

# W

FALL 2015

# Western Foothills Land Trust



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert Van Nest  
President

Joe Zilinsky  
Treasurer

Joanna Reese  
Clerk

Jeff Chase

Carl Costanzi

Sarah Dailey

Alex Miller

Lorie Olson

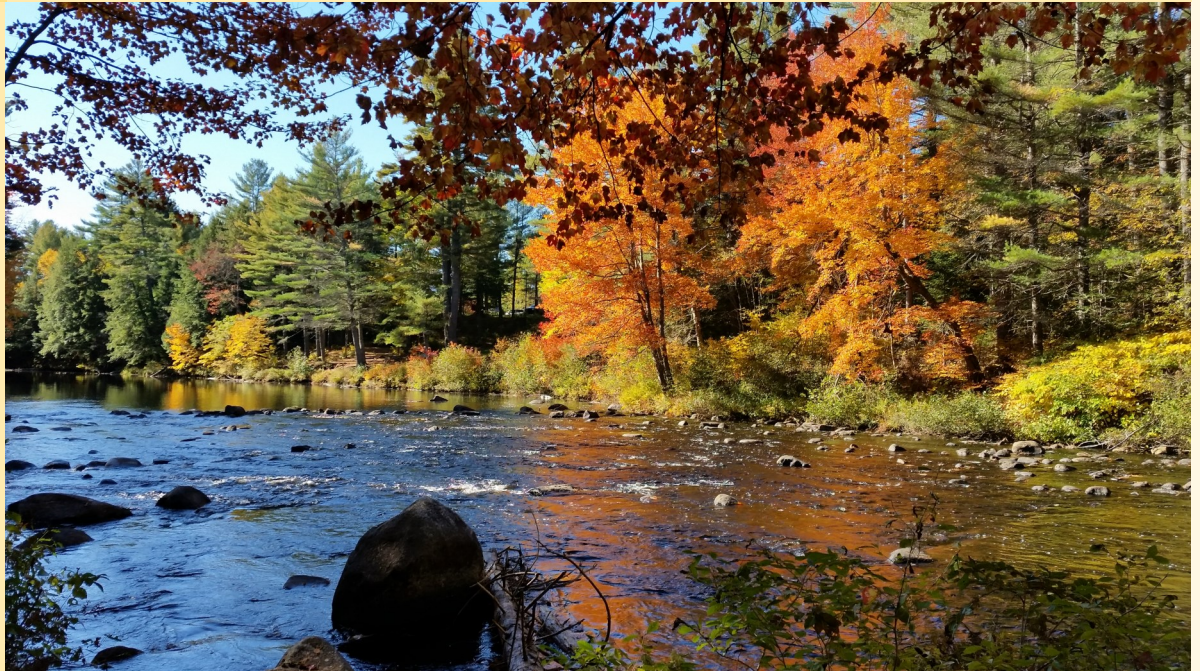
Ann Siekman

Sienna Tinsley

David Watson

## Executive Director

Lee Dassler



## Project Partners to Receive LMF Funds for the Crooked River Forests

Loon Echo and Western Foothills Trusts have recently learned that they will receive the Land For Maine's Future (LMF) funds in 2016 that were awarded to them in 2014 for the Crooked River Forests project. The funds will come out of the 2.2 million dollar LMF funds currently in the State Treasury that were recently released by the Governor.

On June 30<sup>th</sup>, Loon Echo and Western Foothills Land Trusts closed on their collaborative Crooked River Forest Project, protecting 791 acres of forest land along three and a half miles of the River in Harrison and Otisfield. Funding for the 1.4 million dollar project came from many sources: Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Land For Maine's Future program, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Open Space Institute, Portland Water District, The Nature Conservancy, and private contributions. Unfortunately, the Trusts had to close using bridge loans to span the unfunded \$400,000 Land For Maine's Future grant.

The closing, albeit quiet, was a big deal for clean water in southern Maine and a boost for our regional economy. The Crooked River is the largest tribu-

tary into Sebago Lake, Maine's second largest lake and the primary source of clean drinking water for 200,000 people – one-fifth of all Mainers – who live or work in 11 communities in the Portland area. The Crooked River is also critical to the rural economies of our region. Tourism and fishing are the largest drivers of economic activity. Last year, the area saw 35,000 angler trips.

The Governor's refusal to deliver voter-approved LMF funds will have cost the two Trusts approximately \$10,000 in additional legal and interest fees. Both Trusts have begun harvests on their lands to pay off the loans; the harvest plans are currently being re-adjusted given the promise of funding.

While the Crooked River Forests Project and a few other LMF projects that have closed or are near closing will receive funding from the 2.2 million dollars released, two voter-approved LMF bonds remain to be funded, tying up an additional 10 million dollars and many more approved projects across 13 Maine counties. So our work is not over.

In January two bills will come up concerning LMF funds: LR 2132 and LD 1454.



**The Western Foothills Land Trust** is dedicated to the conservation and protection of native ecosystems, farm and forestlands, watersheds, and scenic landscapes for the benefit of wild and human communities in Western Maine.



## Land Conservation Bonds Expire—and what you can do by Jeff Romano

Nearly 60% of Maine voters ratified a Land for Maine's Future Bond in 2010. Unfortunately, for the second time in five years, Governor Paul LePage has chosen to use these funds as leverage to secure passage of an unrelated bill in the legislature. That's right. With more than 30 approved conservation projects from around the state in limbo, our Chief Executive has chosen political gamesmanship over fulfilling the will of Maine's voters. Also, on November 2, nearly \$6.5 million in LMF funds expired and will have to be reauthorized by the legislature.

Fortunately, there is something we can do about it. When Maine legislators return to Augusta they will have an opportunity to vote on two pieces of legislation that will restore the LMF program. Sponsored by Representative Pouliot (R-Augusta), LR 2132 would reauthorize the 2010 bond. A second bill, LD 1454, would direct the Governor to borrow and spend existing conservation bond funds in order to complete

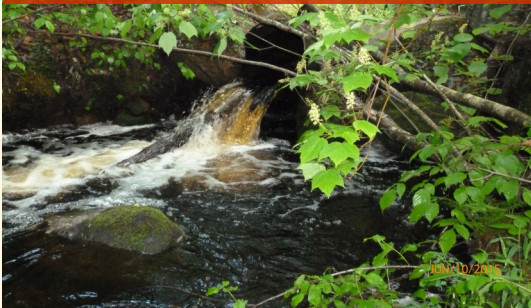
all pending projects. Enacted in July by the legislature, this bill faces a promised veto by the Governor in January.

LMF investments strengthen our natural resource-based businesses and make Maine a better place to live and raise a family. Roberts Farm Preserve in Norway, which was funded in part with LMF funds, is a perfect example of State funds being used to benefit an entire community.

Please encourage your Senators and Representatives to stand up for the Land for Maine's Future Program in 2016. By approving LR 2132 and overriding the likely veto of LD 1454, they will be voting in favor of their constituents and against political manipulation of these funds.

*Jeff Romano is the Public Policy Coordinator  
for Maine Coast Heritage Trust*

## Hanging Culvert to be Replaced at Twin Bridges with DEP Funding



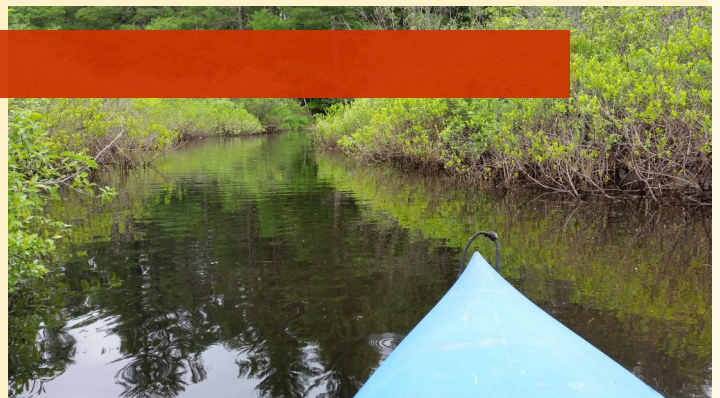
Part of WFLT's recent Crooked River Forests acquisition, an old hanging culvert on the Twin Bridges lot will be replaced next July with funding provided by the Maine DEP. The undersized hanging culverts present a decided barrier to fish and wildlife passage on a sizable tributary which runs from Little Pond to the Crooked River. Dirigo Timberlands will be replacing the culverts with their proprietary concrete span bridge, similar to the bridge installation they did at Roberts Farm Preserve for the Trust this spring.

## Stanley Wetlands, Waterford, Donated

Ralph and Priscilla Stanley, residents of Newton Massachusetts, donated a small but functionally significant wetlands parcel to the Western Foothills Land Trust in December, 2014. The 21-acre Stanley parcel is located on the north end of Papoose Pond in Waterford, with 2,876 feet of shore frontage on the Pond and the Crooked River. Due to its location on the Crooked River, The Portland Water District provided funding for stewardship.

A habitat analysis conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service documents that in comparison with the rest of the Gulf of Maine watershed, this type of forest and freshwater wetlands provide particularly high value habitat for such species as: Northern Harrier, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Canada Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Veery, American Bittern, American Black Duck, Black Tern, Little Blue Heron, Osprey, Pied-billed Grebe, and Wood Duck.

The parcel is accessible on snowshoes via the frozen pond in winter and via kayak or canoe in the summer.





### Campaign to Protect Noyes Mountain, Greenwood



"A Walk on Noyes Mountain" by Judy West Schneider

The Trust has now raised \$27,000 towards the Noyes Mountain purchase. The 295-acre purchase will protect 15 acres of prime agricultural fields and soils, 1,900 feet of streams, and habitat for rare plant and natural communities. The land will provide public access to the Harvard Quarry and several extraordinary viewpoints. The purchase will also protect Norway's seminal view of the undeveloped mountain, which is the iconic backdrop to Norway Lake.

As the Trust begins year two of fund-raising for the 295-acre Noyes Mountain purchase, we are preparing assets for an Indiegogo campaign: video interviews with Noyes Mountain enthusiasts and giclée prints of Judy Schneider's "A Walk on Noyes Mountain" for major contributors. Our online campaign will be successful when promoted to



Jack Gentempo, videographer, at the viewpoint

friends and family around the world, or at least to Sweden, Denmark, Paris, Lisbon, and Moscow, Maine. See [www.wflmaine.org](http://www.wflmaine.org) for a link to the campaign.

### WFLT Working with Four Farm Families



WFLT is working with the Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) and 4 farm families in Norway and Waterford to protect valuable agricultural lands for Maine's farming future. Using MFT's model farm easement and farm protection program, the Trust intends to purchase the easements. This will provide the farmers with needed capital and peace of mind that their family farms will remain integral elements of Maine's farming future. If you are interested in conservation options for your land, please contact either MFT (207-338-6575) or WFLT (207-739-2124).







Western Foothills Land Trust

# Programs



Saturday July 11, 2015



Anthem  
BlueCross BlueShield



Richard Bader  
Physical Therapy

Norway  
Savings Bank



Stephens Memorial Hospital  
MaineHealth

BANCROFT  
Contracting Corp.

BEARFOOT  
REALTY



The  
Lake Store

Since 1919  
iparis  
FRAMERS, GARDENERS  
"Your Farm Home and Garden Center"

PLEASANT HILL  
PROPERTIES  
207.739.0875

wjw  
W. J. WHEELER  
INSURANCE



Thank you sponsors, participants, and volunteers!

Thank you Jesse Cottingham Photography: more inspiring photos on [www.norwaytri.com](http://www.norwaytri.com)



Jesse Cottingham  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# and People

FALL 2015



## Wes Ackley

Once again, Wes and Marilyn Ackley have made a meaningful contribution, which will benefit the Trust, area wildlife, and the local economy of western Maine. This September, they donated a 28.5 acre parcel in Buckfield, which includes an apple orchard and a woodlot. Wes purchased the orchard to keep it in production and we are pleased to continue managing it with the help of a local orchardist. Our thanks to the Ackleys for their environmental foresight, hard work, and land stewardship in Western Maine.



Our monthly 8.5k trail race series, designed and sponsored by Café Nomad in Norway, was a great success this summer. Our thanks to Scott Berk of Café Nomad for figuring out that cash prize trick, Jeff Laughton for being there every kilometer, and Back 40 for great timing.

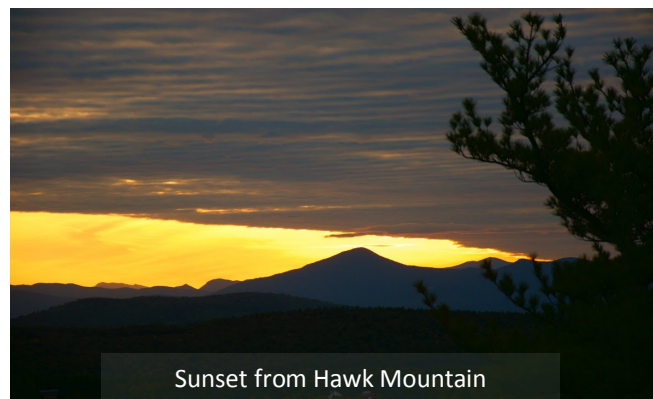
## GREAT OUTDOOR MAINE WEEKEND

A PROJECT OF THE MAINE OUTDOOR COALITION

The Western Foothills Land Trust held five outdoor events during September's Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. Autumn trails in Buckfield, Waterford, Greenwood, and Norway were enjoyed by two- and four-footed participants who discovered views, expansive and intimate.



Wetlands at South Pond



Sunset from Hawk Mountain





# Western Foothills Land Trust Project



Oxford County Conservation Corps on Rust Trail bridge

The Roberts Farm Preserve Nordic trail system grew by 2,300 relatively level feet this summer thanks to a grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation, construction skills and brawn supplied by the Oxford County Conservation Corps, hundreds of volunteer trail-building hours, and the donation of two pivotal trail easements.

Anyone who has skied Roberts Farm knows that level terrain is at a premium. The trail built this summer was designed by Mike Cooper of Caribou Recreation to create a flat 2k loop for practice or races. The new Rust Trail, named after town founder Henry Rust, winds from the parking area behind the old Roberts Farmstead, around the school garden, and through the woods on both sides of a small perennial stream. The trail connects with the Stephens Trail at the Tucker Trail intersection, allowing skiers to choose to loop back on a flat trail or proceed into the hillier main system.

Abutting land owners, Suzanne Best of Wellpoint Veterinary

## New Bridges, Trails at Roberts Farm Preserve

Service and her father Gerald Haviland, agreed to donate trail easements to the Trust so that this trail loop could be completed. They see the trail as an asset for their business, their family, and their community.

Volunteers David Greenleaf, Bob Story, James Miller, and Bob Van Nest cut in the new corridor. Trail designer Mike Cooper used a mini excavator to level the trail surface. Volunteers seeded and mulched the new trails to prevent erosion. Two bridges were built by the Oxford County Conservation Corps, six 13-18 year-olds with team leaders from Bryant Pond 4-H Camp. The two platform bridges were designed to support grooming, maintenance, and emergency equipment.



Newly mulched and seeded Rust Trail

Patrons at Wellpoint Veterinary Services will be able to walk their dogs on the Rust Trail in the summer and will have easier access to the Noyes trail during the snowshoe season. On behalf of all trail users at Roberts Farm, the Trust would like to sincerely thank Suzanne Best and Gerald Haviland for their generosity.

## The Noyes snowshoe trail is now entirely distinct from the ski trail system, thanks to hefty work by the Oxford County Conservation Corps and teams of Trust volunteers. Pictured at left are Carl Costanzi, Ben Woodard, Betsy McGettigan, and switchback inspector Dakota Constanzi.



Carl Costanzi, Ben Woodard, Betsy McGettigan, and switchback inspector Dakota Constanzi.



## The stream crossing at Roberts Farm

has been hounding us since 2008. Thanks to the NRCS's generous cost-share program and Dirigo Timberlands of Anson, we now have a concrete-span bridge and unrestricted stream passage.



## A Message from the President

A little over ten years ago, I found myself deep in Cajun country southwest of Lafayette, Louisiana. Along the Gulf coast, I was surprised to find cattle ranches. The ranch houses displayed a definitive bungalow architecture with huge wrap-around porches that kept the structures cool. What was unique about these places, however, was the unusual method they used to graze their herds. Directly in front of the bungalows were small barrier islands the locals called "chainires" that ran parallel to the coastline. They were being used as self-contained pastures that were full of livestock. The entire scene exuded a memorable sense of locale.

I was reminded of those Gulf coast ranches recently, when I was examining maps in our trust office that showed all of our fee-owned lands and easement holdings. It struck me that, very much like those Louisiana "chainires", these parcels were also barrier islands. Taken as a whole, they are helping to protect our unique landscapes from the tide of untrammelled and misguided development. They are the high points, the best places, protecting the occupations and recreations of our current use. Development flows around them to other more appropriate sites; while their particular arrangement expresses the special landscape of Western Maine. They are an archipelago of place that rises above the sameness of the sea around them.

Sadly, those Cajun ranches no longer exist. They were washed away by Hurricane Rita only a year after my visit. Their barrier islands were not numerous enough nor high enough to withstand the storm surge that overwhelmed them. Their uniqueness is now only something conjured up through memory. In the end they had no critical mass.

We face a tide of a different sort, but no less threatening. The Trust is dedicated to maintaining and enhancing the barrier islands in our portfolio. Those farms, forests, rivers, and mountains of the highest value disperse the flood of the ordinary, allowing it to harmlessly flow around them. But here too a critical mass is needed to keep the flood at bay. So our work continues to find more islands in our chain, to maintain enough of the landscape of Western Maine so that generations ahead will not have to conjure up what was lost and grieve for what will never be again. What is unique about our surroundings should never be solely lodged in memory. Rather it should live in the present, in those best, high places around us.



Bob Van Nest, President

## NOYES MOUNTAIN CAMPAIGN

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Check made out to: Western Foothills Land Trust- NOYES MOUNTAIN

☐ visa/mc# \_\_\_\_\_ exp \_\_\_\_\_ sec. code \_\_\_\_\_

*Your contribution is tax-deductible as a charitable contribution*

Western Foothills Land Trust PO Box 107, Norway, ME 04268 207.739.2124 [www.wflmaine.org](http://www.wflmaine.org)





Western Foothills Land Trust  
PO Box 107 Norway Maine 04268

NONPROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

NORWAY, ME

PERMIT NO.12



# FALL 2015 NEWSLETTER

## Bernard Langlais Works Installed at Two Preserves

In a decided rain on July 11th, Bernard Langlais's "Painted Horse" and "Painted Cow" traveled from Langlais's studio in Cushing Maine to Roberts Farm Preserve in Norway. The two large wooden sculptures, completed in the mid-1970s, are amongst the pieces that have been donated to the Western Foothills Land Trust by The Kohler Foundation, Colby College, and the estate of Bernard Langlais. The large horse and cow, which have received considerable attention from art conservators sponsored by the Kohler Foundation, are magnificent in scale and seem right at home in their new location.

This fall, six tall Langlais sculptures from the same era- "Owl", "Cat", "Birds", "Bird Houses", "Bird in Flight", and "Mrs. Noah"- were installed in the undulating landscape of Shepard's Farm Family Preserve off Crockett Ridge Road. These inspiring pieces round out the collection of Langlais works at Roberts Farm.

The Trust would like to thank Eliza Beghe, Harriet Mosher, and Eliza Walton for assisting the selection process; Scott Berk, Diana Arcadipone, and Mike Cooper for helping situate the sculptures; Pleasant Hill Properties for preparing the sites; Carl Lamontagne for pouring the bases; Scott Roberts for hoisting the tall pieces onto their bases; and Scott and Jasper Vlaun for repairing and securing the historic bases. Pro Movers and conservators Ron Harvey and Scott Mosher (contracted by the Kohler Foundation on the Langlais project) did a magnificent job in unique and challenging conditions.

We are very fortunate to have been entrusted with these magnificent works of art. Norway now has a Langlais sculpture park intertwined with trails within minutes from Main Street, blending art, conservation, and recreation. Enjoy the works with friends and family. Please remember: no climbing or touching the sculptures. Treat them respectfully as if they were in an indoor museum.

