



mwwt
Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

Winter 2016 newsletter—volume 5



Permanently protecting the Pierce Pond watershed from development since 1989

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Owning the Entire Pierce Pond Watershed

MWWT's Ambitious New Goal

Jerry Bley

Back in 1989, friends of Pierce Pond got together and decided that the watershed must be protected from an uncertain future. In a matter of weeks, the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust was born. One of the Trust's founders, Charlie Burnham, recalls that the mission they set for the new organization was simple and clear: "To protect the unspoiled beauty and natural resources of the watershed and ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to enjoy this special place."

That simple mission, and a remarkably devoted group of supporters, propelled MWWT to great conservation feats over the next quarter-century that included

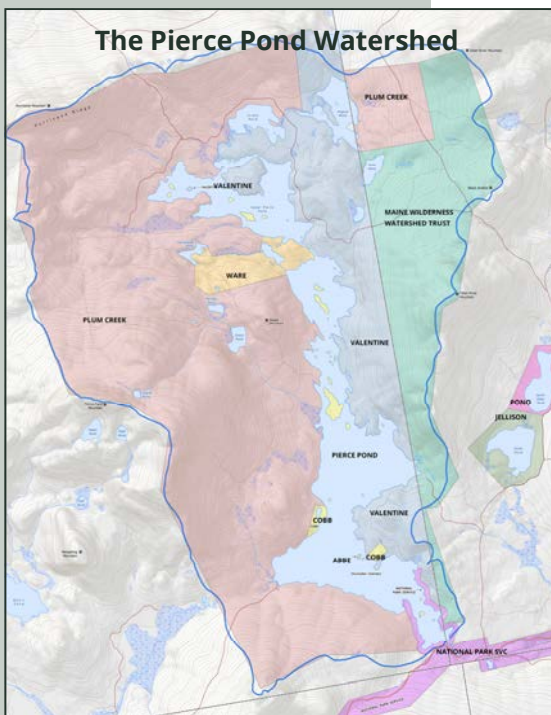
◆ Establishing a recreation management program that welcomes and educates visitors, encourages users to respect the area's natural resources, and ensures the availability of high quality outdoor experiences.

MWWT President Carl Freeman believes that the best testament to the Trust's success "can be had from a canoe out in the middle of Pierce Pond. The shoreline remains undeveloped – no new development can be seen and the public still has the same opportunities to fish, hike, and camp throughout the watershed."

Completing the Mission—MWWT's vision for the next quarter-century

While celebrating the Trust's significant accomplishments during its first quarter-century, MWWT's Board of Directors contemplated the future. While the watershed is protected from development, the fact remains that over 85% of the watershed remains in private ownership, and two thirds of the watershed is owned by one of the largest commercial forest landowners in the country. While the conservation easements (permanent legal restrictions on future use) on these privately held lands prohibit development, they permit commercial timber harvesting, including clear-cutting, as well as the construction of roads in the remote reaches of the watershed.

"We cannot assume—nor quite frankly should we expect—that private for-profit timber landowners will care for the watershed lands with the same reverence that MWWT members hold," stated Freeman. "Recent harvest activities in the watershed, while



◆ Leading numerous initiatives that have extinguished all future development rights in the entire 10,500-acre watershed, assuring that there will never be shoreland subdivisions or new commercial ventures;

◆ Going beyond the boundaries of the watershed to protect other critical resources and strategic lands, including the Otter Ponds, and more than 10 miles of frontage along the Dead and Kennebec Rivers;

◆ Assuring that the sporting camp traditions of Cobb's Pierce Pond Camps and Harrison's Pierce Pond Camps will endure into the future;

◆ Managing the Trust's forest land holdings to improve wildlife habitat and the health of the forest, while producing forest products to benefit the local economy; and

Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust Board of Directors

President: Carl Freeman, Hampden, ME

Treasurer: Mike Peluso, Oakham, MA

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Andy Cobb, North Anson, ME

Gary Cobb, N. New Portland, ME

Greg Drummond, Highland Plantation, ME

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Roland Ware, Portland, ME

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Jerry Bley, Readfield, ME
Coordinator

Kyle McCaskill, Unity, ME
Administrative Manager

Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

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Message from the President

Carl Freeman

As MWWT enters a new year, we can be proud of our many achievements. Great membership support has enabled the trust to complete easements and acquisitions that protect much of the watershed. It is now the Board of Directors' goal to work toward comprehensive protection of the remaining parcels not yet under our management or control.

The largest remaining parcel is owned by Plum Creek Timber Company—the largest single landowner in the watershed. Although there is a development easement on the property, Plum Creek's *legitimate* commercial forest-management activities on those lands have the potential to significantly affect the watershed, including wildlife habitat, scenery, and recreational opportunities. The approach to this situation will be to acquire the additional lands in the watershed as they become available. Toward that end we maintain a continuing dialogue with Plum Creek. Recently Weyerhaeuser Corporation has announced a merger with Plum Creek, with the transaction to be completed in the spring of 2016 and the new company operating under the Weyerhaeuser name. We expect that our positive relationship with Plum Creek will enable a smooth transition of our activities and an understanding of our goals to the new company.

Although the trust is in a solid financial position to support current activities and stewardship responsibilities, the only way to acquire additional watershed lands is to undertake a major fundraising effort. The board is currently considering various approaches to a comprehensive and coordinated capital campaign.

Underlying all future trust efforts is *the need for active participation by all members.*

There is a wonderful enthusiasm within the board that I hope will spread to the entire

membership. We can use your help in everything from increasing membership to writing articles for our newsletter, soliciting items for the annual auction, or selling raffle tickets, among many other activities. In order to promote a more inclusive dialogue, we're going to expand our communications with email updates, a Facebook page, and additional mailings. Membership involvement is essential to the future of MWWT—and therefore the future of Pierce Pond.

Clearly, MWWT is facing a time of many changes and challenges—some subtle and some rather stark. We have an evolving watershed: with the obvious warming trend, we are witnessing changes in the seasons and the landscape. The hatches seem to have shifted in both time and species, with the concurrent changes in fishing opportunities for both salmon and trout. Birds have come and gone from the Pierce Pond world, as have the deer and the moose herds. There is expanded usage of the watershed by non-fishermen, with hikers and nature enthusiasts routinely enjoying the area. And, of course, there is the generational change at Cobb's Camps as Betty and Gary Cobb step aside and Andy Cobb becomes the new face of the camps.

What hasn't changed is the pleasure of arriving at Lindsay Cove, becoming engrossed in the pristine environment as you cross the lake, and the feeling of "coming home" as you approach the camp dock. We then know why this place must be protected and that it is up to us, all the members of MWWT, to secure that protection no matter how complex and difficult a task it may be. I believe that we can complete the task, and breathe much easier when we can finally be assured that there'll be no surprises as we arrive at Lindsay Cove.

Carl Freeman



Where Have They Gone?

Gary Burke

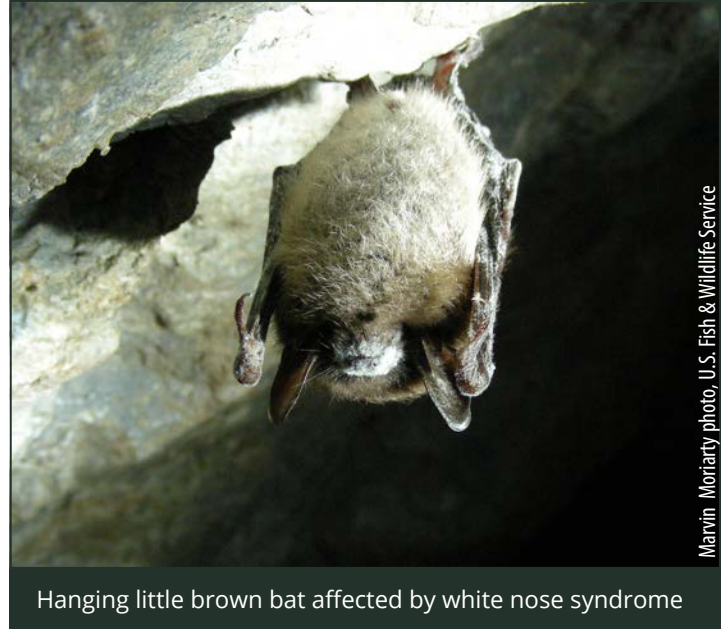
Something is missing from the warm summer evening sky over Pierce Pond. Each year, as we cast our flies while the sun disappears over the mountains, we have witnessed small furry creatures appearing in the sky. There is no species more iconic to summer twilight in New England than the bat. Bats fly with ease and grace, picking insects out of the air and off the water.

Over the past several years, this aerial display we have been accustomed to watching has all but disappeared. Why? Where have the bats gone?

The culprit is *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, formerly known as *Geomyces destructans*, a non-native, cold-loving soil fungus, better known as white nose syndrome (WNS). The name of the disease refers to the white fungal growth found on the noses of infected bats. WNS is a deadly exotic agent of disease, introduced to the United States from European caves. The disease has spread rapidly throughout the population of eastern North American bats, which, unlike European bats, had never developed any natural resistance to WNS infection.

The first evidence of WNS in North America was discovered in a bat cave near Albany, New York in 2006. Several hibernating bats within the cave displayed a fuzzy-looking white substance on their muzzles, and the floor was littered with dead bats. Since the winter of 2007–2008, millions of insect-eating bats in 25 states and five Canadian provinces have died from this devastating disease. To date, WNS has been responsible for the death of more than 5.7 million bats in the eastern United States alone. Some wildlife experts are predicting that WNS will be responsible for the worst North American wildlife tragedy of this century.

In the spring of 2011, biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife



Hanging little brown bat affected by white nose syndrome

Marvin Moriarty photo, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

discovered WNS in bat populations in western Maine. By 2013, three bat species in Maine—little brown bats, northern long-eared bats, and eastern small-footed bats—have seen somewhere between 80 and 100 percent declines in their populations. All known bat caves in Maine are now infected with WNS. In 2015, the little brown bat and the northern long-eared bat are being considered for

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Wake Up to Maine's Headway Speed Law

For some time MWWT's Board of Directors has discussed concerns about the potential that large, fast, or noisy watercraft on Pierce Pond could threaten the peaceful character of the watershed and the environment. About 15 years ago, the Land Use Regulation Commission (now the Land Use Planning Commission) banned jet skis on several hundred undeveloped ponds in Maine, including Pierce Pond. Rather than seek additional boating restrictions at this time, the Board determined that strict adherence to existing regulations, such as the *headway speed law*, should go a long way toward addressing potential watercraft problems on Pierce Pond.

So what exactly is the headway speed law?

Headway speed is defined as “the slowest speed at

which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the vessel.” The headway speed law, according to the *The Guide to Maine Boating Laws* (Maine IF&W) states that it is illegal to operate a vessel at greater than headway speed while within 200 feet of any shoreline, including islands, or within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters. Exceptions are that “vessels may operate at greater than headway speed in the areas listed above while actively fishing or while following a direct course to pick up or drop off skiers.” Operators must maintain “reasonable and prudent speed for existing conditions” at all times and must “consider the effect of the wash or wave created by their watercraft to waterfront piers, floats, or other property or shorelines.”

The headway speed law creates a “no-wake” zone within 200 feet of any shoreline. (If you can't visualize 200 feet, it is about two-thirds the length of a football field.) The law is intended to keep boat wakes from endangering swimmers or wading anglers, throwing passengers in other boats off balance or overboard, swamping or capsizing other boats, or damaging boats or other personal property. You are legally responsible for your wake and any damage or injury it causes.

Environmental reasons for the headway speed law have also become apparent. Fast boating in shallow water disturbs aquatic habitats and stirs up sediment, reducing water clarity and releasing nutrients that increase algal growth.

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MWWT Member List

- Abbe, Chris & Kathy
 Abbe, Dudley
 Abbe, Jeffrey L.
 Abbe, John
 Abbe, Steve
 Abbe, Susan
 Abbe, Thomas Kimberly E.
 Ahrens, Earl & Judy
 Allen, Andrew & Mary
 Allen, Jr Douglas F.
 Allen, Louise
 Allen, Richardson B.
 Anderson, Clifford John
 Anderson, Eric S. & Schneider, Geraldine
 Anderson, Robert & Dorothy
 Arsenault, Don
 Astbury, Art
 Aten, Joseph E.
 Austin, Mark & Carol Ann
 Averill, Andrew P.
 Bailey, Lawrence & Jacqueline
 Baker, Dale & Patricia
 Baker, Robert W. Jr.
 Barriault, Ronald F.
 Bastien, Margaret
 Bateman, Raymond
 Bates, Linda, & Jeffrey Leo
 Bauer, Barbara J.
 Bean, Christopher & Claudette
 Belfiore, James
 Bell, Daniel O.
 Bell, Gordon W.
 Betts, Cameron & Heather
 Bickford, Jeff & Julia
 Bien, Stephen
 Blake, Alfred C & Elaine T
 Blake, Kate and Family
 Blake, Patrick R.
 Blasenak, Ron & Sally
 Bley, Jerry
 Bormann, Kelly & Darrell
 Bousquet, Jr Paul R.
 Bousquet, Paul & Sandra
 Brasslett, Gordon R. & Clement, Patty
 Brown, Gary & Ann
 Brown, Peter & Karen
 Buchanan, III, Mr. & Mrs. Donald
 Buckley Sr, Paul R
 Burke, Gary & Deborah
 Burnham, Charles & Ann
 Burnham, Frederick H.
 Burns, James & Gloria
 Burns, Louis & Gayle
 Burns, Robert P., & Elizabeth Spaulding
 Calder, Thomas & Wanda
 Campbell, Colin & Regina
 Canada, Jeanne G.
 Capofreddi, Matthew & Amy
 Carlson, John M
 Case, Alan R. & Patricia A.
 Charles, Ed & Elizabeth
 Childs, Richard & Linda
 Chipman, David W. & Kathie
 Cobb Hering, Jennifer
 Cobb, Gary & Betty
 Cobb, Gary A. & Patricia
 Cobb, Ruth
 Cockburn, R., & Jessica Bustin
 Cook, Floyd A.
 Corbett, John & Katherine
 Corbett-Paterniti, Sara & Mike
 Couture, Edward J. & Lucienne
 Cozine, James & Betsy
 Cronin, Mervell & Anne
 Curci, Michael & Christine
 Daboll, Jr. Roger & Barbara
 Dart, Lawrence & Darlene
 Davis, Joanne
 Davis, Richard & Sheryl
 Demaso, L. William & Marie
 DeSisto, Richard
 Dickinson, Greg
 Diprizio, Prisco C.
 Dornish, Karl & Jane M.
 Dougherty, Anne & Vince
 Douglass, Cynthia
 Douglass, David T & Kay L.
 Dow, Mac & Georganne
 Drillen, Cyril & Kathlyn
 Drummond, Greg & Patrice
 Drummond, Kate
 Dubois, Arthur & Bridget
 Dugan, Sam & Diane
 East Brown Cow Management
 Eastman, Robert & Mary
 Ebbeson, Bruce & Beverly
 Edmonds, Tom & Susan
 Edson, Charlie & Ann B.
 Elsaesser, Dr. & Mrs. Frederick
 Engstrom, Leroy & Elizabeth
 Enright, Richard J.
 Estes, Stephen & Family
 Ewing, John & Karen
 Fagan, Christopher T.
 Fagan, Kathleen
 Fairley, Erin, & William Patz
 Fales, Jerry
 Farmer, Roy & Joanne
 Farris, Kenneth E.
 Feitz, Nick & Pamela
 Fenn, Ruth & Chris
 Fenton, Nancy H.
 Field, Peter & Alice
 Flanagan, John J
 Flewelling, Bruce & Susan
 Foss, Patricia
 Fowler, Judith
 Frantzman, Joel
 Fraser, Connie
 Frazee, Kenneth E.
 Freeman, Carl J.
 Freeman, Jeffrey & Ann
 Gage, Bradlee & Rosemarie
 Gage, Lynda
 Gage, William A.
 Gale, Benjamin & Deborah
 Gale, Tyler V.
 Gallant, Dennis & Joanne
 Gallant, Gerard & Anna
 Gardner, Warren
 Gendron, George & Janie
 Gibbons, Jr John F.
 Gibbs, Robert & Thirza
 Gibson, Jack III & Gail
 Gill, Chas & Linda
 Gillis, Raymond & Joan
 Gilman, Gerald W.
 Gilpatric, William & Sally
 Glockner, Al & Shelley
 Glover, Hank & Lynzy
 Goode, Andrew
 Goolden, Sandra
 Goss, Kevin L.
 Grigerek, Linda & Glen
 Guibord, Russell Palmer
 Hagan, Walter & Gracemary
 Haines, Terry & Fran
 Hall, John W. & Priscilla D.
 Hallett, Lucius & Carol
 Hansen, William
 Hanson, Anja & Pierce, Derek
 Hardesty, Vaughn & Phoebe
 Harmon, David & Mary
 Harrington, Norman
 Harris, Bud & Sue
 Hart, Charles W.
 Hashem, Sr Daniel & Carolyn
 Haynes, Bob
 Hebert, Dave & Jill
 Henebry, Brendan & Molly
 Herrmann, Paul N.
 Herrmann, Peter B.
 Hilton, Hope
 Hiro, Sue
 Hittings, David
 Holt, Timothy A.
 Horn, Daniel L.
 Hosmer, III, Calvin & Cynthia
 Howard, Gabriella
 Hurtig Martha & Family
 Hutchins, Betty
 Hutchins, Eric & Madeleine
 Hutchins, Scott & Laura
 Hutchins, Wayne W.
 Iannuccilli, Leonard
 Jackson, Jr, Patrick & Christina
 Jagger, C. Thomas
 Jeffers, Georgia
 Jennings, Rupert & Carol
 Johnson, Peter & Mary Ann
 Julia, James D.
 Kennedy, Robert & Jacqueline
 Kennedy, Rev. & Mrs. Thomas
 Kimball, Kerry E.
 Kimble, Donald & Marilyn
 Kittredge, Robert J.
 Kizelewicz, Benedict
 Klinkenberg, R.B. & Ann
 Koss, Laron & Mary
 Krohn, William B
 Labbe, Normand R.
 Labrie, Lawrence
 Langburd, Alan & Lisa
 Langille, Alan & Dolores
 Latini, Anthony & Christine
 Latti, Mark
 Latti, Michael B & Georgia
 Learmonth, Jack
 Leigner, Jr Frank P.
 Leo, Chris & Heather
 Lepage, Charles & Joan
 Lepage, James & Debbie
 Lepore, Michael & Mary
 Lepore, Michael & Megan
 Leslie, John & Susan
 Leslie, Michael W.
 Leslie, Peter
 Levesque, Richard H.
 Libby, Leon & Ann
 Lilljedahl, Robert
 Lord, Brad
 Lowell, Elwood, & Gloria Hall
 Lund, Jo-Ann & David
 Lussier, Gene & Linda
 Lynn, Sarah
 Lyttle, Peter T.
 Macdonald, James A
 MacNary, Don & Julie
 Mahoney, James & Louise
 Manthorne, Bill & Jean
 Marchant, Doyle
 Marden, Judith
 Marshall, Bruce & Linda
 Matherson, Richard, Steve & Tyler
 Mathieu-Potter, D. & T.
 Matt, Dennis
 Mattar, Sarah & Wheatley, Titus
 Matteson, Paul & Nancy
 McCollor, Jack & Merlene
 McCormick, Kyle & Diane
 McKenna, Gene & Jane
 McLaughlin, Robert, & Kristen Cowan
 McPhee, Neal & Valerie
 Meader, Bud & Ruth
 Meader, Heather
 Meader, Robert & Polly
 Meisner, Stephen & Marcia
 Merchant, John & Jeannie
 Messinger, Ann
 Messinger, Margaret
 Michaud, Gary & Carolyn
 Michka, Alan & Kay
 Miles, Keith & Wendy
 Miles, Paul & Nancy
 Miller, Buell A.
 Milliken, Mr. & Mrs. Brian
 Mitchell, Henry & Joan
 Molloy, Brian
 Molloy, Frederick R.
 Molloy, Kevin & Erica
 Molloy, Peter M.
 Molloy, Todd & Merridith
 Moores, Blaine D.
 Moretti, Whit & Fran
 Morrell, Doug & Georgette
 Morris, Allen & Barbara
 Morse, Peter & Andy
 Moses, Bradley & Nancy
 Murphy, Patricia
 Murray, Charles & Amanda
 Neudel, Eric
 Nichols, Don
 Nichols, Shane & Darcie
 Nichols, Zachary & Courtney
 Norris, James P
 O'Brien, Frederic & Patricia
 Olson, Jr. Gunnar
 Orcutt, Amos & Lola
 Park, Roger & Elizabeth
 Parker, Donald & Marjorie
 Parsons III, Marcus, & Ellen
 Patterson, William J.
 Pauwels, Stan
 Payson, III Stanley L.
 Payson, Stanley
 Peacock, Aimee, Christopher & Annabelle
 Peacock, Carlton D.
 Pechnik, Frank
 Peluso, Mike & Robin
 Peppard, David & Theresa
 Percival, David & Bonnie
 Perkins, Payson & Toni
 Peron, Fernand & Violet
 Perry, Thomas R & Yvette J
 Peterman, Robert & Debra
 Pfirman, Richard & Martha
 Pierce, David & Ruth
 Pikaart, Christine
 Pikaart, Edward & Margie
 Plante, Bill
 Podkaminer, Jane & Nate
 Podkaminer, Joshua
 Porter, Janet E
 Powell, Nancy & Blaisdell, Phil
 Powell, Ruth
 Rand, Alice H. & Peter W.
 Rappaport, Charles
 Ray, Caroline
 Rines, Dana & Lorraine
 Robey, Jeff & Abby
 Roelle, William & Shari
 Ross, John
 Rounds, Winifred
 Salmon, Richard
 Saunders, Eric
 Saurman, Thomas
 Schaefer, Cris & Blaine
 Schenkel, Andrew & Randy
 Schmidle, Paul & Wendy
 Schmidle, Robert E.
 Schofield Jr, Carl, & Linda
 Scott, Michael V.
 Scribner, Carol
 Scribner, Richard & Jo Ellen
 Shaw, Harold F.
 Sheresky, Steven & Tapley
 Sheridan, Kevin & Barbara
 Shields, Walker & Joyce
 Shuter, Elizabeth G.
 Sikorsky, Igor & Karen
 Silbor, Jr. Hurley
 Silva, John & Eleanor
 Sirianni, Russell & Amy
 Siscoe, Bob & Chris
 Siscoe, Nancy
 Skaling, Thomas & Roberta
 Smaglia, Robert & Anne
 Smith, Alexander
 Soley, Tim, Jack, & David
 Soley, Judy
 Soule, Jr David B.
 Spalding, Ben
 St. Pierre, Eugene & Teresa
 St. Pierre, James A
 Stallman III, George L
 Stallman Madden, Betsy, & John Madden
 Stallman, Alexander & Jutta
 Staples, Stephen
 Stauffer, Jo Ann
 Steinhacker, Robert & Marianne
 Stover, Jacqueline L.
 Stringos, Gust & Jan
 Stuart, Ralph & Carol
 Sutherland, Leslie & Constance
 Taylor, Mark & Sheila
 Thomas, Kevin & Laura
 Thorp, Philips & Heather
 Timmins, James A.
 Torrey, David & Ann
 Trachtenberg, Howard & Carol
 Traylor, Mark & Barbara
 Tripp, Bruce
 Tully, Barbara
 Turgeon, Allan & Suzanne
 Uluatam, Al
 Valentine, Charles & Annette
 Valentine, Gertrude
 Valentine, Lawrence & Mary
 Verrill, David & Susanne
 Verrill, Jeffrey D.
 Vetelino, John Frank
 Vogt Sr, James B & Marcia
 Voisine, Rene & Nancy
 Wallace, David & Linda
 Wallace, Richard & Carol
 Wallace, Richard & Christina
 Ware, Jr Roland G.
 Warner, Seth C.
 Waterman, Erik
 Westphal, Christian
 Westphal, Robert & Leslie
 White, Donald & Teresa
 Whiting, Tim & Anne
 Whitney, Doreen
 Whitney, Winston S
 Williams, Brian & Gay
 Winslow, Donnbeth
 Wirth, Donald
 Wright, James M. & Georgiana
 Young, Lincoln
 Young, Ron

MWWT's Newest Directors

MWWT's directors volunteer their time and talents to the Trust. Five new directors joined the Board in 2015:



JOANNE GALLANT is an avid fisherman, skier, and artist, and mother of three grown boys. For the last twelve years she has been a Senior Sales Systems Administrator for EBSCO Information Services in Ipswich, MA.

Joanne has been a lifelong Pierce-Ponder. She was introduced to Pierce Pond by her father and still continues the tradition of annual visits to the pond. She has brought her boys up fishing at Pierce Pond, and they all have a fly-fishing passion, handed down to them by their grandfather.



LISA LANGBURD was born in Utah. She relocated to New England with her husband in 1996 and fell in love with the Maine wilderness. A life-long outdoorswoman, Lisa became a Registered Maine Guide in both fishing and recreation, as well as a "regular" at Pierce Pond.

Lisa holds a bachelor's and master's degree in nursing, and has spent over 29 years as a nurse and board-certified nurse practitioner. She has served as Chief Operating Officer for a private cardiology practice (Portland) and Director of Cardiovascular Invasive Services (Lewiston). She is currently a hospital-based nurse practitioner in the inpatient cardiology unit at Central Maine Heart and Vascular Institute (Lewiston).



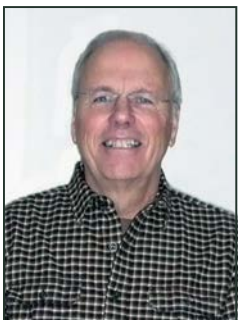
MARK LATTI is an avid outdoorsman who has been fortunate enough to turn his passion into a career in Maine's outdoors as the public information coordinator at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, and an outdoor columnist for the Portland Press Herald. Mark is chairman of the Town of Brunswick Marine Resources Committee, and former board member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association, as well as the Midcoast Youth Hockey Association.

Pierce Pond has been an annual destination for Mark's family for more than 25 years, and is enjoyed by three generations of his family.



ANNIE MESSINGER has served as Director of Development & Marketing at Boys & Girls Clubs of Southern Maine since 2006. Annie was raised in Gray, Maine, earned her B.A. in Media Studies from the University of Southern Maine, and has lived in Portland ever since. She has served on the board of the Maine Track Club and continues to participate in and volunteer for races in the area.

"When Cori and I were little, our family would visit Cobb's Camps and once visited during ice cutting," Annie said. "Today, we love to get up there when we can—to visit family and appreciate the pristine water and Maine woods that Pierce Pond so generously provides."



JIM NORRIS spent more than 30 years as a forester/appraiser/engineer for the Internal Revenue Service, with a particular expertise in valuing conservation easements and forest land. He is a registered forester and serves on the Land for Maine's Future Board, chairing LMFB's appraisal oversight committee.

Jim's father guided at Pierce Pond 50 years ago, and several family members have been involved in the sporting camp business. Jim is a regular visitor to Pierce Pond, staying at Cobb's Camps as well as camping on the islands.

Membership Matters!

Since 1989, the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust has protected the shores of Pierce Pond from development. Thanks to MWWT, approximately 11,000 acres of forests and wetlands have been conserved, including more than 30 miles of lake, pond, and river frontage. This was accomplished through

- ◆ Conservation easements that protect 8,900 acres from development,
- ◆ Purchase of nearly 2000 acres of shoreland and forest, and
- ◆ Agreements with Cobb's Camps and Harrison's Camps that help ensure the continued private operation of these traditional Maine sporting camps.

MWWT also inspects and monitors easements, stewards MWWT lands, helps support fish and wildlife habitat, and carries appropriate insurances. Where does the Trust get the money to do all of this? YOU, of course! Membership DOES matter.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES IT HAPPEN!

Don't miss MWWT's 27th

ANNUAL MEETING, Banquet, & Auction

Saturday, March 5, 2016
Harraseeket Inn, Freeport, Maine

Schedule:

- 5:00—MWWT Annual Business Meeting. **For all members!**
- 5:30—Cocktail/Social Hour
- 6:45—Banquet
- After Banquet—Auction

Please DONATE AUCTION ITEMS to help make our annual auction a success!

(Contact MWWT Administrative Manager Kyle McCaskill at (207) 437-7049 or info@mwwt.org)

Make your banquet reservations at www.mwwt.org

NEW THIS YEAR!

At the Auction we will kick off our year-long

300 raffle

Only 300 tickets will be sold!

\$10,000 Grand Prize

Take a Hike!

We Want Your Ideas for New Trails!

Jerry Bley

Everyone knows that the primary attraction of the Pierce Pond watershed is its pristine waters. Whether your passion is fishing, boating, swimming, camping, or watching nature, Pierce Pond and the eight smaller ponds scattered about the watershed offer the finest of outdoor pursuits.



Yet there is so much more to the watershed—beautiful forests, abundant birds and wildlife, mountain ridges, cascading streams and scenic vistas—which can't be experienced from the seat of a boat. Some intrepid Pierce Ponders enjoy the challenge of exploring the back-country of the watershed through an informal system of woods roads and rough trails. Even so, the reality is that the only major trail in the watershed is the section of the Appalachian Trail that skirts Pierce Pond near the outlet of Pierce Pond Stream.

The Trust would like to change that. MWWT's Board of Directors has requested that the Board Stewardship Committee develop a plan to improve and expand hiking opportunities for people of all interests, ages, and abilities. This will be a long-term endeavor requiring many volunteers, substantial funding, and the cooperation of the watershed's landowners.

As a starting point for this effort, we want to ask you, our members, what new trail opportunities you would like to see created in the watershed. You can suggest

- ◆ improvements to an existing trail that you are familiar with;
- ◆ a destination that you would like to see made accessible by a trail; or
- ◆ the type of trail you would like (e.g., challenging mountain hikes, shoreland walks, etc.).

Mail your ideas to us at MWWT, P.O. Box 5660, Augusta, ME 04332 or e-mail us at info@mwwt.org.

Where Have They Gone? *continued from page 3*

Maine's endangered species list. The eastern small-footed bat is being considered for listing as a threatened species.

One might ask how WNS could affect the bat population in and around the Pierce Pond watershed. To begin, one must first understand the habits of eastern bats in the US. Insectivorous bats from New England have two choices to avoid starvation when their flying insect prey disappear during cold months.

They either migrate to a warmer climate, or hibernate in caves throughout New England and New York. Most of the once-common bats, such as the little brown bat, hibernate together in large colonies. In late summer and fall before winter arrives, bats consume large quantities of insects. When cold weather arrives the bats move into caves that are dark, humid, undisturbed habitats with stable temperatures about 10 to 15 degrees above freezing. Once inside the caves, the bats enter a state of hibernation.

Their heart rate, respiration, body temperature, immune system, and other body functions are reduced, so they can survive the winter on stored energy reserves. It is while bats are in this physical state that the fungus attacks. The fungus thrives in dark 40–50 degree F environments with high humidity. The fungus spores attach to the wings

and muzzles of sleeping bats, damaging the connective tissue, muscles, and skin. The fungus feeds off of the proteins on the bats' skin as it spreads across their bodies.

Eventually the bats wake up and begin to groom their itchy skin, ingesting thousands of fungus spores. The spores are passed through the bats' digestive systems unharmed and deposited onto the caves walls and surfaces where the bats cling. There the spores wait to infect new victims who enter the cave. Infection is fatal over 90 percent of the time.

Bats eat large numbers of flying insects, including moths and beetles. They maintain

an ecological balance that is crucial to a healthy ecosystem. One bat can consume up to 1000 insects in a single night. By controlling insect populations, bats are critical to sustaining a healthy forest.

Bats benefit forest and agriculture industries. Without a healthy population of bats helping to control insect pests, these industries will be forced to use more pesticides, causing a rise in cost to consumers for lumber and food, and resulting in more chemicals entering the environment.

Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust members can help the remaining bat populations in and around Pierce Pond by identifying potential summer bat habitat and roosting areas on trust-owned land. If you see any bats flying in or out of tree cavities or rock ledges, make a note of the location and get this information to any Board member, or the Coordinator or Administrative Manager. If the location is on trust-owned land, we can incorporate these critical habitat areas into our forest

management plan. If it is on privately owned land, we can pass the information of the landowner's forester. By being good stewards and leading by example, MWWT can encourage other landowners within the watershed to do the same.

No one knows what the future holds for our bat population. There is no quick cure. All that can be predicted now is that certain species will

recover or perish. Insect-eating bats are long-lived, 5 to 15 years or longer. Only one pup is born per year from a mature female. If there is a recovery, it will take many years to happen. The evening display of summertime bats flying low over the waters of the Pierce Pond Watershed may never fully recover, although with the help of federal, state, and private wildlife agencies, as well as landowners there is hope.

Current MWWT members can help by encouraging others to become members of the trust. The success of the trust's conservation work depends on our members.



Tree cavities such as this one can provide summer roosts for bats.

Headway Speed Law *continued from page 3*

Churned-up sediment can silt in fish feeding and spawning areas. Boat wakes can also be extremely damaging to the shoreline and the waterfront ecosystem. They can swamp duck, turtle, and loon nests. Wakes can wash eggs out of nests and overwhelm young chicks.



Watch your wake

Boaters will often slow down just a little as they near shoreline. However, this can be worse than not slowing down at all, as many boats generate their biggest wakes at half throttle. Wake size can also be increased by changing speeds, or heading into shallow water. As your wake approaches the shoreline, its height and steepness grow. Also, a heavy stern will dig into the water and increase wake size. Larger wakes have more destructive energy: a 12-inch wake hits the shoreline with five times the energy of a 6-inch wake. The size and frequency of a boat's wake are determined by the boat's size, weight, shape, and hull design. Your wake will move out from your boat at right angles, so slow down before coming abreast of structures or other boats.

Try to develop awareness of your boat's wake characteristics under various conditions. Responsible boating will help preserve the scenic and natural values of the watershed that we all hold dear.



Member Health & Safety Corner

A Chill Is in the Air: Preventing Hypothermia

Lisa Langburd

As the temperature drops and the days shorten, our thoughts often turn to the weather. Yet Maine's notorious winters aren't the only times to guard against hypothermia, which can occur at all times of the year.

Hypothermia is the number one cause of death in individuals recreating outdoors, with at least 1500 deaths per year. Hypothermia is a condition in which the body's temperature drops below that required for normal body function. Normally, the activity of the heart and liver produce most of your body heat. During exposure to cold temperatures, most heat loss (up to 90%) escapes through your skin; the rest is exhaled through your lungs. When the core body temperature cools, these organs produce less heat—a protective shut-down response that protects the brain. The result is slowing of brain activity, respiratory and heart rate, and ultimately, if not corrected, all bodily functions.

Hypothermia can occur any time a person is not adequately protected against a cold environment. Risk of cold exposure increases as the winter months arrive. However, exposure to cold temperatures can occur on a spring hike, summer fishing and boating adventure, or a fall leaf-peeping trip.

Those who are at increased risk for hypothermia include the elderly, infants, children, and individuals whose judgment is impaired by alcohol or drugs. And, of course, all of us who love being outdoors for extended periods of time. This risk is increased when a person is immersed in water, dressed in damp clothing saturated by sweat, or soaked by an unexpected rain shower.

Warning signs of hypothermia in adults include confusion, memory loss, drowsiness, exhaustion, slurred speech, fumbling hands, or stumbling steps.

Hypothermia in infants or children may be manifested by skin that is bright red or cold to the touch. They may exhibit unusually low energy.

There are three stages of hypothermia:

First Stage – (body temperature drops by 1.8 to 3.6 degrees F). Individual may have mild to strong shivering reflex. Hands

become numb and unable to perform tasks.

Goose bumps form, raising body hair on end in an attempt to create an insulating layer. Often, during this stage, a person may experience a warm sensation as if they have recovered, but in fact, they are actually advancing into the second stage.

Second Stage – (body temperature drops by 3.6 to 7.2 degrees F). Shivering becomes more severe. Movement becomes uncoordinated, slow, and labored. Person becomes pale. Lips, ears, fingers, and toes may become blue.

Third Stage – (body temperature drops below 90 degrees F). Shivering usually stops. Speaking is difficult, thinking is sluggish, walking is nearly impossible, and the person may be irrational or even in a stupor. Pulse and respiratory rates are decreased. Exposed skin is blue and puffy. If not reversed, major organs fail and death occurs.

Treatment for hypothermia includes removing any wet clothing including hats, gloves, shoes, and socks. Protect the person against wind, drafts, and further heat loss with warm, dry clothes and blankets. Move to a warm, dry shelter as soon as possible. Begin rewarming with extra clothing and a heat source, such as a fire, or your own body heat if nothing else is available. Offer warm liquids, but avoid alcohol and caffeine, which speed up heat loss. Advanced cases of hypothermia require hospital treatment. Seek advanced care as soon as possible.

Prevention is the greatest tool in combating hypothermia. While enjoying the wilderness, remember to stay dry. Dress in layers and bring extra clothing. If you do get wet, change immediately into dry clothes. In cold weather, avoid over-exerting and perspiring. Do not skip meals. Stay hydrated by drinking three to four liters (or more) per day, especially in the setting of increased activity. Seek shelter from extreme cold and high winds. In an emergency, a mylar blanket and vinyl poncho come in handy. If recreating on the water, wear a life preserver to reduce water exposure time and associated chances of accelerated hypothermia.

The Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust wants everyone to stay safe and healthy while they savor the pristine beauty of the Pierce Pond watershed.



mwwt

Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

PO Box 5660
Augusta, Maine 04332-5660

A not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization

Make Pierce Pond a Part of Your Legacy

Help protect the watershed for generations to come

You can make a lasting contribution to the preservation of Pierce Pond by remembering the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust in your will or other estate plans. Bequests and planned gifts will allow MWWT to protect critical natural areas and ensure that Pierce Pond will be enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts for generations to come.

Planned gifts can provide:

- ◆ Income for the rest of your life
- ◆ Immediate income tax deductions
- ◆ Favorable capital gains treatment of appreciated securities
- ◆ Estate tax savings

To find out more about planned giving opportunities, please contact MWWT Coordinator Jerry Bley at (207) 685-3872.

Have you renewed your MWWT membership for 2016?

Choose your membership level:

Individual: \$35–\$99

Family: \$100–\$249

Sponsor: \$250–\$499

Benefactor: \$500–\$999

Sustaining: \$1000 or more

Send your membership donation to MWWT, PO Box 5660, Augusta, ME 04332, or RENEW ONLINE at www.mwwt.org.

Owning the Watershed continued from page 1

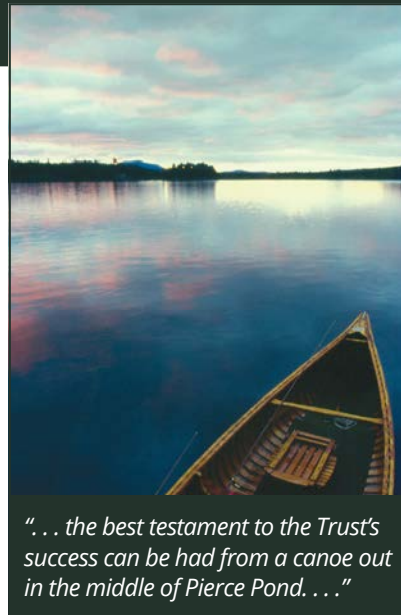
complying with the terms of conservation easements and state regulations, have definitely unsettled many visitors to Pierce Pond.”

Long-time MWWT supporter and current board member Ben Gale encouraged fellow board members to set a bold new vision for the Trust to pursue in the years ahead. He said, “I would like to see MWWT eventually own the entire watershed. It may not happen this year or next, but that should be our long-term goal and we should be seeking every opportunity to realize it.”

The board wholeheartedly agreed, and adopted a position statement affirming that the Trust’s ultimate goal is to own the entire 10,500-acre watershed. As opportunities arise to purchase watershed lands at a fair price, the Trust will act decisively to bring these lands under MWWT ownership. As with the Trust’s current land holdings, which total just under 2000 acres, the plan would be to manage these holdings to enhance wildlife habitat, safeguard water quality, preserve cherished views, set aside ecological reserves, and, where appropriate, harvest timber in a sustainable manner.

To achieve this bold vision, the Board of Directors is beginning to lay the groundwork for a major capital campaign. The campaign’s objective is to raise the funds necessary to acquire all 8750 acres of watershed lands now under other ownership, and to enable the Trust to be a model steward of those lands.

No doubt, it is an ambitious goal for a small land trust. But 26 years ago, when a small group of Pierce Pond devotees sat down to figure out how to save the watershed in the face of an unprecedented development boom, the odds were equally long. Over the past 26 years, the Trust has learned that it must be ready to take advantage of conservation opportunities whenever and wherever they occur. We have been both strategic and opportunistic in pursuing land and easement acquisitions. As a result, at a time when many other once-wild Maine lakes and



“... the best testament to the Trust’s success can be had from a canoe out in the middle of Pierce Pond. . . .”

ponds have been forever altered by development, Pierce Pond remains undeveloped.

Yet the future of the Pierce Pond watershed remains uncertain. Weyerhaeuser Company has replaced Plum Creek as the largest land-owner in the watershed, and there is no way to know how this might affect the forest management activities of watershed lands. Just as MWWT’s loyal members enabled the Trust to protect Pierce Pond from development, now we must

all rise to this new challenge, before opportunities are lost. History has shown that the support of our devoted membership can achieve conservation miracles, and the approaching capital campaign will require the talents and resources of all of us. Please contact any member of the MWWT Board of Directors if you have the interest or capacity to make a special effort in this campaign.