, we plan to open a second camping area at Baker Brook, near the North Gate, that can accommodate a larger group. High school student Paige Cote of Orland has chosen to orchestrate the building of a lean-to there next season for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. There will also be several tent sites. ✧

For a copy of the Wildlands Camping Policy, a registration form and a map, contact Tricia Rouleau, Wildlands Steward, 899-5515 or trouleau@myfairpoint.net. The policy and form are also available at www.greatpondtrust.org.



Steward Tricia Rouleau marks the Mitchville campsite trailhead.

It Takes a Village to Build an Outhouse

Bucksport High School students built an outhouse and toolshed last spring that will benefit visitors, staff and volunteers at the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. Students in Eric Gallant’s Architectural Design and Building course completed the 8x8 structure from porcupine-resistant lumber in June. Then Andy Osborne from Outback Towing, Tire & Lube in Orland volunteered to move the building to the site chosen by soil scientist Jim Sohns of Bucksport. Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust volunteers are adding the finishing touches (such as a toilet) to the structure this fall before opening it to business.

Students who worked on the building included Dylan Ashmore, Sean Clapper, Mccauley Donna, Ryan Nevells, John Williams, Justin Clapper, Dustin Beaulieu, Korey Ames and Tarik Benaiche, with the help of Cory Pomeroy.



Bucksport High School students pose with the outhouse/shed: John Williams (on roof) with Cory Pomeroy, Eric Gallant, Mccauley Donna and Dylan Ashmore

Fall/Winter Events

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



November/December Gathering the Greens Christmas Tree Event

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27 &
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 from 12–3pm
GREAT POND MOUNTAIN WILDLANDS

Get your Christmas tree the old-fashioned way this year—bring family and friends to the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands Sundays, November 27 or December 4, 12–3 pm 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. All proceeds benefit Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust;

and the cutting helps thin overcrowded forest! Visitors can access the Wildlands from North Gate on Bald Mountain Road in North Orland, 0.2 miles west of the Winkumpaugh Rd. intersection, or South Gate on Route 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, contact 469-7190, info@greatpondtrust.org or www.greatpondtrust.org.

January Moonlight Snowshoe Hike

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 2012 at 6PM
CRAIG BROOK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

Bundle up and meet us at 6 pm at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery for a moonlight hike on the Dead River side of the Wildlands. If conditions permit we will snowshoe or hike to the picnic area, then across the ice to enjoy a bonfire and cocoa at the Mushrall home. This will be a 3 to 4 mile walk (depending on ice conditions), with one hill to climb. Call 469-2008 or e-mail info@greatpondtrust.org.

State of Maine Championship Snowshoe Race

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012 at 12PM
WILDLANDS SOUTH GATE on ROUTE 1

Our annual Wildlands snowshoe run has become the qualifier for the US Championship race to be held in Frisco,



Colorado February 24–26, 2012. This 4.2 mile run and walk on snowshoes starts at noon (register 10–11:30 am) from South Gate on Route 1, and traverses snow-covered dirt roads and a bit of single track trail with plenty of up and down running. The total climb is approximately 850 feet total for the entire run, and footing is rough at best. This is a winter event and subject to extreme cold, so dress appropriately. Entry fee is \$10, 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.

Leaving a Legacy for GPMCT—The Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle



Stuart Gross and Linda Best (another GPMCT founder), 1994.

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust was founded because one man wanted to see the land he loved preserved forever. GPMCT founder Stuart Gross was a visionary who inspired others to believe

that it was important to conserve land and our way of life in northwest Hancock County—and that together we could do the work to accomplish that goal. It’s a big vision, one that requires long-term thinking and long-term resources.

The very best way to ensure that GPMCT will be able to conserve the places you love far into the future is to create an endowment that will provide ongoing financial stability. And the best way to fund such an endowment is through “planned gifts,” including such tools as leaving a bequest to GPMCT in your will, creating a charitable trust that may also provide you with income, naming GPMCT as beneficiary of a retirement plan or life insurance policy, and other estate planning methods.

In honor of our founder, GPMCT has created Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle to honor those who have included the Trust in their estate plans. Donors who let us know about their intentions will be recognized as members of the Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle in GPMCT publications and will be invited to an annual event celebrating their support.

If you are interested in learning more about planned gifts, please contact Development Chair Emily Hawkins at emilyfhawkins@gmail.com or (207) 348-9901, or Development Coordinator Marcia Sly at marciasly@aol.com or (207) 590-2677.



Karen Francouer of Castine Kayak Adventures assists a paddler during the Alewife Run.

Summer/Fall Highlights

Alewife Run Paddle About 12 people braved the rainy day June 25 and enjoyed this annual paddle from Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery to Orland Village for Orland River Day. Thanks to Karen Francouer from Castine Kayak Adventures for her support!

Bike Quest Georgia Doucette, our summer intern from Bates College, culminated her internship by offering a Bike Quest August 8-10 in the Wildlands for a dozen 7-12 year-olds. The kids enjoyed three mornings exploring the Wildlands' roads on bike and on foot, visiting Hothole Pond and Brook, playing games, building fairy houses and hiking some new paths. Thanks to Georgia and Jen Riefler for this program!



Bike Quest

Kallet/Larsen Concert fans packed the Alamoosook Lakeside Inn to hear folk artists Cindy Kallet (a former Alamoosook Island Camper) and Grey Larsen perform during this fundraiser June 26. A great time was had by all, and the trust earned about \$1,000! Thanks to Cindy and Grey for their music, to Emily Hawkins and WERU-FM for help with organizing and PR, and thanks

to our sponsors, John Piot Associates, LLC, Portfolio Management; Llew Bigelow; and Matthew Cunningham Landscape Design, and our generous board members.

Annual Meeting & Dead River Day About 20 paddlers and as many hikers took part in our Dead River Day July 10, paddling to the Dead River picnic area from Craig Brook Hatchery with Cheri Domina, or hiking in from the gate with David Gross. Some went on to the top of Great Pond Mountain with guide Sarah LeVine. During our Annual Meeting that evening at Alamoosook Lakeside Inn, Jim Dow, Executive Director of Blue Hill Heritage Trust, gave a program on their conservation focus areas on the Blue Hill Peninsula. Dow discussed how BHHT used the bio-regional study Janet McMahon conducted to develop their conservation plan. See our Annual Report for more info on our elections, volunteer awards and more. Thanks to Gina for the use of the Inn!

Board Vice-President Sarah LeVine led hikers on several treks this season, including a berry hunt in August and early fall hikes on Oak Hill and Flag Hill. She recently led a group over our newest trail before it was fully finished—the Birches Path from Flag Hill to Flying Moose Mountain. Check it out!

Full Moon Hike Nearly three dozen people enjoyed a (nearly) full moon trek led by Jennifer Riefler on Great Pond Mountain September 10. A magical time and place!



Volunteers spiffing up Baker Brook site.

Campsite Workparty Thanks to the dozen people who attended our second work party at Baker Brook September 18—especially Chet Tweedie with his tractor! Volunteers and staff were able to move enough dirt to level out three campsites, and the site for our future lean-to. Thanks to George Hunt, Sarah LeVine, Jane Crosen, Emily Hawkins, John Hegenbart, Richard Stern, Scott Bennett and Chet for joining staff members Cheri and Tricia.

Bump Hill Hike Director Cheri Domina led nine people to the “summit” of Bump Hill October 8. The group spotted three porcupines on the way in, and enjoyed viewing the foliage from atop this glacial boulder pile. ✨



Enjoying the fall view from Bump Hill.

Walking the Wildlands

By Scott Bennett and Jane Crosen

Wildlands Paths are in great shape. Many people say this is the best time of the year for a hike, with the cool, crisp weather. Our new Bump Hill Path is complete and has already been enjoyed by quite a few walkers.

The Paths Committee has been busy plotting the route for the new Birches Path along the west shoulder of Flag Hill. This half-mile path will create a loop by connecting Mountain View Road with Flying Moose Trail. It arcs gently uphill as it passes through stands of spruce and birch and over ledges covered with moss, lichens and blueberries, with fantastic views of Great Pond Mountain and Hothole Pond. We evaluated the route literally on a step-

by-step basis, to ensure that we end up with a path that's enjoyable to walk and easy on the environment. Construction commenced in late October. We hope to have the bulk of the work done this fall, then apply finishing touches and open the trail come spring. We'll announce work days as spring approaches!

We are also chipping away at improvements to the Red Pine Path (connecting Valley Road with Flag Hill Road) and the new Birding Path, which leads to a scenic overlook of a Hothole Brook wetland.

We are a small group with a large mission, since the Wildlands covers nearly 4,300

acres. With your help, we can do much more, since we all love the trails and have many dreams for future routes in the Wildlands. Interested in joining trail workdays or the Paths Committee? Contact Executive Director Cheri Domina at 469-7190 or info@greatpondtrust.org for more information or to join our e-list for volunteer opportunities and events.

Thanks to Paths volunteers: Jennifer Riefler, Jane Crosen, Scott Bennett, Matt Murphy, Dave Doherty, Tony “the Tree Guy” Aman, Georgia Doucette, Gene Behrenshauer, Don Montandon and Hans Krichels and the KidsPeace crew. ✨



Fall foliage along the Hothole Brook Trail.

Become a member of 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

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Holiday Shopping with GPMCT—Now Available Online!

Looking for unique gifts for family and friends? GPMCT now offers a line of clothing and hats emblazoned with our logo that can be ordered online! Simply click on the “Shop” button on the right hand side of our homepage at www.greatpondtrust.org to go to our online store through Maine Camp Outfitters. Tees, denim shirts, polos, sweats, fleece jackets or vests and hats are available—even an infant hat!

Want one of our Great Pond Mountain map tees by Jane Crosen? We have lots of colors in small sizes on clearance—you can also find long-sleeve adult tees and kids’ tees at Rosen’s in downtown Bucksport.

The popular cookbook *Maine Mapmaker’s Kitchen: Creative, Healthy Recipes for Home, Camp and Afloat* by Jane Crosen & Richard Washburn is available from GPMCT for a limited time. Cost is \$27.95, and a portion of the proceeds benefit GPMCT. Doesn’t “Potpie with Root Vegetables” sound good right now?

We’re also offering, for a limited time, Maine Starlight Festival posters for \$10. Proceeds go to GPMCT and the Island Astronomy Institute. These large posters are attractive and frameable! Get yours at BookStacks in Bucksport, or call us.

We’ll ship any of these items—just e-mail us at info@greatpondtrust.org or call us at (207) 469-2008 with your address and we’ll let you know the shipping cost. ✧

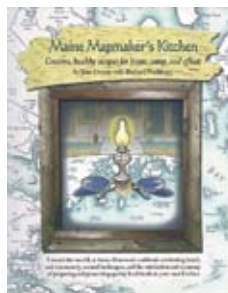
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