You Are Awesome!

Thanks to you, Mahoosuc Land Trust exceeded its budget goal. Three hundred and thirty-six individuals, families and organizations gave gifts totaling $91,057! Thank you. We know there are many organizations that need your support. We are honored that you chose to share some of your resources with MLT.

Here are some of the things we have in the works:

- Expand our lecture series. A Day in the Life of..., focuses on community members with amazing talents and interests.
- Collaborate with Mahoosuc Pathways to provide regular hikes and walks.
- Co-sponsor a Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours with Maine Adaptive Recreation and Sports.
- Re-engage with the Bethel Community Forest project.
- Complete land acquisition projects with significant recreation and forestry opportunities.
- Expand activities at Valentine Farm Conservation Center.
Valentine Farm Conservation Center: Engaging in Community Conservation

MLT is refining our guiding principles for the Valentine Farm Conservation Center. On these 142-acres of property along Bethel’s North Road, we are developing approaches for:

- **Allowing universal public access.** The universally accessible 1.2 mile trail has been heavily used by people of all ages and abilities since its dedication in 2017. Maine Adaptive is planning to host events on the trail throughout the summer.

- **Collaborating with the community.** Given the proposed Bethel Community Forest’s proximity to the Valentine property, MLT Board and volunteer members are participating in the public planning process being led by Mahoosuc Pathways, Trust for Public Land, and the Northern Forest Center. Linking the Valentine trail to an extension of the Bethel Pathway is also being explored with Mahoosuc Pathways.

- **Balancing human use and wildlife habitat.** Valentine Farm is a key part of what will be a contiguous conserved area stretching from the Androscoggin River to the Sunday River Ski Resort peaks, providing public benefits for recreation, forestry, wildlife habitat, and water resource protection.

The above is just a sampling. If you haven’t walked, jogged, skied, or snowshoed the trail at Valentine, put it on your list. And stop in for a “nickel tour” of the office and educational areas within our splendid building. Your thoughts and ideas as members—and reports and photos of wildlife sightings—are important to us.

*Editor’s Note: Kirk started as Executive Director January 1st on a part-time basis, and will be at Valentine Farm full time as of July 1st.*

More Programs, Outdoor Adventures and Talks in 2018

With the help of a group of dedicated volunteers and an amazing depth of local talent, the Outreach Committee has increased the number of walks, talks and workshop opportunities for 2018.

**A Day in the Life...** is the theme for this year’s lecture series. The season kick off was a captivating talk by Enoch Glidden and Diane Barres describing a day in the life of athletes who use adaptive equipment. Diane shared how coaching an elementary school-aged blind skier from the bunny slopes to the Sochi Paralympics contributed to personal growth in both the skier and herself. Enoch described his evolution from wheelchair basketball player to racer to skier to rock climber. His ascent (found on YouTube ‘Enoch’) of El Capitan was majestic and demonstrated the value of teamwork and determination.

Jane Chandler led our first walk of 2018. A group of hearty souls made the 1.5 mile snowshoe up Lapham Ledge. There, they enjoyed cocoa and snacks while soaking up the incredible southerly views of the surrounding foothills, ponds, and lakes.

For a listing of other opportunities go to page 7.
The Legacy Circle – Creating Tomorrow’s Dreams Today

Did you know that nearly four dozen supporters have included Mahoosuc Land Trust in their wills or estate plans? Leaving a gift to Mahoosuc Land Trust in your will is a lasting tribute to your concern for land conservation, while guaranteeing MLT’s long-term stability. For further information on how to include MLT in any of your charitable giving plans, please contact Barbara Murphy or Kirk Siegel, at 207-824-3806, or via email at barbara@mahoosuc.org or kirk@mahoosuc.org. Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated at Mahoosuc Land Trust. Thank you for supporting our efforts to conserve the places we love.

Don’t forget to vote for us in the COMMUNITY MATTERS MORE campaign by Bangor Savings Bank!

We need your vote! We could be awarded $5,000 from the Community Matters More campaign from Bangor Savings Bank. Anyone with a Maine or New Hampshire address (seasonal addresses are valid) can vote. Please visit a local branch, come into the Mahoosuc Land Trust office for a form, or go online at www.bangor.com/cmm. Thanks for supporting MLT.

LIKE AND SHARE! LIKE AND SHARE! LIKE AND SHARE!
Second Nature Adventure Challenge

Feeling the itch to explore the region and possibly some new trails? The Second Nature Adventure Challenge is a trails challenge administered by Mahoosuc Pathways of Bethel that encourages and rewards hikers of all abilities for exploring the Maine West region. On the Second Nature website (www.secondnaturemaine.com) you will find 9 trails to choose from, ranging from easy to moderate to strenuous and an explanation of how you can earn badges after hiking each trail. Two of the hikes are on properties acquired by Mahoosuc Land Trust: Glassface Mountain and Rumford Whitecap.
Comings and Goings

Mahoosuc Land Trust wants to send a heartfelt thanks to Jane Chandler for her 9 years on the Board of Trustees. Jane was a member of the Lands and Outreach Committees and was a frequent leader of hikes and walks. Jane will continue to volunteer at MLT.

We would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Kirk Siegel. Kirk was a co-founder of the Mahoosuc Land Trust in 1988 and served as its first president. As a land conservation attorney, for two decades he completed projects throughout Maine ranging from 10,000-plus acre timber tracts to small Androscoggin River islands. MLT looks forward to a strong future under Kirk’s leadership.

We would also like to welcome Lizz Peacock to our Board of Directors. Lizz has worked in the outdoor recreation field for the past 25 years, starting as a Registered Maine Whitewater Guide and spending winters working in the Bethel area. In 2000 she became a full-time resident of Newry working for Outward Bound and is currently the Operations Director at Maine Adaptive Sports & Recreation. She brings a background of program development for all ability types and ages and has a long experience of working in non-profits in Maine.

Strategic Planning

Mahoosuc Land Trust does not have the resources to protect all of the places we love in the Mahoosuc Region. To help us focus our efforts, MLT is collaborating with other regional conservation/recreation organizations to develop a strategic conservation plan.

A strategic conservation plan will help to identify the most valuable resources to protect. It will also encourage thinking about conservation on a larger scale. Rather than taking a scattershot approach, effort will be focused on how to link already protected lands to make a difference for a whole landscape, community, watershed or ecosystem.

A changing climate requires MLT change our approach to land protection. We will keep you updated on our progress.
For the Love of Birds

Maine Bird Atlas and Bird Walk
On June 29th and 30th, Doug Hitchcox, a Staff Naturalist with Maine Audubon, will be at Valentine Farm. On Friday, Doug will introduce the “Maine Bird Atlas” a new, state-wide project to confirm which species of birds are breeding in Maine. Much has changed since the last effort undertaken from 1983-1987. Then, there were no reported Red-bellied Woodpeckers or Carolina Wrens and now they are common in southern and coastal Maine. But, what about American Kestrels and Bobolinks? Where can you hear Eastern Whip-poor-wills? You do not need advanced birding skills to participate in the Maine Bird Atlas. From casual observations to “adopting a block,” all levels of knowledge and participation are encouraged. Mark your calendar now to come learn how you can help.

On Saturday morning, Doug will lead a bird walk at Valentine Farm. Birds will be busy feeding their young, defending territories and hunting for food. Late June will be a great time to observe.

Bird and Pollinator Habitat Garden
Coming to Valentine Farm
Do you love the idea of planting flowers to attract birds and pollinators? If so, please join Barbara Murphy and a group of hearty gardeners for a two-part workshop on the basics of creating habitat gardens. After the course, gain hands-on experience by helping to create and install a pollinator garden at Valentine Farm. 
Mondays, May 14th and 21st, 5:30-7:30PM

Pre-registration required by contacting Barbara Murphy, barbara@mahoosuc.org

Put Your Gardening Skills to Use in the Community
Calendar of Events

For event updates and new listings, visit our website or Facebook page often.

February
21st – A Day in the Life of a Mt. Washington Snow Ranger – 7:00PM, Shelburne Town Hall

March
21st – Mushing: Reflections on Leading from the Rear: A Day in the Life of a Dog Sledder – 7:00PM, McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

April
13th – Star Gazing: Messier Marathon Demonstration, 8:30PM, Valentine Farm. Cloud date, April 14th.
18th – A Day in the Life of an Ocean Swimmer – 7:00PM, McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

May
9th – A Day in the Life of a Tiny House Builder – 7:00PM, McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

June
29th and 30th – Maine Bird Atlas and Bird Walk – Valentine Farm, Bethel

July
18th – A Day in the Life of a Home-grown World Traveler – 7:00PM, Albany Town House
20th – Source-to-the-Sea Glassface Hike – Rumford Center

August
4th – Whitecap Gourmet Hike – Rumford
19th – MLT Annual Meeting – Valentine Farm

September
15th – Old Speck Hike – 8:00AM, Grafton Twp.
21st-30th – Great Maine Outdoor Weekend – in planning stages

October
24th – A Day in the Life of a Maine Guide – 7:00PM, McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy, Bethel

Messier Marathon Marathon Demonstration

We Are Talking Star Gazing Here.

In the 18th century, Charles Messier catalogued over 110 deep sky objects (star clusters, nebulae and galaxies). Sometimes it is possible to see ALL of these objects on ONE night in the spring. Join star gazing enthusiast, Tom Hoffelder, who has been looking through a telescope since 1974 and who has seen 100 objects in one night on April 13th at 8:30PM to see how many dark sky objects can be viewed from Valentine Farm. Cloud/rain date April 14th. Telescopes provided.
What's Happening…

March 10 - Longfellow Club: Stories of Hiking and Friends.  Carey Kish will regale us about his 189-day trek along the Appalachian Trail in 2015. Kish will show images of the mountain scenery and the highs and lows of hiking for six months.  7pm at the Shelburne, NH Town Hall.

March 11 - searching for the Plants and Flowers of spring.  Georgia Murray, an expert with over 20 years of experience in natural history, will lead you through this guided walk to identify spring flowers.  Lunchtime discussion (12:30) on strategies for identifying less familiar flowers, including some edible plants, along with harvesting considerations.  This talk is co-sponsored by the Western Mountains Senior College and the Valentine Conservation Center. To be sure we have adequate seating for the lunch, please RSVP to Liz Wooley (ewooley@roadrunner.com).

April 19 - iconic Places: white Mountain Flowers/bloom Time Changes.  Amy Geraci, an expert on White Mountain botany, will discuss the impact of climate change on the bloom periods of wildflowers.  7 pm at McLaughlin Auditorium, Gould Academy.

April 21 - iconic Places: Trekking the appalachian Trail.  Kish will share his insights and experiences as a hiking guide to the Appalachian Trail.  7pm at the Shelburne, NH Town Hall.

April 28 - iconic Places: The expanse of the White Mountains.  Georgia Murray, an expert with over 20 years of experience in natural history, will lead you through this guided walk to identify some of the most beautiful and unique plants in the White Mountains.  Lunchtime discussion (12:30) on strategies for identifying less familiar flowers, including some edible plants, along with harvesting considerations.  This talk is co-sponsored by the Western Mountains Senior College and the Valentine Conservation Center. To be sure we have adequate seating for the lunch, please RSVP to Liz Wooley (ewooley@roadrunner.com).

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 ensure 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.

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