Our 30th Anniversary
What a Great Celebration!
Conservation, Recreation, & Kids!  
Mahoosuc Ridge to The River Challenge

How can you beat it? Here’s a way to challenge yourself in the midst of scenic and rugged conserved land while boosting three great charities! Mahoosuc Land Trust has teamed up with Mahoosuc Pathways and The River Fund to bring 10k (6 mile +/-) and half marathon (13.1 mile) treks from Valentine Farm, through the new Bethel Community Forest, to Sunday River. The event takes place on September 14th and is part of Great Maine Outdoor Weekend.

This collaboration brings an incredible new event to the area, and supports the missions of these organizations:

- Mahoosuc Land Trust conserves land to benefit the natural areas and communities in the Mahoosuc Region;
- Mahoosuc Pathways connects communities through trails;
- The River Fund focuses on creating a bright future for youth through education and recreation.

The event gives participants the option of a half marathon race, 10 k race, or untimed 10 k hike. Participants will traverse trails up and over the mountains to finish at Sunday River Ski Resort, which has generously provided an incredible venue for the day. As a bonus, finishers have the option of buying tickets to the Maine Brewfest taking place at Sunday River that afternoon.

The event showcases recent successful conservation projects by both Mahoosuc Pathways and Mahoosuc Land Trust, that are treasures for the region. The course runs through what is now nearly 5,000 contiguous acres dedicated to habitat protection, recreation, and forestry, lying between greater Bethel, Sunday River, and the Mahoosuc Mountains. These include the Bethel Community Forest just acquired by Pathways and the town of Bethel’s Bingham Forest, bookmarked by MLT’s Valentine Farm and its McCoy-Chapman Forest on either end.

Given expected changes in climate, these areas will be key refuges for native species and a safety net for biodiversity—along with all of the recreation benefits.

This is a challenging course. Along with the bare rock along the ridge, surfaces include logging roads, rutted and uneven snowmobile trails, downhill ski trails, and rugged single track sections. Total elevation gain for the half marathon is over 3500 feet. Runners might want to plan almost doubling their typical half-marathon time.

At just over vertical 1300 feet of elevation gain, the 10k course is less demanding but does have sections with difficult footing and ample hills.

Both courses take participants to the top of the ridge between Bethel and Newry. From there, 10kers will begin their descent to Sunday River, while half marathoners will spend more time running along the ski area’s open summit peaks, with many spectacular views. There will be a “bailout” option for people who entered the half marathon but find themselves over their heads at that point. There are several checkpoints with mandatory cut-off times to ensure all runners get down the mountain in a reasonable time before the food trucks leave!

Complete details, easy online registration and an amazing one-minute drone video of the run along the ridge can be found at www.ridge2river.me.
Volunteers In The News

Bob and Lida Iles Honored with Whitecap Trail Naming

Whitecap Mountain lovers: The Red/Orange Trail is now the Iles Trail. The MLT board unanimously approved the change to honor Bob and Lida Iles's dedication to conserving Rumford Whitecap and leading the many projects that make the mountain so enjoyable to supporters and the public. See you on the trail and let us know if you'd like to help the "Whitecap Stewards" with trail work.

Board of Directors
Comings and Goings

We bid a fond farewell to Kevin Winsor who is stepping off the Board after 5 years. In addition to being the guy who could fix or build anything, Kevin also helped out with photography. He was Chair of the Stewardship Committee for 4 years. Kevin is a talented woodworker and also enjoys spending time in his kayak on the Androscoggin River. He will now spend his free time in his workshop making beautiful furniture and traveling in his RV with his wife, Laurie. We will miss you, Kevin.

Welcome To Our New Board Members

Sue Dunn is semi-retired from the marketing and communications fields. Sue serves on the Outreach Committee and is Chair of the annual art show. She also serves on the Bethel Planning Board, and the River Fund Event and Marketing Committee, and volunteers for the Bethel Food Pantry. Sue is an artist as well as an avid hiker and winter sports enthusiast. She lives in Bethel.

Amy Halsted is a creative director and the owner of Table Rock Arts Center (TRAC) in Bethel. She serves on the MLT Outreach and Development Committees. Amy is also on the board of the River Fund and is involved with the Local Food Connection. In her spare time, Amy enjoys gardening, skiing, hiking and practicing yoga and meditation. Amy lives in Newry.

Katie Stuart lives in Shelburne, NH and is a retired forester. She serves on the Stewardship and Lands Committees. Katie also serves on the Shelburne Trails Club Board of Directors, the NH Association of Conservation Commissions Board of Directors, and the Shelburne Conservation Commission. Katie loves hiking and skiing and anything to do with water.
Historic Hastings Dairy Farm Conservation Easement “Comes Home” to MLT

One of Bethel’s oldest farms is now under permanent conservation by MLT. On May 24th, Maine Farmland Trust (MFT) assigned a conservation easement to MLT on 173 acres of the dairy farm owned by Robert W. “Sonny” and Betty Ann Hastings. In 2016, the Hastings worked with MFT, a statewide land trust founded to protect farmland, along with MLT to donate an easement and ensure that the farm would be available for farming forever.

The Hastings Farm, owned and farmed by the Hastings Family for more than 200 years, is located in the rich intervale of the Androscoggin River. It includes some of the finest agricultural soils in the State. Until recently, the Hastings operated a dairy farm, but they now lease the fields to another farmer who grows potatoes and corn.

The Hastings family’s long devotion to the land, and a request by Sonny’s late sister, Ann Morton factored in the decision to grant a conservation easement. Ann was a leader in the community and a Mahoosuc Land Trust board member. After learning about the ways that conservation can support farmland, Ann suggested to Sonny that the farm where they grew up as children should be conserved.

“Mahoosuc Land Trust and Maine Farmland Trust worked together with the Hastings to protect this farm to honor the farming tradition of this community and protect soils with the capacity to grow food for people for centuries into the future,” said MLT Board President, Robert O’Brien. The conservation easement prevents the 173.9 acres from being subdivided or developed, but allows buildings necessary to support agricultural operations in a designated farmstead.

In order for the easement transfer to occur, the Hastings and their relatives and friends, as well as Maine Farmland Trust, made generous donations to the required MLT Stewardship Fund so that the easement can be monitored and enforced in perpetuity.

Bob Stewart Makes Grafton Loop Trail Permanent with Puzzle Mountain Trail Easement

The Puzzle Mountain section of the 38.6-mile Grafton Loop Trail (GLT) has now been permanently secured, thanks to a gift of a permanent trail easement from Robert Stewart of Cumberland to Mahoosuc Land Trust (MLT). Stewart, the visionary behind creation of the challenging back-country trail through the Mahoosuc Mountains, donated 485 acres on the environmentally sensitive mountaintop to Mahoosuc Land Trust in 2005. The new trail easement connects the MLT parking lot on Rt. 26 with MLT’s Stewart Family Preserve.

The GLT opened in 2007 through a cooperative effort among private landowners, the State of Maine, and numerous nonprofit organizations who sought to create multi-day hiking opportunities that offer alternatives to heavily used sections of the Appalachian Trail (AT). Stewart’s work on trail development on Puzzle Mountain goes back further—to 1993, when he acquired a large portion of Puzzle Mountain and began building trails with family and close friends, including forester and conservationist, Ken Woodsum. Stewart and Woodsum laid out what is now the Woodsum Spur Trail on Puzzle Mountain. Conservation on Puzzle Mountain and the Grafton Loop Trail has had many champions. Bob and the many individuals and groups that followed have left a lasting legacy.
Reserve a place now for . . .

A Conversation with Nathaniel Philbrick

New York Times Best Selling Author

Join us for a lively conversation with New York Times best selling author and MLT member, Nathaniel Philbrick, on Saturday, September 21st, at the Bethel Historical Society, 14 Broad St., Bethel. Philbrick will answer questions about his many books, the life of an author, sources of inspiration, and much more.

3:00 to 4:00 - Public Discussion, with Q & A
   $25.00 donation (limited to 55)

5:15 to 7:30 - Wine and Catered Dinner with the Author
   $100 donation (limited to 30)

All proceeds will go to Museums of the Bethel Historical Society and the Mahoosuc Land Trust.

Copies of Mayflower will be available for purchase and signing, in honor of the 400th anniversary of its landing at Plymouth

To reserve your place, contact Barbara, barbara@mahoosuc.org or 207-824-3806
MLT Preserve Partners - Active Volunteers Needed!

Volunteer stewards play a key role in our mission to preserve land *in perpetuity*. This dedicated group oversees the maintenance and stewardship needs on our nearly 2,700 acres of forestland and four Androscoggin River boat launches. Typical work includes an annual visit to the property to walk the boundaries and note damage or easement violations, trail repair and maintenance, and mowing at boat launches and some preserves. Our new *Preserve Partners* program looks to match volunteers with one or more properties and a MLT steward. By becoming a “Partner,” you can help with this critical work by providing more frequent on-site visits, interacting with visitors to improve their preserve experience, or helping with light maintenance and site improvements. For the most part, this work can be done at your own pace and schedule. You might also join other “Partners” in group work days at a preserve or boat launch. We are recruiting Preserve Partners for the following MLT properties:

**Step Falls** - During the summer and fall, this 24-acre preserve in Newry receives hundreds of visitors a week.

**Valentine Farm Conservation Center**
This 147-acre preserve in Bethel is home to MLT’s office and has a 1.2 mile universally accessible trail above the Androscoggin River.

**Rumford Whitecap Mountain and Ellis River Conservation Area**
The 1,120 acres of mountain forest and Ellis River frontage encompass three separate preserves and include the summit of Rumford Whitecap Mountain and miles of popular hiking trails.

If you are interested in becoming a Preserve Partner, please contact Barbara at barbara@mahoosuc.org or 207-824-3806.

**Intervale Gateway**
Our 18-acre preserve on Route 26 in Bethel protects the scenic entry into Bethel Village and provides great views of the Mahoosuc Mountain Range to the northwest. It also offers an eastern extension of the popular Bethel Pathway.

**Stewart Family Preserve-Puzzle Mountain**
The three Puzzle Mountain summits lie within the 486-acre Stewart Family Preserve which includes the Grafton Loop Trail (GLT).

**Glassface Mountain Conservation Area**
The 32-acre preserve in Rumford Center includes the 1.6 mile round-trip Glassface Ledges Trail that ends with spectacular views of the Androscoggin River valley. Trailhead parking is at the adjacent Hasting Landing Boat Launch.

**McCoy-Chapman Forest**
The 492-acre forest tract with extensive Androscoggin River frontage was acquired by MLT in 2018. Volunteers are actively creating and maintaining hiking and ski trails.

**Boat Launches**
Our 4 boat launches: Gilead Boat Launch, Newt’s Landing, Morans Landing and Hastings Landing are also in need of Preserve Partners.
Putting Your Values to Work for the Future of MLT

MLT is so fortunate to have you - dedicated, passionate members and supporters who value our efforts to conserve land and provide opportunities for people to get outdoors. Your volunteer time, financial support, creative ideas and enthusiasm speak volumes about the value you place on protecting open space. This summer, two members were able to make a commitment to long-term support for MLT.

Wendy Youmans and Ray Geiger-Leaving a Legacy in Your Will

While working summer jobs over the course of a few years, Wendy Youmans fell in love with Maine. So, when the opportunity came for her husband, Ray Geiger, to apply for a position with Outward Bound in Maine, they grabbed it. While with Outward Bound, they met other outdoor enthusiasts who shared their interests in skiing, hiking and biking. They knew they were home. After a number of years of looking, Wendy and Ray purchased 10 acres off the Smith Road in Bethel and began the process of building a house. Fast forward 22 years and the house is now a home complete with two dogs and a cat, a lovely garden and access to a beautiful remote pond.

Ray and Wendy consider themselves to be fortunate to live in Bethel and to regularly enjoy hiking and skiing in the surrounding forests. They are generous in spirit and wish that everyone had the outdoor opportunities they do. To that end, Wendy and Ray have made Mahoosuc Land Trust a beneficiary in their will because “we love what Mahoosuc Land Trust does, and we want to continue to support it after we’re gone.”

Lucy Nordahl– Leaving a Legacy Through an Endowment Gift

Lucy and her late husband, Jack were early supporters of Mahoosuc Land Trust. The Nordahls were outdoor enthusiasts who enjoyed camping, skiing, hiking, and observing nature. Jack even had an observatory installed at their house. They parlayed their interest and concern about nature into being active members of the Friends of the Androscoggin River which eventually became part of the Land Trust. A retired teacher, Lucy always keeps the needs of future generations in mind. She is especially concerned that we pass along a healthy environment for our children and grandchildren. Lucy has put these values to work by making a generous contribution to MLT’s endowment fund. Her recent $40,000 gift of stock in memory of Jack will help ensure MLT’s financial stability into the future.

What is an endowment gift and what does it do?

An endowment supports initiatives not for just one year, or even one generation, but in perpetuity, with a portion of the endowment's value used annually as the donor specifies or as the board chooses.

In time, a well-supported endowment can grow to a size where the proceeds of the investments can reduce or eliminate the need for annual appeals.

To learn more about planned giving and endowment contributions contact Kirk or Barbara at 824-3806.
## September Events You Won’t Want to Miss

*(for full details, changes and cancellations visit [www.mahoosuc.org/events-calendar](http://www.mahoosuc.org/events-calendar)*)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahoosuc Ridge to The River Challenge</td>
<td>Valentine Farm, 162 North Road, Bethel</td>
<td>Saturday, September 14 9:00 a.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th Annual MLT Art Show Preview</td>
<td>Valentine Farm, 162 North Road, Bethel</td>
<td>Saturday, September 14 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Maine Outdoor Film Festival</td>
<td>Gem Theater, 23 Cross St., Bethel</td>
<td>Saturday, September 14, 6:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Maine Outdoor Weekend</td>
<td>Valentine Farm, 162 North Road, Bethel</td>
<td>Sunday, September 15th, 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.</td>
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| A Conversation with NY Times Best Selling Author, Nathaniel Philbrick | Museums of Bethel Historical Society, Howe Exhibit Hall, 14 Broad Street, Bethel | Saturday, September 21 3:00 – 4:00 discussion 5:15-7:00 dinner with author  
| Dorrie Casey *Works in Birch Bark* Art Show | Museums of Bethel Historical Society, Howe Exhibit Hall 14 Broad Street, Bethel | Friday, September 27 through     
|                                      |                                            | Friday, October 18                      |

Follow us!  
To receive updates on events and opportunities, sign up for our free e-newsletter contact Barbara to be added to the list.  
barbara@mahoosuc.org or 207-824-3806