

The Mountain Ear

The Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust Newsletter

SUMMER 2018



Vernal Pool Platforms

by Jennifer Riefler

For the last two years GPMCT and the Bucksport Schools have been collaborating on a project focused on a vernal pool at the north end of the Miles Lane Trails behind the middle school. A group of fourth grade teachers wanted to use the pool in their curriculum and needed better access for their students. GPMCT secured funding, and in the spring of 2017 the trail and bog bridging were completed by volunteers from the Miles Lane School community and from GPMCT. The platforms were also built that spring, by Mike Gross's Advanced Woodworking class at Bucksport High School, and installed this spring.

In March of this year, Amanda Hoffart's 7th



JULIANNE TAYLOR

Students visited the vernal pool platform weekly this spring to observe developments and report on their observations.

grade science classes began visiting the vernal pool weekly. They drew sketches, made observations, and wrote about the

changes they saw as the spring progressed. At first the pool was frozen; then the north shore began to thaw; each week there was more life. Finally, during a warm spell in April, the pool was full of "quacking" wood frogs, mosquito

"Vernal Pool Platforms" continues on page 2

Mountain Bike Trail

by Shawn Mercer

Since last summer, GPMCT has been fostering a relationship with the Penobscot Region chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association.

I first made contact with PR-NEMBA when one of their members left an inquiry at the North Gate. Liam Riordan, a professor of history at the University of Maine, asked if we had ever considered building mountain bike trails. He offered to help if we were open to the idea.

At the time we were working on our application for a Recreational Trails Program grant from the State, which focused on building a multi-use trail for equestrians, hikers, snowmobiles, and mountain bikes. I contacted Liam right away, and he agreed to come look at the Hillside Trail.

My misconceptions about mountain biking



LEAH PAGE

Volunteers working on GPMCT's first mountain bike trail, a beginner-friendly, quarter mile loop just inside the South Gate.

were immediately apparent. I thought they liked to do fast downhill runs, but I discovered that many mountain bikers prefer curving, winding, contoured trails that they can ride at a relatively slow speed. This type of single

"Mountain Bike Trail" continues on page 7



What's Inside

Explore Outdoors!	3
Trail Races & Events	4
Land Trust Facts	5
Firewood Math	6
What the Wildlands Means to Me.....	7

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

PO Box 266
Orland, ME 04472
207-469-6929 tel
info@greatpondtrust.org
www.greatpondtrust.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Emily Hawkins
President

Sarah LeVine
1st Vice-President

Chris Johnson
2nd Vice-President

Betty "BJ" Harris
Secretary

Richard Spearen
Treasurer

John Barlow
Carl Derian
David Gross
Jacqueline Hewett
CJ Langley
Jack MacBrayne
Robert Mercer
Diane O'Connell
Albert K. Webster
John E. Wedin

STAFF

Landon Fake
Executive Director
Karen Balas-Cote
Membership Coordinator
Shawn Mercer
Land Steward
Julianne Taylor
Education Coordinator

THE MOUNTAINEAR
Published by the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust

Editor: Landon Fake
Design: Olga Lange

Printed on recycled paper.

From the President's Desk

GPMCT is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year and will celebrate at the August 16, 2018 Annual Meeting, so save the date. To celebrate, a fundraising 25/25 campaign for long-term funds was kicked off in March. If \$25,000 is raised it will be matched. The campaign is progressing well, with more than \$20,000 raised by the end of May. Thank you if you have already given!

In August 2017, Cheri Domina notified the Board that she would leave her position as Executive Director as of December 31. Cheri had been with the organization since inception as a volunteer, and then 12 years as a part-time ED. Her passion and dedication propelled GPMCT to become highly respected in the regional and state land trust community.

A search committee of seven was formed and worked between October and March, reviewing nearly 30 applications and interviewing 4 candidates. Two finalists were invited to Bucksport in January for interviews with staff and had time to socialize with members of the Board.

Landon Fake was hired as GPMCT's first full-time ED and formally began work April 2, having spent a few weeks prior to that shadowing staff and meeting with Cheri. Landon worked for 20 years in a leadership position for the Hurricane Island Outward Bound School, was a founder of the Mahoosuc Pathways initiative in Bethel, Maine and was president of the Mahoosuc Land Trust. Currently he and his wife, Margaret Haberman live in Hope, Maine. They have two daughters. They plan to relocate to the Bucksport area. GPMCT has provided a warm welcome!

The Explore Outdoors! Education program is initiating positive relationships with many organizations in our service area and beyond. A vernal pool multi-grade education

project is underway at a vernal pool behind the Bucksport Miles Lane Middle School. Kim Ridley, author of *The Secret Pool* will work with students to create stories about their own vernal pool.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust joined the Explore Outdoors! Program in February as a third collaborator. This program's future will depend on building a foundation of consistent annual support. It costs each collaborator just under \$12,000 annually to support the Education Coordinator position. Julianne Taylor is doing stellar work, and is in high demand at many area schools.

Building positive relationships with new constituencies is one goal of GPMCT's strategic vision. Our steward, Shawn Mercer connected with the Penobscot Region New England Mountain Biking Association (PR-NEMBA). This has generated a single track initiative group, a formal agreement, and the construction of a loop trail pilot project aimed at beginning bikers of all ages.

GPMCT will evaluate this and any subsequent projects with PR-NEMBA through the lens of our primary mission, which is to protect habitat, wildlife and water quality.

The trust said good-bye to two long-time loyal supporters: Ordway Clifford and Ann Bingham, each of whom became a posthumous member of the Stuart Gross Legacy Circle.

The trust will be preparing for accreditation renewal over the next 9-12 months. It is hard to believe that 5 years has elapsed since its initial accreditation!

Thank you for being involved with the Trust, for your financial support, and for being there when GPMCT needs the benefit of your knowledge and perspective.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

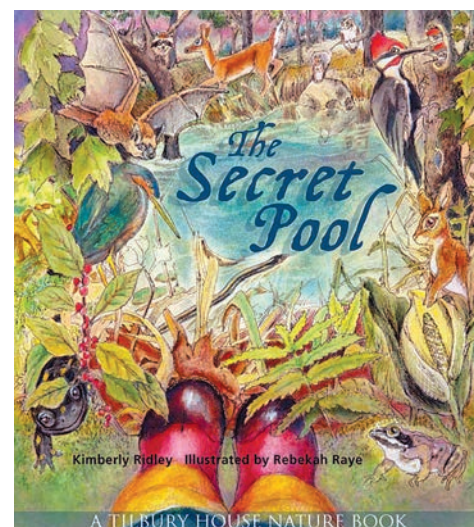
Warmest Regards,
Emily Fuller Hawkins, President

"Vernal Pools" continued from page 1

larvae and other life. The 4th and 7th graders were amazed to see and hear all of this life.

Explore Outdoors!, an educational

collaboration of GPMCT, Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Down East Audubon, working with Julianne Taylor, the Education Coordinator, worked with the Bucksport Schools to develop an educational unit on vernal pools, culminating in a whole day of vernal pools for 4th and 7th graders. Kim Ridley, author of *The Secret Pool* gave an inspiring presentation and class workshops, using her book to instruct and inspire the young authors to begin writing themselves. Meanwhile, up at the pool, each 7th grader shepherded two fourth graders around the pool to see its wonders. With nets, collection jars, magnifiers, and their own curiosity and powers of observation to work with, the students delighted in finding salamanders, dragonfly larvae, wood frog tadpoles and other vernal pool life.



The Explore Outdoors! vernal pools education unit included a visit by Kim Ridley, author of *The Secret Pool*.



New Stickers

Our new stickers are in. Is the old one on the back of your car looking ragged? Stop by the office to pick up a new one.

From the Executive Director

Since I started in April, I've been immersing myself in the places, systems and people of GPMCT- and there are a lot of them! I look forward to meeting more of you and discovering more about the Wildlands and Chapman Farm. There are three large file cabinets in my office that Cheri Domina managed to fill. Their contents reflect an impressive record of conservation achievement and a well-run organization. As we look back in this 25th year (see Cheri's excellent history of the trust in the insert to this newsletter), it is easy to see at least the rough outline of the direction ahead: passionate and energetic board, staff and members pushing the organization to continue to expand our reach in new areas, like the Explore Outdoors! educational program and engagement with the mountain bike community with the Single Track Initiative; ongoing initiatives to improve and protect the Wildlands while inviting in more visitors; and most important, the careful marshalling of our financial, natural and human resources, so we can continue to take risks investing them in and then supporting the acquisition of important places that benefit the larger community. I look forward to having my shoulder to the wheel.

I hope to see you out on the trail,
Landon Fake, Executive Director

NEW MAP



The updated Wildlands map is at the printers. It has a new look and features many small changes, several new trails and great new photos. Leah Page, a passionate user of the Wildlands, did the GIS work as well as the layout. Free to members (see membership form on back cover.)

Explore Outdoors!

by Julianne Taylor

I'm fortunate to work with Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, Downeast Audubon, and Blue Hill Heritage Trust, three organizations that have joined forces to bring outdoor and nature based education to the communities of Hancock County. Since beginning my position as Education Coordinator a year ago, the Explore Outdoors! program has provided programming at 10 schools in Bucksport, Ellsworth, and along the Blue Hill Peninsula. We ran more than 50 individual programs and reached over 1,000 people with both school and public programs.

The success of the program is the result of devoted volunteers and colleagues passionate about the outdoors and sharing it with others. Explore Outdoors! is fortunate to have several Maine Master Naturalists involved in the program. With both kids and adults, we dissected owl pellets, explored vernal pools, learned winter survival skills, looked for the elusive beaver, watched alewives swim upstream, explored Bump Hill, and witnessed



JULIANNE TAYLOR

the wonder and excitement of children finding red-backed salamanders in the woods. A special thank you to dedicated volunteers Jennifer Reifler, Karen Johnson, Susan Guilfold, Paula Mrozicki, and Hans Krichels.

This spring, Miles Lane 4th grade teachers Joni Wardell and Lynn Redman brought their 34 students out to the Wildlands for the day to learn about beaver and other flora and fauna life history. The REACH and Bucksport Middle School School brought students in to work with our land steward, Shawn, to clear brush along the

trails. In May, we had an amazing vernal pool program with the Miles Lane and Bucksport Middle School. This is featured in more detail on page 1.

Learners of all ages have participated in our public programs hosted and instructed by the amazing staff and volunteers at the Blue Hill Public Library, Chewonki, Birdsacre, Bucksport YMCA, Bucksport Middle School, Maine Survival Solutions, Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery, Lone Spruce Farm, Downeast Salmon Federation, and University of Maine.

I also have to mention the amazing school teachers, administrators, and staff we worked with from Bucksport, Castine, Brooklin, Brooksville, Blue Hill, Sedgwick, and Ellsworth. We were very fortunate to work with educators who wanted their students to learn through being outdoors. Thank you!

The last thank-you goes to the generous funders of this program, whose support makes this program a reality: Catherine Baker, Ellen & Rob Beekman, Joceline Boucher, and the Messler Family Foundation.

I look forward to another year of outdoor adventures and learning opportunities!

Events

www.greatpondtrust.org
207-469-6929



Wild & Scenic Film Festival

July 28, 2018 6:30–9:30 pm

Knowlton Park, Ellsworth

GPMCT and Frenchman Bay Conservancy are partnering with numerous area nonprofits to host the first Wild and Scenic Film Festival in Downeast Maine!

We'll feature award-winning films about protecting fish, conserving rivers, and saving ocean life. Films will begin at 7:30 pm, but come about an hour early to stake out a place to sit, grab food and drinks, and talk to local organizations. To learn more about the film festival, visit <https://www.wildandscenicfilmfestival.org/>

ANNUAL MEETING 25th Anniversary Celebration

**Thursday, August 16, 2018,
4:00–6:00 pm**

in Great Meadow in the Wildlands

We will welcome our new ED, Landon Fake, Celebrate the 25th anniversary, elect officers, board members, review trust activity and enjoy food, beverages and the blue grass music of Dick Bowden's band. **Save the date!**

Sacred Places Concert for the Wildlands

September 8th, 7:00 pm

Bald Mt. Community Center, 1287 Bald Mt. Rd. Orland

A panel of songwriters sharing music and conversations related to art and conservation. All proceeds to benefit GPMCT.

Great Pond Mountain Wildlands Adventure Race

October 6th, 8:00 am

A 3 or 8 hour scavenger hunt for adventure enthusiasts where participants run, bike, and paddle their way, using only map and compass, to locate hidden 'waypoints' throughout the Wildlands and the surrounding area. All proceeds to benefit the GPMCT's Single Track Initiative.



Downeast Double Trouble Trail Races

This year, GPMCT and FBC are collaborating with four other downeast conservation organizations to host the first annual Downeast Conservation Trail Race Series! Runners who participate in multiple races in this series are eligible for special recognition and prizes.

Join Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust and Frenchman Bay Conservancy in the 6th annual Downeast Double Trouble Trail Race Series—now part of the larger Downeast Conservation Trail Race Series.

Online registration closes one week before each race. In person registration closes 30 minutes before each race.

GPMCT's Wildlands Trail Race

October 28

The GPMCT Wildlands Trail Race offers two courses this year; choose the two-mile fun run or the 6.3-mile challenge. It will take place October 28th at the Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. Register on website

FBC's Autumn Trail Race


November 4

The FBC Autumn Trail Race offers two race distances: a 4-mile and an 8-mile race that starts and finishes at Sumner Memorial High School and takes place on FBC's Long Ledges & Baker Hill Preserves. Register online.


Volunteer With Us!

The Trust relies on many volunteers to accomplish our mission. We have a wide range of satisfying work that needs to be done. You can call, email or sign up on our website to get email notices about current volunteer projects.

 **Guide or help lead hikes** with kids ages 9-11 in the Wildlands! GPMCT is teaming up with the Bucksport YMCA to offer weekly outdoor activities with their summer camp program. Hikes are planned every Thursday starting July 5th from 9am-12pm. Groups are no larger than 10 campers. If you are interested please contact Education Coordinator Julianne Taylor at exploreoutdoorsmaine@gmail.com for more information and to sign up.

 **Wildlands Work Parties:** These generally have a specific

job, from trail work to invasive species eradication. July 6, July 20, August 3, August 17, September 7. Contact Steward Shawn Mercer at 322-6725 or shawn@greatpondtrust.org to sign up or for more information.

 **Forestry Activities:** Roger Greene commands 3 different groups of specialized volunteers: Linear Rangers (boundary marking); Time Stickers (measuring out permanent plots to monitor for forest development); Tannenbaums (trimming Christmas trees). Contact Roger at 567-3458 or geezerduff@gmail.com

Did you know?

There are more than 80 Land Trusts in Maine. They provide the lion's share of outdoor recreation opportunities in the state. At 6.5%, Maine has the lowest percentage of public land on the East Coast. Consequently, Land Trusts have become essential to people's lifestyle in Maine—one of the main ways people get outdoors—whether for recreation, reflection, exercise, or instilling a sense of nature in their children.

To put the recreational offerings on land trust-conserved lands into context, compare them with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Land Public Reserve system, which manages a little more than 600,000 acres in the state. Maine's Public Reserve system offers fewer than 15% as many miles of hiking trails (175 miles vs. 1,260 miles) and far fewer boat launch sites (35 sites vs. 203 sites). In addition, Land Trust lands collectively see a lot more public use, because compared to Maine's Public Reserves, most land trust preserves are located closer to population centers and the state's most popular tourist destinations.

(from Maine Coast Heritage Trust's report, *Land Trusts Work for Maine*)



Birdwatching is one of the many ways people enjoy Great Pond Mountain Wildlands. Like other land trusts in Maine, GPMCT provides the public with recreational opportunities along with working to conserve land and wildlife.

Land Trust Conserved Land in Maine

94.5% of Maine Land Trust Land is on the tax rolls.

- 1.9 million acres with conservation easements
- 460,000 acres owned by land conservation organizations

On 4.0% of conserved acres (100,000) acres, land trusts make payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs.)

On 1.5% of these acres, the land is tax exempt and no PILOTs are made.

- Impacts a little more than 30,000 acres of land in municipalities
- Impacts roughly 0.3% of municipal land in state
- More than 70% of municipalities (300+ communities) have no land in this category.

Most land trust conserved land is also subject to Maine's Forestry Excise Tax, which funds forest fire protection efforts in the state.

GPMCT FACTS

- GPMCT is unusual—most local Land Trusts own many smaller parcels of land; GPMCT currently owns only 3 parcels.
- Great Pond Mountain Wildlands, at 4,500 acres, is larger than 32 of Maine's 36 State Parks
- The Wildlands includes a network of 20 miles of roads and trails
- This property also includes 2 miles of waterfront
- The Wildlands features a wide variety of habitats and forest types with elevations from 20' above sea level to 1020'.
- GPMCT, like most Land Trusts, pays taxes on all the property it owns.



The Gates

The South Gate will be open for vehicle access from 8 am until sunset, Friday–Sunday from June 22 through October 28. New this year, the North Gate, on the Bald Mountain Road in North Orland, will also be open Friday–Sunday starting in September. Of course, you can park outside the gates anytime to access the Wildlands.

New Members

The following new members joined GPMCT between May 4, 2017 and May 31, 2018:

John Avila and Lyn Gatz	Patricia and Charles McGinty
Larry Balchen	Peter and Danette Morris
Tom and Kristen Beauchamp	Nicholas and Alice Noyes
John Cary	Michael O'Brian
Peter Daigle	Carol Orlfsky
David Duggan and Marion McCord	Lois Patten
Haydee Foreman	Sally Peckenham and Josh Dunbar
Patricia Gross	Jessica and Willow Richards
Lindsay Hodgman	Thomas Rush
Eric Holmes	Marianne Sacknoff and Gary Winders
Jane and Eric Jarvi	Gail Strehan
Jason Jones	Johanna and Pedrick Sweet
Rebecca Kennedy	Mark and Pam Whittaker
Susan Keppel	Martha Williams
Francis Larrabee	William Wood
Ruth and David Lind	Melina Yanez
Marybeth and Richard Maeder	

From the Forester...

by Roger Greene, Forest Science & Management Consultant

A New Look at Your Firewood

I don't know about you, but when I am doing the annual cutting and splitting of this year's firewood, although I pay attention to what I'm doing so I don't get hurt, there doesn't seem to be enough to occupy my mind and it begins to wander a bit. Like mowing the lawn, it just doesn't take all that much concentration. There are just so many interesting pieces to look at! Unique knots, lumps, slivers, bark and most importantly, grain characteristics. So, while I was piling away this last fall, I wondered about how large a tree a particular piece of split wood came from...interesting, isn't it? As I thought about it, my production in piling began to drop off substantially. Later, that evening, I continued to ruminate about figuring tree size from a piece of firewood and my results, for better or worse are as follows.

Most firewood pieces are roughly triangular and even if they're not, they still have a particular curvature of bark when it's present. It is this bark-side curvature that allows estimation of tree size. If you remember a little bit of high school geometry, you know that the diameter of a circle is equal to 2 times the radius. Trees are not always round and that the effect of rough bark will cause some errors in the estimation of diameters, but, in general, we can get a pretty good idea of tree-size from a stick of firewood. Take a look at the illustration.

To calculate the diameter of the original tree: First, measure the distance to the nearest half inch from where the bark touches the wood at each edge of the piece (line in blue). Jot the measurement down. Now measure the (red line). Divide that distance in half and jot it down. Now measure the (red line) perpendicular to the outer edge of the bark as shown. Jot this down, too.

Knowing these two dimensions, we can compute the estimated diameter of the tree as follows:

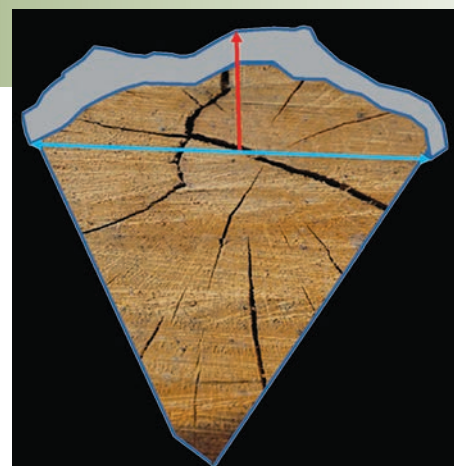
First, we solve for the radius by the following formula:

Where: R = tree radius computed from chord length (w) and height from chord mid-point (h) by the following formula:

h divided by 2 plus w , squared divided by 8 times h as follows: $(h/2) + (w^2/(8*h))$

Once this is done, just multiply by 2 to get diameter.

For example, if we had a piece of firewood whose chord length (w) was 5½ inches and height from the chord mid-point was ¼ inch, the radius



The bark is the area covered in the gray pattern.

would equal 15.25 inches. This value multiplied by 2 would be 30.4 inches.

I know that not everybody is happy with numbers, so I did the labor for you in the table below.

For distances at a finer scale of measurement or beyond those I calculated, follow the formula and take the results with a grain of salt. So, when you're working on the next year's firewood, take the time to ponder a bit, get close to your wood and imagine the tree from which it came! Happy noodling!

Estimating Tree Size from a Stick of Firewood

Chord Length (in.)	Perpendicular—Height (in.) to Outer Edge of Bark											
	0.25	0.5	0.75	1	1.25	1.5	1.75	2	2.25	2.5	2.75	3
Diameter of Tree (inches)												
1.5	2.4	1.4	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7
2	4.1	2.3	1.7	1.5	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
2.5	6.4	3.4	2.5	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
3	9.1	4.8	3.4	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.3
3.5	12.4	6.4	4.5	3.6	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.8
4	16.1	8.3	5.7	4.5	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8
4.5	20.4	10.4	7.1	5.6	4.7	4.1	3.8	3.5	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.2
5	25.1	12.8	8.7	6.8	5.6	4.9	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.8	3.6	3.6
5.5	30.4	15.4	10.5	8.1	6.7	5.8	5.2	4.8	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0
6	36.1	18.3	12.4	9.5	7.8	6.8	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.9	4.6	4.5
6.5	42.4	21.4	14.5	11.1	9.1	7.8	6.9	6.3	5.8	5.5	5.2	5.0
7	49.1	24.8	16.7	12.8	10.4	8.9	7.9	7.1	6.6	6.2	5.8	5.6
7.5	56.4	28.4	19.1	14.6	11.9	10.1	8.9	8.0	7.4	6.9	6.5	6.2
8	64.1	32.3	21.7	16.5	13.4	11.4	10.0	9.0	8.2	7.7	7.2	6.8
8.5	72.4	36.4	24.5	18.6	15.1	12.8	11.2	10.0	9.2	8.5	7.9	7.5
9	81.1	40.8	27.4	20.8	16.8	14.3	12.4	11.1	10.1	9.4	8.7	8.3
9.5	90.4	45.4	30.5	23.1	18.7	15.8	13.8	12.3	11.2	10.3	9.6	9.0
10	100.1	50.3	33.7	25.5	20.6	17.4	15.2	13.5	12.2	11.3	10.5	9.8
10.5	110.4	55.4	37.1	28.1	22.7	19.1	16.6	14.8	13.4	12.3	11.4	10.7
11	121.1	60.8	40.7	30.8	24.8	20.9	18.2	16.1	14.6	13.4	12.4	11.6
11.5	132.4	66.4	44.5	33.8	27.1	22.8	19.8	17.5	15.8	14.5	13.4	12.5
12	144.1	72.3	48.4	36.5	29.4	24.8	21.4	19.0	17.1	15.7	14.5	13.5
12.5	156.4	78.4	52.5	39.6	31.9	26.8	23.2	20.5	18.5	16.9	15.6	14.5
13	169.1	84.8	56.7	42.8	34.4	28.9	25.0	22.1	19.9	18.2	16.7	15.6
13.5	182.4	91.4	61.1	46.1	37.1	31.1	26.9	23.8	21.4	19.5	17.9	16.7

A Wish List for Donated Items

- Picnic tables
- Game camera
- Power strips
- Large monitor screen
- Large rollup screen
- Large whiteboard
- Well-used canvas tote bags (to carry soil during trailwork projects)

"Mountain Bike Trail" continued from page 1

track "flow" trail makes for a really fun ride at a pace that is safer for the bikers and others using the trail.

Liam and I reached out to other people we thought would be interested in this idea. In early October the Single Track Initiative held its first meeting. A group of six to ten volunteers has been meeting on a monthly basis ever since.

On May 20th the Bald Mt. Community Center, PR-NEMBA, and GPMCT co-hosted a trail building school. About 30 participants, including representatives from several land trusts, and a big PR-NEMBA contingent spent the morning in a classroom session at the community center. Craig MacDonald, PR-NEMBA President, taught the group design considerations, tools, and techniques for building sustainable single track trails, based on the widely-accepted International Mountain Bike Association curriculum. These concepts and techniques are applicable to any trail construction, not just mountain bike trails.

The afternoon was spent constructing GPMCT's first mountain bike trail. It is a beginner-friendly, quarter mile loop just inside the South Gate that demonstrates the various components of sustainable single track. At the end of the work day, we had a few fresh growlers of beer, generously donated by Fogtown Brewing.

GPMCT and PR-NEMBA will co-host a grand opening for the moun-



LEAH PAGE

Above—About 30 people participated in a trail building workshop and then built GPMCT's first mountain bike trail. Here the volunteers are celebrating the day's work and enjoying beer donated by Fogtown Brewing.

Left—The single-track trail is designed as a "flow" trail, meant for interesting riding at a slower pace.



LEAH PAGE

tain bike loop at Popple Grove later this summer. Please watch for updates and details as our work progresses. The grand opening of the single track loop is Saturday, June 23rd at noon. Please join us to celebrate our partnership

with PR-NEMBA and the opening of this new trail.

As Land Steward at GPMCT, part of my job is to make connections with other organizations. If you have ideas for groups we could establish a mutually beneficial relationship with, please let me know.

Stewart M. Gross Legacy Circle

Named after GPMCT's visionary founder, the Stuart M. Gross Legacy Circle recognizes donors who have notified us about having included the Trust in their estate plans.

Anonymous (1)
Anna Durbin & Julia Misplon
Emily & David Hawkins
Sarah & Robert LeVine
Jack & Bonnie MacBrayne
Pamela & Philip Person
Suzanne & Harold Shaw
Donald & Shelley Small
Jeff Smith
K Todd Tompkins & Kelly McCool
Ted & Sue Van Leer
Larry Wahl

We are sad to lose two long-time supporters of GPMCT this year, Ordway Clifford and Anne Bingham. Both of them included the Trust in their wills, and we are honored to remember them through their generosity.

What the Wildlands Mean to Me



LEAH PAGE COLLECTION

"The Wildlands has been a special place to me since childhood. It's a sanctuary I periodically return to after studying and working in the fast-paced world away from home. Every time I visit, nature has reclaimed more of its beauty and I always find something new to appreciate. Snowshoeing along Esker Path and up Oak Hill, or exploring what I call the "fairy tale area" of Hothole Brook, are my favorite things to do in the wintertime. Mountain biking Valley Road at sunset is the best therapy around. Observing the animals and insects coming to life during a full moon along the Dead River Road is a great way to put my life into perspective."

—Leah Page, Bucksport, ME



The MountainEar

PO Box 266
Orland, ME 04472

*Celebrating 25 years of conservation
in northwest Hancock County*



Find us on Facebook and Instagram!



Or, visit www.greatpondtrust.org



BECOME A MEMBER OF GPMCT, RENEW OR MAKE A GIFT

If you're not yet a member, you can show your appreciation for GPMCT's conservation work by joining—and consider giving memberships to friends and family! Membership benefits include the *MountainEar* newsletter (2x/year), and invitations to the annual meeting and events.

Please consider becoming a **Conservation Leader** by making a monthly gift! Use your bank's billpay service or donate online via our website and choose the recurring donation option.

Please enter my 2017/18 membership:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$30 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer: \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family: \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountaineer: \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder: \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Summit Club: \$1,000 |

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please create a gift membership for:

Name(s) _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to GPMCT and mail to PO Box 266, Orland, ME 04472. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. (You can also donate online: www.greatpondtrust.org) Thank you!