

The Mountain Ear

The Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust Newsletter

SPRING/SUMMER 2012



Hay Ledges and Hopkins Meadow Added to the Wildlands

This past winter, Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust (GPMCT) added two more pieces of land to the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands—one a gift from the Town of Orland, and another part of an effort to close the gap between the two tracts of the Wildlands.

In December, 2011, GPMCT purchased 62 acres of steep, ledgy terrain on the southwest

Orland residents voted to donate 12 acres of town-owned land to GPMCT at a January 10, 2012 town meeting. The property is a large, flooded meadow and beaver pond, once called “Hopkins Meadow” and grazed by livestock, but now only visited by wildlife and a few hunters each year. The wet area forms the headwaters of Hopkins Meadow Brook, which crosses the Mead Mountain Trail in



View from Hay Ledges



flank of Great Pond Mountain from James DePaolo, Jr. of North Reading, Mass. The property includes sections of two Wildlands trails and rises steeply up the side of the mountain to encompass part of what’s been called the “Hay Ledges”—a scenic area of interspersed grasses, blueberries, oaks and pines with lovely views of Alamoosook Lake and beyond. The property also appears to have a healthy population of smooth sandwort (*Minuartia glabra*), an alpine plant rare in Maine but relatively common on Orland’s hills and mountains. GPMCT took a loan to purchase this piece; funds will need to be raised to pay it back.

the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. GPMCT land committee members noted signs of deer, moose, beaver, porcupine, coyote and hare during a winter site visit. According to the Orland tax assessors, the land has been off the tax rolls since the mid-1980s, when it was noted that the meadow had been exempted from a landowner’s deed and no one was claiming it. GPMCT already owned the property surrounding the 12 acres—now it has “come home.”

Both parcels will be put into Tree Growth tax status and managed as the Wildlands are, for wildlife habitat and public recreation, as well as long-term sustainable timber production. ✧

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

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PHOTO: C. DOMINA. MAP: T. ROULEAU

From the President's Desk

Sarah Levine

This is my first column as president of GPMCT. I was a plain board member completing my first 3-year term last July when, to my astonishment, I became VP. Three months later, after the resignation for health reasons of my friend George Schelling, I found myself president. The fact that I'm half the year in Surry, Maine and the rest in Belmont MA (just over four hours away if one doesn't take speed limits too seriously), poses certain problems. Thankfully, others are happy to fill in for me at meetings and I can follow the proceedings—and even provide input—by conference phone. Exhaustive e-mail exchanges keep me in the loop.

Admittedly, it's been something of a learning curve since October, but with everyone being kind and supportive, I'm enjoying myself.

After growing up in rural England where (in those halcyon days) children could wander the countryside at will, in adulthood I found urban life wretchedly constraining. I've lived and worked all over the world and wherever I've gone I've found myself searching for safe, open country and a whiff of long lost freedom. But it isn't easily found. So when I discovered the Wildlands, all 4,300 acres of it with four (albeit little) mountains, forests, trout streams, meadows and stretches of open water, I was overjoyed. At last, only 2.5 miles from our Toddy Pond camp, I'd found a natural place, a veritable kingdom, in which to wander at will.

I know something about trees and flowers (the flora of Northern New England is very similar to England's); much less about birds and I may never learn to tell a goldfinch from a pine warbler or a sparrow from a chickadee. But I do know a well-made trail when I see one and the network of well-made trails grows inexorably. These days one can hike from the Flying Moose turn-off to the South Gate—12 miles, four hours and counting—without once setting foot on Valley Road. If anyone is interested in hiking it with me (after the worst of black fly season), please let me know.

Editor's note: Learn more about Sarah in her profile by Fern Stearns in this issue. Besides her hiking prowess, GPMCT is benefitting from Sarah's skills as a fundraiser, organizer, writer and chef, all with a global viewpoint.

New Lean-to at Baker Brook by Paige Cote

Paige Cote, a Girl Scout from Orland and a senior at John Bapst High School, has been organizing the construction of a lean-to at the Baker Brook Campsite near the North Gate of the Wildlands. The project will fulfill the final requirements of her Gold Award, which is the equivalent of becoming an Eagle Scout in Boy Scouts.

Paige and a team of volunteers put together the lean-to off-site and then

reconstructed it at the campsite in the Wildlands. Paige has had lots of help and guidance throughout the project's progress from Karen Cote, Doug Alley, Brian Keegstra, and Rob Mushrall, who donated their valuable time, skills, and equipment. Materials have been donated by Katahdin Cedar Log Homes, EBS Building Supply, Rob Mushrall, and Brian Keegstra. Viking Lumber provided the roofing materials at cost. Additional volunteers helping with construction included Geo Atwood, Paul Liebow, Jim Dinnan, Jerry Marancik, Mark Cote, Heather Brown, Cheri Domina, Kris Cook and Sarah McKinley.

The new structure will sleep four with room to spare or six cozily. It should be ready for campers in early June.

To see our camping policy and make a reservation, see our website at www.greatpondtrust.org or call 469-7190.



Paige Cote, Brian Keegstra, Doug Alley and Jim Dinnan pre-assemble the lean-to.



New Members in Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle

by Marcia Sly

Emily Fuller Hawkins was introduced to the Wildlands five years ago, on a "magic" October afternoon full of vibrant foliage, rustling beech leaves and soaring hawks. "The idea of 4,000 acres a stone's throw from Route 1 hooked me," she said, and she jumped at the chance to join the GPMCT board.

As treasurer, Emily is acutely aware of the organization's responsibility to maintain its land and achieve long-term support from a committed community. To that end, Emily and husband David established a planned gift to GPMCT that will support the endowment, Wildlands stewardship and general operations after their deaths. Their charitable remainder trust (CRT) allowed them to put an amount in trust, then receive back a set percentage each year until their deaths. At that point, the remainder is distributed to GPMCT. In the meantime, those funds can grow.

Various types of charitable trusts and other estate planning tools can reduce taxes, provide life income for donors, and make significant contributions to non-profits. Simplest is mentioning the charity in your will. A gift doesn't have to be large—minimum requirements exist for some plans, but others, including bequests, have no restrictions.

Says Emily, "I developed a love of the outdoors early when my father took me hiking and fishing. The importance of the landscape was instilled in me by my mother, the late Marion Fuller Brown, who was on the first Land for Maine's Future board and championed the removal of billboards, as well as the returnable bottle bill. This gift is our way of continuing that legacy."

To join the Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle by making a planned gift, consult your lawyer or financial advisor to find out what's best for your situation. Then contact Development Coordinator Marcia Sly at (207) 590-2677 or marcia@greatpondtrust.org. Thanks!



Christmas trees and red pine plantations are also Wildlands forestry projects



PHOTOS: J. MAIER

Wildlands Forestry Involves Volunteers

EQIP Grant Promotes Hardwood Thinning

Sustainable forestry is an important management tool in the 4,375-acre Great Pond Mountain Wildlands, and Forester Roger Greene has plans to involve adult and teen volunteers as well as local loggers in the work of forest thinning and planting this year.

If you'd like to learn forestry techniques that will enable you to better manage your own land—and to volunteer in the Wildlands—Greene will be offering a short course in Wildlands Forestry 101. An hour or so of formal instruction will be followed by a "lab" in the Wildlands where thinning activities will be demonstrated and practiced. "I'm hoping to begin in July, with the course running through October," says Greene. Participants will learn species identification and measurements, selection of trees to favor in various cultural treatments, planning for permanent access, and more. "Graduates" of the program can help with such projects as selection and thinning of our Christmas tree event areas.

Greene will also train willing volunteers to work with kids in the release of "crop trees" on the Dead River parcel of the Wildlands. Greene has set aside a few acres where healthy but crowded trees could benefit from having a few neighbors removed. These trees will then grow faster and provide more food and shelter for wildlife, until the future time when they are carefully harvested. According to Greene, "Doing an acre at a time will allow everyone to quickly see the effect of what they're

doing, which we'll follow through time with photos." KidsPeace teens and other groups wishing to get involved will be assigned their own easily-accessible acre of land to nurture.

The EQIP cost-sharing program of USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will also make possible more extensive, thinning operations in Wildlands hardwood stands over the next five years. Starting in mid-July in the Oak Hill area, we will work to reduce the sprouting tendency of beech, which has already monopolized hundreds of acres in the Wildlands. The thinning will produce some marketable firewood, and leave behind twenty-five acres of healthier, less crowded trees such as yellow birch, maple, oak and healthy beech, where they exist. We've also identified an area

where a sugarbush can be encouraged, for later maple sap tapping.

Volunteers can also participate in two other EQIP-funded programs this season. In June, volunteers are invited to plant more American chestnut seedlings in the Wildlands, donated by the Chestnut Foundation. Last year's chestnuts, planted along an old logging road, are now six inches tall. Trees from previous years can be seen near the South Gate in protective cages. We also need help to move those trees soon to a better (but still visible) location. Greene has also identified a number of old apple trees, which will be "released" (nearby trees removed) and pruned for wildlife food.

To get involved in these projects, either as an individual or a group, contact Roger Greene at 567-3458 or rgrgreen@masonbruce.com. ♦

Sewall to Produce Wildlands Forestry Maps

In the first step toward a more thorough forest inventory of the Wildlands, GPMCT has hired Sewall Co. of Old Town to create aerial image maps of the property. By late summer, the contractor will use the images to create a mosaic of the entire 4,350-acre area, delineating forest stands of similar species, stage of development and density. "This will help tremendously in locating stands that have a particular species and are in need of some type of thinning treatments," says Forester Roger Greene. Additionally, he points out, it will reduce the forester's on-ground time by 70%, provide an inventory of what we have in the Wildlands, and give us a baseline for gauging our progress in the future. Funding for the mapping project has come from GPMCT's Forestry Fund, provided by major donors.

Wildlife Enjoys Fruits of Our Labors

Volunteers, staff and contractors have been busily creating homes and enhancing habitat for snowshoe hares and songbirds, deer and ducks in the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands over the past year. Some of these projects, funded by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program), have been completed—others could use your help this summer.

New Meadows Opened Up

Dean Young Forestry of Franklin completed three meadow cuttings (5-7 acres each) on our Wildlands Dead River parcel in November. "Clearcuts? Logging? Ugh!" wrote one hiker in our visitor log shortly thereafter. Yes, stumps and mud are the immediate results of such clearcuts—but after a short time, grasses, raspberries,

Brushpiles Shelter Bunnies

GPMCT and KidsPeace volunteers have completed about six brushpiles in the Wildlands since last fall. By winter, the fall brushpiles already had resident snowshoe hares! These six-foot high by 12-foot wide piles with "log cabin" bases will shelter and serve as nurseries for small mammals and songbirds

individual trees, released by local loggers Wyatt and Seth Astbury.

Snag Trees Host Hole-Nesters

Wildlands Ranger Tom Fox created a number of snag trees in the Wildlands last fall by girdling standing trees (selected by Greene) and removing a strip of bark to kill the tree. These trees were chosen to create cavities for nesting birds and animals, such as raccoons, owls, woodpeckers and chickadees. With most large trees removed from the Wildlands in the 1990s (before GPMCT bought it), there are few natural snags available. GPMCT has more snags to create this summer.

Boxes for Bats and Birds

Volunteer Jerry Marancik built five wood duck boxes, then joined volunteer Sue Shaw and former Steward Tricia Rouleau to hang them along the Dead River last fall. Fred Almquist and students at Bucksport schools have offered to help build 20 more—12 bluebird/swallow boxes, four chickadee boxes, two more wood duck boxes and two bat boxes. These will be put up at various Hothole Valley locations. ✧



View of new meadows on Dead River

shrubs and young trees will be back. Open meadows such as these—otherwise known as "early-successional habitat"—are important for many creatures. Woodcock used the areas this spring for mating dances and deer bedded here to better see predators. Songbirds hunt insects along the new forest edge. Bears will soon visit for berries. As young trees sprout, moose will enjoy fresh browse. While this sort of habitat was common in the Wildlands ten years ago, it's rapidly disappearing as trees grow.

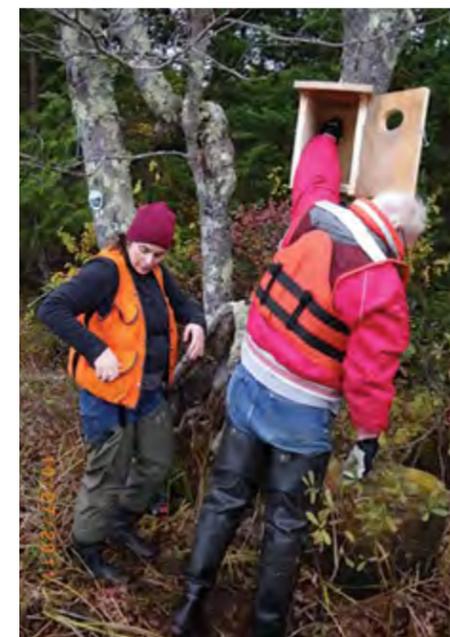
Trees removed were 72% diseased beech, according to GPMCT Forester Roger Greene, and wood chips went to the Verso paper mill in Bucksport. Dean Young's crew returned this spring to repair some road damage incurred in wet weather.

If you haven't walked the Dead River Trail since fall, come see the spectacular new views.

for several years. We have 25 to build by 2014, so we hope to see you at a brushpile workshop this summer! You'll have fun constructing, and can take home a schematic to help you build one in your woodlot. Thanks to volunteers Jennifer Riefler, Linda Bohm, Connie Tuller, Geo Atwood, Darrel McKeen, John Trefethen, Maureen Giunta, Bob Holmberg, Sarah LeVine, Emily Hawkins, Judy Hale, Dick Hale, Karen and Logan Cote and Fern Stearns for their help!

Mast Trees Feed the Masses

If you've traveled Valley Road recently, you've perhaps noticed roadside trees with flagging on them and brush lying nearby. These oaks, apples, cherries and other nut, fruit and seed producers were "released" from competition with nearby trees, to encourage faster growth. Turkeys, deer, songbirds and bears will enjoy the fruits of our labors. Forester Roger Greene marked



Tricia Rouleau and Jerry Marancik erect a wood duck box

GPMCT Events and News

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

June–October

Wildlands Path Workdays

SATURDAYS JUNE 16, JULY 21, AUGUST 18, SEPT. 15 and OCTOBER 20 at 9 AM

Path workdays will be the third Saturday of each month at 9 A.M., through October, usually meeting at South Gate on Route One. Come help maintain Wildlands trails, or blaze new ones! Bring water, snacks, bug and sun protection, and sturdy footwear. Work gloves and tools such as loppers and clippers or shovels are handy too. Check with Scott at 825-4709 or scottcom36@roadrunner.com for details or weather updates.

June

Alewife Run Paddle, Orland River Day

SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2012 at 8 AM
ALAMOOSOOK LAKE BEACH

Take the scenic route to the Orland River Day festivities—join the annual Alewife Run from Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery to Orland Village. Cheri Domina from GPMCT and Karen Francouer of Castine Kayak will lead canoers and kayakers from the Alamoosook Lake Beach at 8 am for a leisurely 3.5-mile (less than two-hour) paddle down the lovely Narramissic River, arriving in the village in time for the parade and strawberry shortcake. One short portage around a dam is involved. Details on boat rental, bus shuttle (7:30 am) and more will be available at www.greatpondtrust.org or call 469-2008 or info@greatpondtrust.org.

July

Hay Ledges Hike

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012 at 10 AM
CRAIG BROOK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

At 10 am, join us for a hike up Great Pond Mountain, to view GPMCT's new 62-acre property on the Hay Ledges. For those who'd rather not climb, we'll have an optional short walk (or even drive) in on the Dead River Trail to view our new meadows, and see the south end of the new property. Meet at Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery's parking lot, and bring water, snacks and sun protection.

GPMCT Annual Meeting

SUNDAY, JULY 15, 2012 at 6:30 PM
ALAMOOSOOK LAKESIDE INN

Join us for our 19th annual meeting at 6:30 pm, starting with a dessert potluck, followed

by officer elections, awards, and updates on this year's activities (including new properties). A member of the Orland Dam Committee will also offer a presentation on their work to determine the fate of the Orland Village Dam at head of tide.

2013 Great Pond Mountain Calendar

To celebrate our 20th anniversary in 2013, GPMCT will be selling a calendar this summer featuring photos of the mountain taken by local photographers. The Great Pond Mountain calendar will sell for about \$12, and features one large and two small full color photos on each monthly spread. These will make great gifts for all occasions—pick some up at fairs and local stores this summer, starting in mid-June, or call 207 469-2008 or e-mail info@greatpondtrust.org to get your copy. More info will also be up on our website. We'll ship, too! Thanks to all the photographers who made this possible, and to Barbara Malm for organizing it.

GPMCT Shorts

GPMCT hosted the Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District's annual meeting "farm" tour in the Wildlands on April 28. Forester Roger Greene and Stewardship chair Jennifer Riefler teamed up with Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist Roland DuPuis to offer a tour of our habitat management projects, which have been funded by NRCS.



Thanks to KidsPeace teens, we've got a new shipment of "sawhorses" in stock and ready to use. KidsPeace has built and donated these light and handy creations to nonprofits all over the area, after GPMCT requested some a couple years ago. They are useful for things like marking potholes, blocking off roads and posting signs in the Wildlands. If you'd like some for your nonprofit, contact Hans at 479-0307.

Parents learned more about what to do in the Wildlands with kids, and kids got to do a simple craft with natural objects at our booth at the Bucksport Children's Fair May 5. This year's theme was Learning Through Nature.

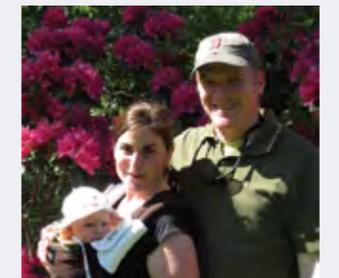
Staff News

We were thrilled to welcome Brian Keegstra April 1 as our new Wildlands Steward. You may know Brian as a former board member and chair of our Stewardship Committee. Brian is a carpenter and artist who designed the Wildlands sign and built our kiosks. He lives in Brooksville with wife Olga (a former GPMCT VP). Welcome back, Brian! See Brian's photo on page 2.



Hans Krichels has been bringing KidsPeace teens to do weekly community service in the Wildlands for several years. This year he joins us as part-time Outreach Coordinator, getting the word out about GPMCT programs and Wildlands projects in the newspapers and online, and helping to plan events.

Congrats and farewell to Wildlands Steward Tricia Rouleau, who resigned in anticipation of the birth of her daughter. On February 16, Tricia and husband welcomed Adelaide Roselle (7 lbs., 19.5 inches) to the world. We were sad to lose Tricia as Steward, but happily, she will continue to work with us when we need her GIS and mapmaking skills.



Volunteer Profile: Sarah LeVine by Fern Stearns

On May 2 this year, just two days after returning to Surry from wintering in Belmont, MA, GPMCT President Sarah LeVine led a group of hikers along Birches Trail, the new Wildlands trail that connects



Mountain View Road with Flying Moose Mountain. Delighted to be back in the Wildlands, she didn't complain about the cool, overcast weather.

"Spring in Maine is generally warmer than where I grew up in England,"

LeVine said. She recalled trying to keep warm in her family home (built of stone in 1508) and the chilblains she got on her fingers from holding her hands too close to the fire—even in May. It appears that a perpetually chilly childhood didn't adversely affect her health in later middle age. "I feel as fit now as I did when I was thirty," she remarked as she strode along the Birches Trail towards Flying Moose Mountain.

Sarah reminded fellow hiker Lucy Leaf that a couple of years ago the two of them had been hiking nearby and Lucy had remarked, "Hikers love loops. If we could have a trail linking Mountain View Road and Flying Moose Mountain, we'd have a loop, wouldn't we?" Sarah promoted Lucy's idea with the Paths Committee and helped reconnoiter a new trail through birch woods and stands of spruce and hemlock, and across lichen-covered ledges with wonderful views of Great Pond Mountain, down to Hot Hole Pond.

An anthropologist, Sarah brings a wealth of experience to GPMCT. After graduating from Oxford, she left England behind to explore the world—first Africa (where she met husband Bob, a Harvard professor, with whom she has carried out research on family life and child and reproductive health for more

than 30 years), then Latin America and South Asia. Having learned (and mostly forgotten) 14 languages and set up households in eight countries, Sarah is settled in New England at last. However, she continues to explore the world, working recently with the Saint Boniface Foundation, a Catholic organization based in Boston that does medical, education and agricultural development work in Haiti. This past winter she and Bob lectured about their research at universities in South Africa and Tanzania, where they also took in a safari and saw plenty of elephants and lions—their favorites.

After the LeVines bought their camp on Middle Toddy in 1996, they hiked Valley Road without having any notion that anyone, other than a timber merchant, had plans for it. Sarah first learned about GPMCT's campaign to buy the Wildlands at the 2006 Bucksport Bay Festival. The "Acre by Acre" campaign appealed to her and she sponsored an acre. In 2007, she was present in a Wildlands meadow when the Trust celebrated the completion of the fundraising campaign, and she joined the GPMCT Board in 2008.

Now that she's become president, Sarah is leading the board in much the same way that she leads hikes—with a smile, no matter the weather. ✧

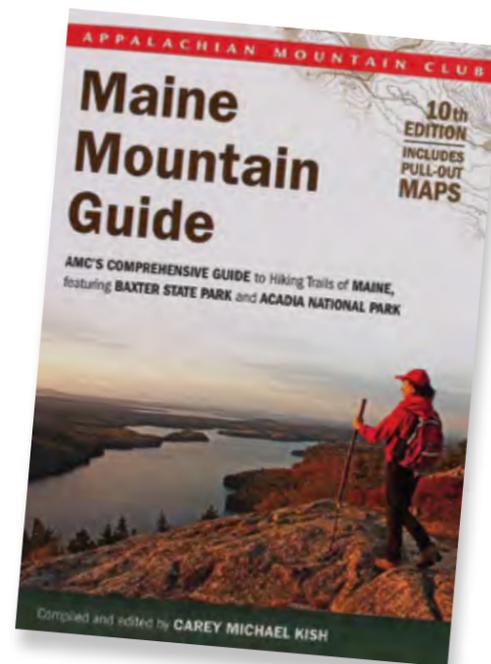
New AMC Maine Mountain Guide by Fern Stearns

This 10th edition guide not only updates many trail descriptions from the previous edition but also adds more than 200 trails not included in previous editions. Author Carey Kish indicates that the guide covers over 1,000 miles of 450 trails "ranging from easy woodland walks to moderate hill climbs to strenuous mountain traverses." Some of the new trail descriptions are of trails that are themselves new, such as the Maine Huts and Trails 45-mile system in the Flagstaff Lake area of western Maine.

Coverage is divided into ten sections, one of which covers all of Hancock and Washington counties and includes descriptions of three of our very own Wildlands trails (Stuart Gross Path on Great Pond Mountain, Oak Hill, Flag Hill) as well as nearby trails up Blue Hill, Tunk, Schoodic, Passadumkeag, etc. Many trail descriptions are preceded by historical comments; for example, Kish mentions that Wildlands trails are in a 4,330-acre preserve "that

is one of the largest parcels of land ever acquired by a Maine land trust."

In the appendix are "Helpful Information and Contacts" and a listing of New England's 100 highest mountains. The pull-out maps are in a pocket very lightly glued to the inside of the back cover. The expectation apparently is that Guide owners will create their own more durable storage for the maps. If you have suggestions regarding map storage (or trail descriptions) note that on the last page of the guide Kish invites input for the next edition (amcbookupdates@outdoors.org), which will likely be published in 5-7 years. Maine Mountain Guide may be purchased from AMC, 5 Joy St., Boston, MA 02108 or from BookStacks at 7 Main St. in Bucksport. \$23.95 ✧



Walking the Wildlands by Scott Bennett

Spring has arrived in the Wildlands, and trees are bright with the luminous green of new leaves. Five people attended our first workday May 19, and the new Birches Path is nearly complete. This path will connect the high point of Mountain View Road with the end of Flying Moose Trail, giving a new opportunity for a loop hike. The birch/beech/maple forest is common on our trails, but this trail also crosses softwood stands and alpine ledges, with fine views to the west. We couldn't complete the path's north entrance due to a nesting woodcock; we hope to finish by July. On the entrance from Mt. View Road, our new Property Steward, Brian Keegstra, will build stone steps to get us across a wet ditch and over the embankment.

This year, with your help, we'll make needed improvements to existing paths and those currently under construction. We're going to bring the Red Pine Path up to the standards of our other paths. This short route connects Valley and Flag Hill roads and crosses interesting terrain, including a red pine plantation. We'll complete the Birding Path, which couples a fine marsh overlook with a pleasant half-mile walk. We'll also take an initial look at our new Hay Ledges parcel (on the flank of Great Pond Mountain), with the hope that some of its charms can be brought into our trail system.

Now through October, path workdays will be the third Saturday of each month at

9 A.M., usually meeting at South Gate on Route One. Upcoming work days will be June 16 and July 21, 9 A.M. at South Gate. If you haven't joined us lately, or ever, for a work day, we need you! The company is good and the work is busy but not brutal; it's just intense enough to be good exercise

and it's rewarding in many ways. Learning about trails makes your recreational hiking more interesting. People will be enjoying the fruits of this work for decades to come. How many things do we do that we can say that about? ✧



View from the end of the Birding Path

PHOTO C DOMINA

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) |
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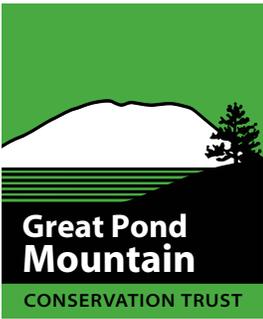
in the name of _____

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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

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Bucksport Woodland Donated

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust (GPMCT) acquired its first property in Bucksport on May 16, when Robert and Rita Campanella of Sudbury, MA, donated a 30-acre woodland on the slope of Orcutt Mountain, near Jacob Buck Pond. The property on the town-abandoned portion of Jacob Buck Pond Road hosts the remains of an old farm, with stone walls, foundations, apple trees and an old well. The land has grown into

passes by the property as well.

Bob Campanella noted that he and Rita have always appreciated the beauty and quiet nature of the spot, and the fact that Bucksport is such a friendly town. “We viewed GPMCT as a neighbor,” he said, “and wanted to entrust our land to a local conservation trust to ensure the existing quality of life, special places and recreational traditions in the area.”

The Campanellas donated the Orcutt Mountain property with the option of using it as a “tradeland,” giving GPMCT the ability to decide whether and how to conserve the land. Land trusts need to be selective about which properties to conserve and how—not every property is ideal for conservation. Land can be donated to a land trust either for its conservation ownership, or for resale, with the proceeds going to support the land trust’s work. The land trust and the landowner discuss both options, and need to have a clear agreement on both sides’ expectations. In this case, the Campanellas were open to either scenario.

people and wildlife of Bucksport, then this property could be a keystone for a larger conservation area. If not, then its sale may be used to finance another project. Either way, everyone benefits.” ❖



a diverse, mixed forest, offering good foraging habitat for birds and animals.

Thanks to generous landowners, this property has long been open for public use, and under GPMCT ownership that will continue. Hikers, bikers, ATV riders and hunters use the abandoned road, and an official snowmobile trail

“With the help of Ecologist Janet McMahon, we are working to develop conservation focus areas in Bucksport, Orland, Dedham and Verona Island by 2014,” said Executive Director Cheri Domina. “If this area around Jacob Buck and Thurston Ponds turns out to have significant conservation value to the



A snowmobile trail winds through the Campanella property