HASTINGS LANDING

In October, 2014, the Mahoosuc Land Trust purchased a one acre parcel of land on the Androscoggin River at Rumford Center to use as a public river access site. The site will be known as Hastings Landing in honor of the Hastings Family’s lead gift toward the purchase of the land. The Hastings gift was in memory of Ann Hastings Morton, a lifelong resident of the area and former member of the Mahoosuc Land Trust Board of Directors. The Land Trust is also grateful to John Hoyt and Bart McHugh of Rumford Center, who sold the land to the Land Trust, and to the many donors who supported the purchase. The Town of Rumford, the Androscoggin River Watershed Council and the River Valley Growth Council collaborated with the Mahoosuc Land Trust to make the project possible.

The Mahoosuc Land Trust and the Androscoggin River Watershed Council have applied to the Maine Water Access Fund for funding to construct a small parking area and steps to the River during the summer of 2015.

The purchase is part of the Land Trust’s long term vision of providing public river access spaces approximately five miles apart between Shelburne, NH and Rumford, ME. Our goal is to make the river accessible both to families looking for a one or two hour paddle as well as to long distance canoeists and paddlers.

WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

SARA WHALEN SHIFRIN, directs Gould Academy’s IDEAS Center, a facility devoted to innovation and creative problem solving. She has taught at Gould and lived in Bethel for 22 years. She is also an active Board member of the Weld Free Public Library in Weld, Maine. She lives by the manifesto “be the change you want to see.” She is a member of the Land Trust Outreach Committee with a focus on youth engagement.

STEVE SMITH, a Sunday River skier since the era of “T2” on Barker Mountain, retired from his high school principalship in Topsfield, MA in 2012, to his family’s vacation, now retirement, home on Songo Pond. Steve is active on a very limited basis with an international educational consulting firm. Steve is a member of the Land Trust Lands Committee. He was a steward of the Mary Finch Reservation while living in Andover, MA. His current priorities are hiking, skiing, biking and sailing.
Over 40 paintings and photographs depicting the natural beauty of the Mahoosuc region were on exhibit at the Mahoosuc Land Trust this fall. The exhibit opened Saturday, September 27th, as part of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend with a steady stream of visitors.

Winners in the show categories are as follows: Elly Dufault, 1st in Art for Oil Landscape of the Mountains; Linda Isham, 2nd in Art for Morning Fog, Round Mountain in Albany; Rosabelle Tift, 3rd in Art for Covered Bridge, Newry; Jane Chandler, 1st in Photography for Dancing Sunflowers; Lynn Saxton, 2nd in Photography for Blueberries on Whitecap; and David Bean, 1st in Writing for East Royce.

Many thanks to Northeast Bank for their lead sponsor support. True North Adventureware, 100 Aker Wood and Books N Things supported the gift certificate prizes. Janet Willie helped us display the art. Judges were Anne Wood, Dirk McKnight and Aranka Matolcsy.

THE LONGFELLOWS

You may be wondering why we chose the name Longfellows for our group of monthly givers to the Mahoosuc Land Trust. It seems there was a period in the late 1950s when the Western Maine Mountains were called The Longfellows by official decree of the Maine Legislature. Our legislators took this action in honor of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow of The Song of Hiawatha fame. Remember, “By the shore of Gitchie Gumee, By the shining Big-Sea-Water, At the doorway of his wigwam, In the pleasant Summer morning, Hiawatha stood and waited” or from Paul Revere’s Ride, “Listen, my children, and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Paul Revere,” or from My Lost Youth “A boy’s will is the wind’s will, And the thoughts of youth are long, long thoughts.” Longfellow, our nation’s most famous and popular poet for many decades, was a native of our State of Maine, and, yes, he did visit these western mountains.

Our Longfellows are a special group. Nearing a dozen in number, they give monthly either through Paypal or through their own banks’ automatic payment plans. It encourages us at the Land Trust to be able to count on these steady givers, our Longfellows, and, once they have set up their giving plan, they no longer even have to think about it. The gift each month happens automatically.

Won’t you consider joining our Longfellows group? It’s a Win-Win gift, easy for you and greatly appreciated by us. Visit www.mahoosuc.org today to set up your monthly gift. Thank you for thinking of the Mahoosuc Land Trust.

GREAT MAINE OUTDOOR WEEKENDS

“Our More Reasons to Play Outside” - that’s how the organizers of the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend describe the twice-annual events that encourage people to be active all over the State of Maine. The Land Trust drew a crowd of enthusiasts for this event on Sept. 27: Nancy Babcock led a bike tour along the Androscoggin Valley; Sarah Southam led intrepid hikers up Albany Mountain; Bob Elliott revealed the glacial wonders of the ancestral Androscoggin on a road trip; and all gathered for a cookout hosted by Jeff Newsom and Saranne Taylor.

The winter Great Maine Outdoor Weekend is February 13-15th. On Saturday the 14th, the Land Trust and Western Mountains Senior College invite you to take your sweetheart into the woods on a snowshoe walk in Andover. Meet at the Land Trust office at 9:30 to car-pool or meet at Akers Ski barn in Andover at 10AM. Rick Churchill will share his unique insights during a walk on the trails, after which everyone is invited to return to the barn for a fire, hot chocolate and a chili lunch. For more information about the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, visit the Land Trust website after the holidays.
I thank all of you who attended our 25th Annual Meeting for your support over these years as we strive to conserve special areas for the use and enjoyment of the public as well as wildlife.

Peter Forbes was an inspirational speaker at the meeting and at the workshop he presented the following day through the collaboration of the Land Trust and the Bethel Area Non-profit Collaborative. His concept of “whole communities” was a lesson “to help all people be their very best within organizations and communities by inspiring new relationships and connections to place.” My thanks are given to Jim Mitchell, Land Trust Executive Director, Bonnie Pooley, Land Trust Past President, and Amy Scott, Network Facilitator of BANC, for arranging these programs. We look forward enthusiastically to including some of the principles presented into the Land Trust’s future projects.

There is always a sad time at annual meetings as some members leave the board due to our term limits or other reasons. This year our heartfelt thanks go to Bonnie Pooley, Jeff Newsom, and Dan Elliot for all the work they have done for the Land Trust.

At the same time we take great pleasure in welcoming the enthusiasm of Sara Shifrin and Steve Smith to the Board. The following officers were also elected for the coming year: Bob Iles, President; Jane Chandler, Vice-President; Bob O’Brien, Secretary; and Dick Stratton, Treasurer.

Everyone participating in Great Maine Outdoor Weekend (GMOW) had an enjoyable and fun filled day regardless of whether they built their own or viewed the woodland Fairy Houses built by many local students, went on a hike, bike ride or a fascinating geology tour led by Bob Elliot. The cookout, graciously hosted by Jeff Newsom and Saranne Taylor following these events, was delicious. At the same time we held the inaugural Mahoosuc Land Trust Art/Photo/Writing Show. It was a wonderful show of works by local artists, tastefully hung by Janet Willie and Jolan Ippolito, Land Trust Development Associate. My thanks to Jean Bass and the Outreach Committee for arranging the weekend’s events, to the artists and photographers, the judges, the event leaders and the Eddy School for making this weekend a success.

If you are a member who would like to become involved in any way, please call us at 824-3806. We will strive to find a committee or a job to match your passion as we work to make the Mahoosuc Region a healthy community we all love.

Bob Iles, President

**Observations from the President**

**STIFLER AND McFADDEN**

**$25,000 CHALLENGE FOR OUR 25TH**

Larry Stifler and Mary McFadden are celebrating the Mahoosuc Land Trust’s 25-Year Milestone with a generous $25,000 Challenge gift. Will you join them in celebrating? Here’s how.

All new donations to membership and annual appeal or increases above a donor’s 2013 level will be matched on a 1-to-1 basis up to $25,000. As a further incentive, Larry and Mary have created a 2-for-1 match for any new Summit Society members – those who donate at least $1,000 a year. A new $1,000 donation will raise an additional $2,000 for the land trust via this challenge. Current Summit Society members who increase their donation will also have the increased amount matched 2-for-1.

The Challenge Match makes this year a great opportunity to bring in new members and stretch our giving for the Annual Appeal. All gifts will be used to conserve land for the public to use and enjoy. Please join Larry and Mary in the Challenge effort.

Thank you to all of our donors who have contributed to our first 25 years of conservation work.
IN YOUR BACKYARD SERIES

Following on the last of the Changing Nature speaker series, where participants discovered much they hadn’t known before about the glacial shaping of our area, the Land Trust’s Outreach Committee has been inspired to shape the 2015 speaker series around the theme, “This is Your Backyard.” There is much that surrounds us about which we may know less than we think. So expect topics such as “These are Your Mountains,” “These are Your Farmers,” or “This is Your Wildlife.” Of course, our backyards and the decisions we make about them aren’t limited to what we see out the kitchen window, so the series will also engage topics such as “This is Your Drinking Water” and “This is Your Energy Investment.” Watch for a complete series listing in early January.