Great Maine Outdoor Weekend

What better way to celebrate our good fortune to call the Mahoosuc Region home than by participating in Great Maine Outdoor Weekend. Mahoosuc LandTrust (MLT) is sponsoring a variety of activities and events.

**Saturday, September 30th**

**Film Showing** – *Community Conservation: Finding the Balance Between Nature and Culture* profiles four active land trusts in different regions of Maine, demonstrating their conservation efforts involving all members of their communities. We are co-sponsoring this film with the Local Food Connection and The Gem Theater.

**WHERE**: The Gem Theater, Bethel  
**WHEN**: Saturday, September 30th  
3:30-4:30 – refreshments and social hour  
4:30-5:30 – film showing  
5:30-6:00 – questions and panel discussion  
**COST**: No charge, but donations are appreciated.

**Art Show Preview**

After the film, head over to Valentine Farm for the preview of the 2017 Art Show. Enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to meet the artists, photographers and sculptors as well as to purchase works that are for sale.

**WHERE**: Valentine Farm, 162 North Road, Bethel  
**WHEN**: 7:00-8:30PM

**Sunday, October 1st**

**Valentine Farm, 162 North Road**

1:00-1:30  
Grand opening of the universally accessible Valentine Farm trail

1:30-3:30

- Try out the trail. Designed for use by everyone; strollers, walkers and wheelchairs. Maine Adaptive Sports and Recreation will be here with Afaris and other equipment to try.  
- Talk and walk with Amanda Moran. Our ever popular mushroom guru is back with her knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, all edible fungi.  
- View the art show.  
- Make a fairy house with your child using material from the forest.

**Demonstrations**

- Chair caning  
- Garden hoe sharpening and maintenance  
- Fly tying  
- Artists at work

3:30-4:30 Potluck Barbeque

MLT will provide the beef and veggie burgers, hotdogs, and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and a lawn chair.
Building on our Strengths

Search Underway for a New Executive Director

We are pleased to report that the search process for a new visionary leader to serve as our Executive Director is well underway.

As announced earlier this summer, Jim Mitchell made the decision to step down from the position after guiding the organization for 23 years. The Executive Committee is now reviewing resumes from candidates across the country. The Committee expects the selection process to be completed by late fall.

Mahoosuc Land Trust is growing and I am excited about its future. In addition to the hikes and paddles on our established trails and boat launches, this year we created a 1.2 mile universally accessible trail at the Valentine Farm to expand recreational opportunities to a wider audience. In addition, our lecture series has diversified through the addition of a skills building apple tree pruning workshop, and our Nature Play program reached over 100 students in Bethel, Rumford and Andover.

Our new Executive Director will play an important role in guiding MLT forward – advancing our strategic plan while working with organizations and communities to better serve the visitors and residents of the Mahoosuc Region. It will be very rewarding to bring new energy, enthusiasm and experience to our organization.

I look forward to updating you at our Annual Meeting on October 15th. In the meantime, please feel free to share your thoughts by contacting me at robrien@bbns.org.

Important News About Your Membership Renewal

In past years, you received a late-fall Annual Appeal letter requesting your support. This year we are combining our Membership Renewal and what was formerly our Annual Campaign into one request. We hope you will agree that this approach will simplify things for donors who have often asked, “Didn’t I just send you a donation?” Membership contributions are critical to MLT’s operations. They cover everything from salaries to office supplies to snow plowing. We appreciate your yearly support.

• Our standard will be to send all membership renewals in September rather than late November.
• Once your membership is paid (between September and December), it is active for the next 12 months.
• An efficient and easy option is to make automatic monthly donations via the donate page on our website – www.mahoosuc.org
• Please call Barbara at 824-3806 if you have questions or concerns.

Your Member Benefits

• MLT’s twice yearly newsletter
• Voting at our annual business meeting
• Invitation to our annual barbeque
• The satisfaction of helping to conserve the beauty of the Mahoosuc Region.
The Longfellow Club

A special giving program of Mahoosuc Land Trust

Mahoosuc Land Trust’s monthly giving program, the Longfellow Club, provides an easy way for members to make recurring monthly gifts. Recurring donations via a credit card on our secure website www.mahoosuc.org are the best way to provide steady support to MLT year round. You set the amount, and we’ll send you a summary of your gifts each year.

Hold the Date!

Annual Meeting – Sunday, October 15th
Ordway Hall, Gould Academy, Bethel

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be so much more than business as usual. A silent auction at will start at 5:45, followed by a business meeting that will include proposed changes to update the 2010 bylaws at 7:00 followed by our featured speaker.

Climate Change in New England: Past, Present, and Future

Climate Changes. It always has and always will. An extensive and growing body of scientific evidence shows that human activities are now the primary force driving change in the Earth’s climate system. Over the past six decades New England has been getting warmer and wetter, and extreme precipitation events have increased dramatically. Fortunately low-carbon energy systems (solar, wind, biomass) are now cost competitive and can serve to reduce anthropogenic climate change while providing jobs and growing our economy.

Cameron Wake, PhD., Josephine A Lamprey Professor in Climate and Sustainability, Earth Systems Research Center, Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans and Space, University of New Hampshire

Silent Auction

Support MLT by placing a bid on unique, handcrafted products and locally produced specialty foods. All items will be available to view and bid on from 5:45-6:45PM before our Annual Meeting held upstairs in Ordway Hall, Gould Academy. Winners will be announced at the end of the meeting. Cash and checks only, please.
Thanks to the design and leadership effort of Mike Cooper, Caribou Recreation Development LLC, and hundreds of volunteer hours, our 1.2 mile universally accessible trail is finished. The trail consists of east and west loops and has a crushed gravel surface perfect for strollers, wheelchairs, bicycles and feet. The trail meanders through mixed woods and along farm fields. There are plentiful wild blueberries in the east loop field.

Nature Play 2017

In response to the growing concern about our children spending too much time indoors, Mahoosuc Land Trust has developed Nature Play, an outdoor education program focused on inspiring a sense of wonder and curiosity about nature. Over the spring and summer more than 100 elementary school students attended multiple-week programs in Rumford, Bethel and Andover.

MLT was fortunate to have Alyda Twilley, Marcus Wentworth and Justin Bondesen, three gifted young adults, lead this effort. Together, they exposed kids to the energy of the sun through sun prints and encouraged imagination and creativity by constructing fairy homes and villages. The game of Camouflage required participants to think like prey, and nature kaleidoscopes revealed the amazing scope of color in the natural world.

Nature Play will return to Andover Elementary School this fall. This program is made possible through generous support from the Onion Foundation, Maine Community Foundation and the Environmental Trust Fund.
Volunteer Spotlight

Nurrie Caviness is a whirlwind of energy and enthusiasm. She settled into Bethel in September of 2016 and has thoroughly enjoyed connecting with community groups like the Western Mountains Senior College, the Bethel Garden Club, with the Music without Borders events, and with winter snowshoeing.

Nurrie came to Maine after 16 hot, hot, hot years in St. Petersburg, Florida. Initially she thought the rocky coast of Maine would be for her, but a survey of the traffic, crowds, and parking issues pushed her inland to the lovely White Mountains and to Bethel.

Nurrie has retired from dozens of years at The Foundation Center and several other philanthropic libraries guiding grantseekers and grantmakers in their research. She brings these interests to Mahoosuc Land Trust, along with helping refresh the database and filing systems.

Nurrie’s upbeat nature and enthusiasm for all things Bethel make her a delight to have in the office on Monday and Friday mornings. We are grateful for her time and effort.

Check Out Our New Website

Thanks to funding from the Sewall Foundation, MLT has a new website. Same address, www.mahoosuc.org, better pictures, layout and navigation. Sincere thanks to website designer, Jason Tors, for technical and creative advice and to Yeah Bud! Photography for the use of photos.
Upcoming Events

September 20th:
The Wonders of Umbagog, Ian Drew
7:00PM McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

September 30th:
Community Conservation – Finding the Balance Between Nature and Culture; video and panel discussion. Gem Theater
3:30 – 6:00
Art Celebration of Nature, Art Show preview.
7:00 – 8:30PM Valentine Farm Conservation Center,
162 North Road, Bethel

October 1st:
Great Maine Outdoor Weekend;
1:00-4:30PM Valentine Farm Conservation Center,
162 North Road, Bethel

October 15th
Annual Meeting and Silent Auction,
5:45-8:00PM McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

October 25th
Rediscovering the White Mountains, Randy Bennett.
7:00PM McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

October 27th
The Social Bear: What Bears Have Taught Me About Being Human, Ben Kilham.
7:00PM Bingham Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel.
A Win-Win Strategy to Support Mahoosuc Land Trust

Did you know that once you turn 70.5 years old you can make a charitable contribution as part of your Minimum Required Distribution from your IRA? This option can save you money while supporting organizations that are meaningful to you.

Here is how it works:
Money that is put into an IRA is not taxed. However, once you turn 70.5 years old, you are required to start withdrawing some of that money. If you choose to take the money, it is taxed at your personal income rate. If you wish to avoid paying that tax, you can opt to use all or part of the Minimum Required Distribution to make a tax-free contribution to a charity of your choice. Everyone wins!

This is just what long-term MLT supporter, Nancie Coan, did. During a fascinating work life that led her from Baghdad to Bethel, Nancie saved part of her earnings and placed them in an IRA. Now in her retirement years, Nancie chose Mahoosuc Land Trust as a beneficiary of one such distribution. Thank you, Nancie, for investing in MLT.

If you would like to learn more about supporting MLT through Minimum Required Distributions, please call the office 842-3860.

Goodbye and Good Luck, Jim!

After more than twenty years as the Executive Director of Mahoosuc Land Trust, Jim Mitchell stepped down at the end of July. As Executive Director, Jim guided the organization through tremendous growth and change. Through his leadership and governance, over 8000 acres of land we know and love have been conserved for future generations to enjoy. Many of us will miss his quiet humor, knowledge of and appreciation for local history and his gentle manner. Good luck on your next chapter, Jim.
What’s Happening…

Barbara Murphy
Development Coordinator
Jim Mitchell
Executive Director
Kevin Winsor, Bethel
Stephen Smith, Albany
Sara Shifrin, Bethel
Robert Iles, Bethel
Michael Hyman, Bethel
Larry Ely, Shelburne
Robert Duplessie, Andover
Mac Davis, Albany
Jane Chandler, Woodstock
Jean Bass, Bethel
Joseph Aloisio, Jr. Albany
Bonnie Pooley, Albany
Richard Stratton, Hanover
Laurie Winsor, Bethel
Vice-President
President
Robert O’Brien, Albany
Laurie Winsor, Bethel

For breaking news, conservation updates, fun programs and tips on managing your land, sign up for our free e-Newsletter. Just email Barbara@mahoosuc.org

Further Ways You Can Support Mahoosuc Land Trust:
Make Your Annual Gifts Biannual. We need a continuous flow of operating funds to carry out our ambitious staff and volunteer work.

Give in Monthly Installments. The Longfellow Club is an automatic way to insure your contributions continue uninterrupted.

Make a Pre-Tax Gift. If you are older than 70.5, you can donate all or part of your Minimum Required Distribution to Mahoosuc Land Trust. The donation is tax free.