When land is chopped up and developed in a haphazard way, wildlife loses, our local economy loses, and often the farmers do too. We need to balance development with the conservation of our community’s farms, forests and our vital connection to water.

Now, thanks to hundreds of people, the conservation purchase of a critical parcel, formerly known as the deFrees Farm, containing important wildlife habitat—along with the protection of an adjacent, beautiful and critical farm—is almost complete.

The land includes over two miles of frontage on the meandering Ellis River. Then it rises from the river valley up the slopes of Whitecap Mountain and connects with the 750 acre Rumford Whitecap Mountain Preserve.

The project will conserve the trail head and an important section of the trail to the summit of Whitecap Mountain, provide public access to the Ellis River, and create the opportunity for an expanded loop trail which will link the trail to the summit with an existing trail along the river.

The protection of the adjacent farm, generously being conserved by Jon Starr and Brie Weisman, connects the lands together—and will create an extraordinary conservation landscape of clean water, local agriculture, and the habitat of the River.

“We have the gift of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to pass on this legacy: preserving a mountain, a community treasure... and in a real sense, a way of life.”

-Richard Kent, Rumford

We need your help: We can’t do this without you. This amazing conservation project of over 400 acres (the farm and the wildlife conservation area purchase), is almost ready to go: we only need the last $16,000 from people like you. Please donate as generously as you can before the end of August. The farm, the forest, and the River depend on it.
Thanks to you, the Androscoggin River Trail is in full swing

Imagine what it will be like to paddle along the river and enjoy the sounds of birds calling in the early morning… Or maybe you can envision throwing your line over the side as you float in the current, or stopping to picnic with family and friends on the shore of the Androscoggin River. That dream is becoming a reality thanks to the support of our community, a host of volunteers, and your generous response to the Stifler and McFadden Challenge.

Improving and expanding the Androscoggin River Trail is in full swing. Over the course of the summer and fall, volunteers and local contractors will be adding to the winding river trail from Shelburne to Rumford by installing steps down to the river for boat launching in Rumford Center. You will be able to spend a long lazy day paddling or take a quick trip after work. Upon completion, the trail will provide you river access every five miles. We’ll keep you updated in our free e-Newsletter. You can sign up by emailing mlt@mahoosuc.org.

A special thank you to Larry Stifler and Mary McFadden who provided $25,000 to match community donations to make this project a reality. Without their leadership, the trail would not have been possible—nor three other conservation projects now underway.

Conservation matters, to many

People really care. That was the strong message we received this past spring when people from the community told us what role they wanted conservation to play in the future. We learned that in a time of rapid social and economic changes, land and water conservation is something people want—as well as the programs that connect people to the land.

The resulting strategic plan for the Mahoosuc Land Trust embraces growth and responsible change while focusing on the needs of our local communities, residents and visitors. Over the next five years we will continue to assist local families conserve their land, establish and restore trails and recreational opportunities, and enhance wildlife habitat. We know that serving people from all walks of life to ensure that conservation benefits them involves strong partnerships and creative solutions to often challenging problems. Our work is a part of the health of our communities.

You can download the plan from our website: www.mahoosuc.org. Or feel free to stop by our office if you’d like to say hi or chat about the plan.
The Beauty of our
Backyard Arts Celebration
opening will be on Saturday,
September 26th, 2015, from 11
a.m. to 3 p.m., and works will
be on display until October 23rd
at the Land Trust office.

You can share your love of the land
Now’s the time to think about it

Would you like to feature your artwork? Perhaps you have a lovely poem
or story about the land you’d like to share? Do you know someone—a child
perhaps—who is passionate about the out-of-doors?

This year’s “Arts Celebration” will focus on The Beauty of Our Backyard.
You are encouraged to interpret this broadly and use the summer to create
an entry for the fall show. Share your passion for sliding down Step Falls,
picking blueberries on the hike up Rumford Whitecap, paddling on the
river…the sky is the limit.

There will be three age categories: 12 and under, 13 to 18, and 19 and
older in Art, Photography, and Writing. Prizes will be awarded for Best in
Category (paintings and drawings, photographs, writing) and Age Group,
and Best in Show. Entrants are welcomed to mark their works for sale.
Donation of 10% suggested to the Mahoosuc Land Trust.

How to participate:
Submit exhibit-ready artwork, either framed or matted, by September 18th.
Bring artwork to the MLT office between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. on weekdays.
Mail entries also accepted. An entry fee of $10 for adults for up to three
works; no fee for ages 18 and under. If you have questions, please email
Jolan at Jolan@mahoosuc.org or call 207-824-3806.

Would you like to give a really special gift?

As a community-supported conservation organization, we rely on our
talented and growing team of volunteers. The opportunities change and
expand every year, ranging from constructing trail improvements, helping
to improve wildlife habitat, assisting in community events and programs, to
office work.

Some folks volunteer on their own while others are part of a group or a
community organization (like Dirigo High School). All ages are welcome
and everyone can help. We’d love to hear from you. If you’d like to
volunteer or are interested in finding out more about becoming a volunteer,
please let Jolan Ippolito know at mlt@mahoosuc.org or 207-824-3806.

Karolyn Buotte, a teacher at Dirigo
High School and advisor to the Dirigo
Outing Club, explained that “All
sophomores who attend Dirigo High
School participate in a community
service project with their homeroom.

I grew up enjoying access to Whitecap Mountain in my youth and I feel a need
to share the natural beauty and local resource of Whitecap with the students.
We pitch in and help out to keep the trail open and accessible to all.”

Conservation Stewards
The “Eyes” of Conservation

Would you like to volunteer to
visit conservation properties?
It’s a great way to see beautiful
properties and also develop
skills related to volunteer land
conservation.

Mahoosuc Land Trust visits each
conserved property annually
to document that conservation
values are being maintained and
report to the land owners.

Our thanks to Bonnie Pooley,
Mac Davis, Bob O’Brien,
Michaela Casey, Jim Reuter,
Larry Ely, Dean Walker, Avery
Rossow, Dick Stratton and Kevin
Winsor for their continuing work
as stewardship monitors.

Email Jim Mitchell at info@
mahoosuc.org if you would like
to find out more.
You can be a hero, all year long
Monthly giving is safe, easy, and makes a big difference

Ever been in the middle of a project and needed just one more extra screw or bolt, or another quarter pound of butter? You have to stop everything and go get the item. It can be so time consuming—and waste precious energy.

You can join a growing number of people who donate as little as $5/month all year long to make a big difference and save you and the land trust time.

Your gift happens automatically and helps to provide a backbone of support so the Land Trust can take advantage of opportunities that arise, conserving special places for all. Monthly donors are honored by joining the Longfellow Giving Circle and are provided with special updates and program invites.

“It made such sense to me,” said Henrietta List, Longfellow donor. “I cannot give a great deal at one time, but to give monthly, those small bits add up and we can help meet their basic fundraising needs.”

It is a simple, secure, one-time, on-line process and you too can provide the “nuts and bolts” for conserving our beautiful Mahoosuc region. Visit the web site today and become a monthly Longfellow hero. www.mahoosuc.org/donate.html.

Without you, the water’s all muddy

That sparkling stream, the rushing river...the wetland filled with birds in the spring. They all rely on what happens up-stream and up-land to maintain the clean water that sustains both us and the wildlife. The conservation of farms and forest and meadows and wetland is helping to maintain the clean water that our community depends upon for recreation and our quality of life. You are making clean water a priority every time you help us conserve the land that surrounds it. We couldn’t do it without you.
Thank you for all you have done to ensure that conservation of land and water—the farms, the forests, the trails and water, and the gorgeous wildlife habitat—are available for future generations. We couldn’t conserve these lands, and host free programs, without your support.

**Summit Society**
Alice M. and Wilder K. Abbott  
Bohr Family Fund  
Dorrie Casey and Archie Purcell  
John and Martha Chandler  
Robert Duplessie  
Larry Ely and Ginger Lawson**  
Richard E. Gorder  
and Sonja Johanson  
Lisa Handanos  
Warren and Bettyanne Hastings*  
Walter and Carolyn Hatch**  
Mike and Sherry Hyman  
Bob and Alldad Iles**  
James and Jolan Ippolito  
Jack Kallis  
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Robert O’Brien and Michaela Casey  
John and Jane Payne**  
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Bonnie Pooley**  
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and Nancy Babcock**  
Drs. Jeff and Donna Whittle  
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Leon and Lisa Gorman  
Leonard and Mary Greaney and Tom Hoyt

* New Land Trust Donor  
** 10+ Year Donor
“When I think about the future, I can’t imagine what it would be like without places to walk, wildlife surrounding us, and great places to hike and paddle….” - Walter Hatch, Volunteer; Bethel

Your love of the land and water, the trails and the wildlife, or perhaps local farms and food, can be part of your legacy. You can join a growing group of people who are becoming community leaders by naming the Mahoosuc Land Trust in your will.

The Legacy Circle is composed of people like you who have made a planned gift or bequest in their estate to the Land Trust. All gift levels are welcome.

A planned gift may also help avoid estate taxes and change lives forever by ensuring that local land and water conservation—and connecting kids and families to the land so that they will love it as much as you do—is possible. If you would like to explore becoming part of the Legacy Circle, please call or email Jim 207-824-3806 or jm@mahoosuc.org.

You can give a gift that lasts forever
Join the Legacy Circle

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A special thank you to our Legacy Circle Members:

William Andrews
John and Martha Chandler
Nancy Coan
Larry Ely and Ginger Lawson
Walter and Carolyn Hatch
Bob and Lida Iles
Jack Kallis
Jim and Henrietta List
Jack and Lucy Nordahl
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John Sage Foundation
Schmidt Family Foundation
Stifler Family Foundation
Sunday River Region Charitable Foundation
William Wharton Trust

* New Land Trust Donor
** 10+ Year Donor

We apologize for any errors or omissions and please feel free to call Jolan with corrections.
You’re invited…
We’d love to see you this summer and fall. Come have some fun with family and friends at these free programs. For details visit our website or sign up for our regular e-Newsletter.

August 8: Whitecap Gourmet Hike. Enjoy an easy morning hike at 9 a.m. and a 360 degree view while sharing a lovely gourmet dish at this mountaintop picnic. (Gourmet can encompass anything fancier than PB & J.) Rain date: August 15.

September 23: “This is Your Drinking Water.” Interested in how trees in the mountains will impact our drinking water? Join us for a lively discussion at 7 p.m. at McLaughlin Auditorium at Gould Academy.

September 26: Mahoosuc Land Trust Arts Celebration. Come be inspired and see works of art celebrating the out-of-doors. The free opening will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Land Trust Office. Art, photography, poems or prose featuring the Beauty of Our Backyard.

September 26: Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. It’s going to be great, that’s for sure. Fun for the whole family. You can find out about the program, updates, and new ideas at www.mahoosuc.org as it gets closer.