

Maine Coast Heritage Trust
2000 Annual Report



Maine Coast Heritage Trust works to conserve coastal and other lands that define Maine's distinct landscape, protect its environment, sustain its outdoor traditions and promote the well-being of its people. Since 1970, more than 108,000 acres have been permanently protected, including valuable wildlife habitat, farm and forest land and 325 entire islands.

MCHT provides conservation services to landowners, local land trusts, government agencies and communities throughout Maine.

As a membership organization, MCHT is supported by individuals committed to protecting Maine's natural beauty and resources.

The Trust invites your support and involvement.



On the cover:
Jordan's Delight Island, Narraguagus Bay

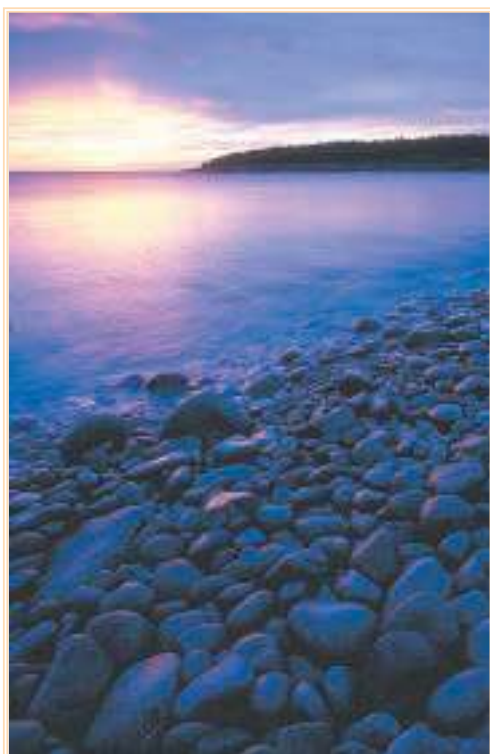


Maine Coast Heritage Trust

2000

Annual Report

MCHT had an exceptionally productive year, conserving 23,994 acres, 65 shorefront miles and nine entire coastal islands.



© SARA GRAY

Frenchboro Long Island

PRESIDENT'S AND CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Changing times demand new approaches to land conservation. During the last decade, population in Maine's coastal counties has grown at rates up to three times the state average, while real estate prices have risen by more than 300 percent in some communities.

In response to these changes, Maine Coast Heritage Trust is expanding its toolbox of conservation techniques. The Trust still relies primarily on donations of land and easements, but requires more innovative approaches when properties face imminent sale.

MCHT depends increasingly on the generosity of conservation-minded sellers and buyers. Several key properties acquired in 2000 – including Frenchboro Long Island and Beech Hill – were “bargain sales” in which landowners agreed to sell their property below its market value. In other cases, such as Jordan's Delight and Mill River, private conservation buyers worked with the Trust to take property off the real estate market and secure its long-term protection.



MCHT worked with charitable investors to acquire Babson Creek near Somesville.

When a significant property along Babson Creek on Mount Desert Island went up for auction last year, MCHT joined forces with charitable investors to

MEETING THE CHALLENGE



Bargain sales – like the one completed at Rockport's Beech Hill – can enable conservation purchases.

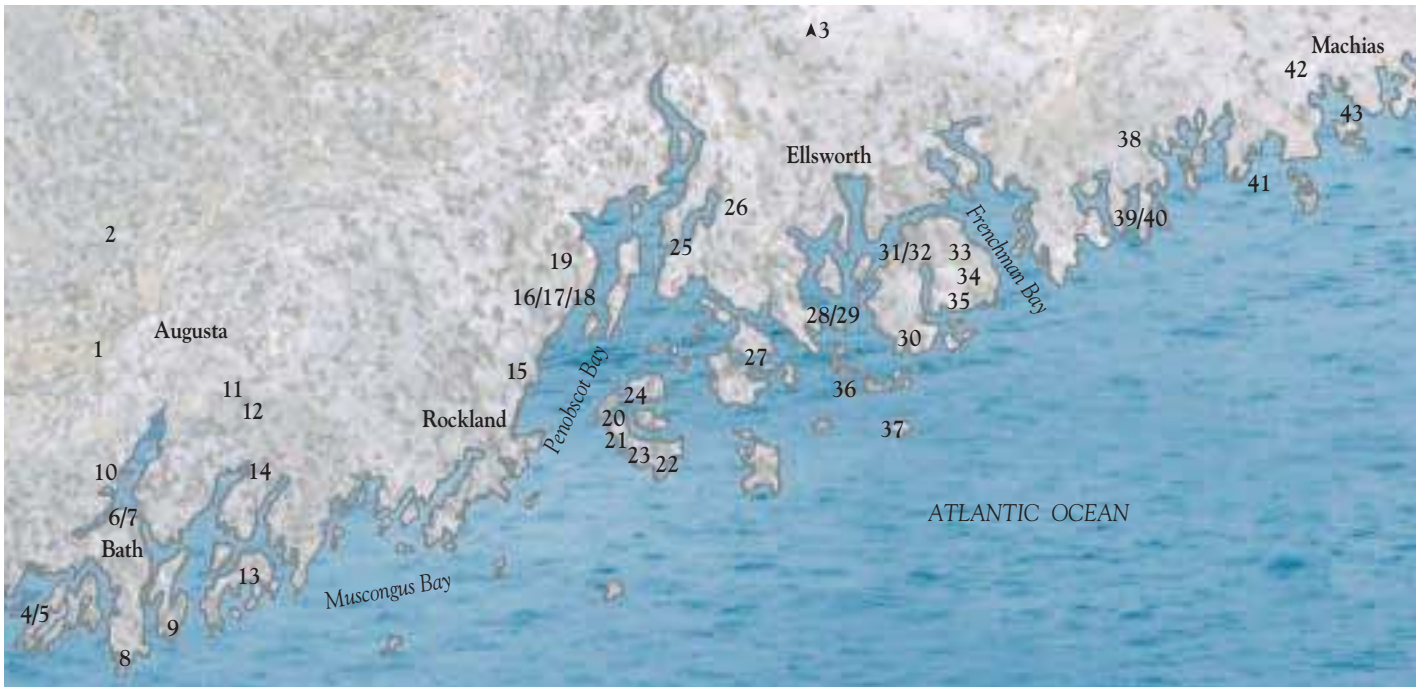
secure the threatened land. Maine Coast Partners, the resulting corporation, may serve as a model for future private partnerships.

MCHT often works with local land trusts, towns and government agencies to leverage funds needed for conservation purchases. When the government cannot allocate acquisition funds on short notice, it relies on the Trust to buy threatened properties for subsequent transfer (a process known as “preacquisition”). Three entire islands conserved in 2000 – Little Marshall, Schoppee and Stevens – were preacquisitions.

Creative techniques can reduce costs, but the price of land conservation continues to rise. MCHT could not succeed in these new approaches without the vision and generosity of its supporters. We are deeply indebted to you, and to all the landowners and partner groups with whom we are privileged to work.

Harold E. Woodsum, Jr.
Chairman

James J. Espy, Jr.
President



YEAR IN REVIEW

Summary of 2000 Conservation Projects

	Projects	Acres	Shorefront Miles
Gifts of conservation easements	18	941	8.4
Gifts of land	3	24	1
Purchases of land	18	1,871	16
Purchases of easements	4	21,158	39.4
Total	43	23,994	64.8

INLAND

1 Winthrop

Assistance from MCHT's revolving loan fund allowed the Kennebec Land Trust to purchase 106 acres on Mt. Pisgah, where 400 contiguous acres have now been conserved. Community members can enjoy hiking, hunting and skiing in the newly protected woodland.

2 Rome/Belgrade

Hoping to inspire further lakefront conservation, a Long Pond landowner donated an easement protecting 22 wooded acres with undeveloped shorefrontage. MCHT drafted the easement which was donated to Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance.

3 Northeastern Hancock County

Working with the Trust for Public Land, Forest Society of Maine and Robbins Lumber Company, MCHT helped the State negotiate the purchase of a forestry easement on 20,268 acres around Nicaous and West lakes. As a result, 34 miles of shoreline will remain undeveloped and accessible.



An easement protecting 20,268 forested acres allows the public to enjoy recreational opportunities around Nicaous and West lakes.

4 Harpswell

MCHT helped owners of a wooded 100-acre parcel on Middle Bay draft a conservation easement that they donated to Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. The newly conserved woodland lies near several shorefront properties that also have been conserved.

5 Harpswell

To maintain the scenic and historic values of their 39-acre undeveloped property in Harpswell village, landowners donated a conservation easement to Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. MCHT worked with the local trust in drafting the easement.



MCHT helped establish a new preserve at Thorne Head, a prominent peninsula on Merrymeeting Bay near Bath.

6/7 Bath

With technical assistance from MCHT, the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust succeeded in acquiring a 96-acre preserve two miles north of downtown Bath. The property, with frontage on the Lower Kennebec River and Merrymeeting Bay, provides exceptional wildlife habitat and accessible open space.

8 Phippsburg

Local residents can now enjoy greater shore access following the Town of Phippsburg's purchase of Totman Cove Beach. The Phippsburg Land Trust helped contribute funds while MCHT provided legal and technical assistance. The town granted an easement on 88 acres of sand beach and woodland to the Phippsburg Land Trust.



Newly protected Totman Cove Beach in Phippsburg affords opportunities for recreation and shellfish harvesting.

9 Georgetown

Working in partnership with MCHT, Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust (LKRLT) donated an easement to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife on its new 105-acre Weber Preserve. The project was part of a collaborative effort by the Maine Wetlands Protection Coalition that has conserved 1,200 acres of wildlife habitat near Reid State Park.



Great blue herons and other wading shorebirds frequent the Weber Preserve in Georgetown. © BILL SILLIKER, JR.

10 Bowdoinham

MCHT helped conserve a scenic headland with over one-half mile of frontage along Merrymeeting Bay, Maine's largest freshwater tidal marsh. A forever wild easement donated to Friends of Merrymeeting Bay protects a wooded, 30-acre parcel where bald eagles nest.

11 Whitefield

To sustain valuable Atlantic salmon habitat, MCHT helped Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association secure the future of 54 acres bordering the Sheepscot River. An easement held by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife provides a wooded buffer where visitors can enjoy access to the river.



Atlantic salmon will benefit from an easement that protects their spawning habitat along the Sheepscot River in Whitefield.

12 Alna

Owners of a 22-acre riverfront parcel in historic Head Tide donated an easement protecting spawning habitat for Atlantic salmon. MCHT worked with Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association to draft an easement that provides a forested buffer along the water while maintaining the surrounding fields.

13 Boothbay Harbor

Through a revolving loan, MCHT helped Boothbay Region Land Trust acquire a 50-acre parcel bordering Meadow Brook. The new preserve offers local residents opportunities for walking, hunting and snowmobiling.



A riverfront easement in Head Tide will maintain the scenic qualities of this historic village and enhance Atlantic salmon habitat.

14 Newcastle

MCHT helped negotiate permanent protection of a 726-acre peninsula near Sherman Lake, one of the midcoast's largest remaining tracts of wild shoreland. Joining forces with The Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife's Gulf of Maine Program and a private conservation buyer, MCHT helped the State purchase a highly restrictive conservation easement that protects 4.5 miles of shoreline.



A restrictive easement on the 726-acre Reachwood peninsula protects vital salt marsh habitat along the Marsh River and Deer Meadow Brook.

15 Rockport

A generous bargain sale enabled MCHT to purchase 104 acres of fields and woods on the slopes of Beech Hill, an open summit that affords spectacular views across Penobscot Bay. A second purchase, planned for 2001, will secure the remainder of the summit – creating a 295-acre public preserve.



© SARA GRAY

Through a bargain sale, MCHT made the first of two purchases that will preserve the summit of Beech Hill in Rockport.

16 Lincolnville

Assisting ongoing efforts to protect the Ducktrap River, owners of an 8-acre riverfront parcel donated a shoreline buffer conservation easement that will help protect water quality and Atlantic salmon habitat. MCHT helped draft the easement which will be held by Coastal Mountains Land Trust.



CHRIS HAMILTON

MCHT helped negotiate an easement conserving 4 acres of open land along Penobscot Bay in Lincolnville.

17 Lincolnville

With assistance from MCHT, MBNA America Bank donated an easement on 4 acres along U.S. Route One. The easement, held by Coastal Mountains Land Trust, maintains scenic open space in a rapidly developing stretch of shoreline.

18/19 Northport

MCHT helped negotiate an easement, donated to Coastal Mountains Land Trust, protecting 2 acres along Penobscot Bay. A second easement gift conserves the scenic and ecological values of 160 acres on Ducktrap Mountain.



A donated easement will protect water vistas from U.S. Route One in Northport. © SARA GRAY

20 Vinalhaven

Bordering a large conserved parcel, a newly protected 13-acre property will help sustain the wild character of Mills Marsh and Dyer Pond Marsh. MCHT helped craft an easement to be held by the Vinalhaven Land Trust.

21 Vinalhaven

A sustained effort to protect the shores of Crockett Cove (also known as Whitmore's Pond) concluded successfully with Vinalhaven Land Trust's purchase of a 6-acre parcel adjoining the reversing falls. MCHT assisted the local trust in conserving all five properties along this inlet, maintaining its scenic and ecological integrity.

22 Vinalhaven

Owners of a 32-acre woodland on Greens Island donated a second easement to Acadia National Park, enhancing the conservation values of an adjoining easement property. MCHT negotiated and drafted the easement, which protects one mile of shore frontage along Camp Cove.

23 Vinalhaven

Day visitors can enjoy Little White Island following MCHT's purchase of the undeveloped 5-acre island in Hurricane Sound. Vinalhaven Land Trust will assume title and manage the land as a public preserve.



BETH GILFORD

Through a collaborative effort, MCHT and Vinalhaven Land Trust succeeded in protecting the entire wild shoreline of Crockett Cove.

24 North Haven

MCHT helped secure the future of Burnt Island, a 74-acre island at the eastern entrance to the Fox Islands Thorofare. The town of North Haven donated an easement to the local land trust, North Haven Conservation Partners, which raised an endowment to assist the town with the island's long-term stewardship.

Newly conserved Little White Island is visible from the Vinalhaven ferry route.



© SARA GRAY

25 Brooksville

Owners of a prominent Bagaduce River property conserved their 28 acres through a donated easement to MCHT. Protection of this undeveloped shorefrontage helps to maintain vistas from Castine’s waterfront.

26 Brooksville

As part of its ongoing commitment to protect the ecological health and scenic character of the Bagaduce River, MCHT acquired 3-acre Wescott’s Island.



Conservation of Wescott’s Island will enhance rich wildlife habitat in and along the Bagaduce River.

27 Deer Isle

Island Heritage Trust used an MCHT revolving loan to purchase a 4-acre island threatened by imminent development. The local trust will manage Polypod Island as a nature preserve, sustaining its valuable bird and seal habitat.

28/29 Tremont

MCHT worked with two families to ensure permanent protection of 435-acre Tinker Island in Blue Hill Bay. Owners of the southern half donated a highly restrictive conservation easement on their 200-acre parcel, while owners of the northern half sold MCHT their 235 acres in a bargain sale supported by the Land for Maine’s Future Program.



The cobble shorefront bordering a conserved field in Manset provides dramatic mountain views of Acadia National Park.

30 Southwest Harbor

An easement given to MCHT is the first step in protecting a panoramic vista out the Eastern Way from Seawall Road in Manset. The land’s purchase by MCHT, planned for 2001, will ensure that the open fields remain undeveloped.

31/32 Mt. Desert

A successful auction bid, made by a partnership of charitable investors and MCHT, secured two parcels along Babson Creek that form the natural gateway to historic Somesville. In addition to a 96-acre wooded parcel, the partnership acquired 30 acres of tidal salt marsh and fields.



MCHT conserved 435-acre Tinker Island and will maintain the northern half as a public preserve.



© SARPA GRAY

Through a collaborative effort, MCHT established a preserve on Frenchboro

33 Bar Harbor

As part of a larger effort to protect the character of a scenic agricultural district, MCHT purchased a small lot overlooking fields and a stream that feeds into Northeast Creek. An abandoned trailer was removed, restoring the view.



The Great Meadow Loop trail links intown Bar Harbor with Acadia National Park.

Long Island with spectacular headlands and 8 miles of hiking trails.

34/35 Bar Harbor

Neighboring landowners granted rights across their land, helping to create a new trail between Bar Harbor village and Acadia National Park. MCHT is working with Friends of Acadia on this Great Meadow Loop trail.

36 Swans Island Region

Bald eagles that nest on an undeveloped 14-acre island will benefit from its purchase by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. MCHT acquired Little Marshall Island through a bargain sale before reselling it to Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge.

37 Frenchboro

Working in partnership with Island Institute, Maine Seacoast Mission and the town of Frenchboro, MCHT acquired its largest island preserve — a 940-acre expanse of forests and wetlands on Frenchboro Long Island.

38 Harrington

Conservation buyers helped MCHT protect a threatened peninsula along the Mill River. The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife will own this 22-acre sanctuary, maintaining its shorebird and waterfowl habitat.

39/40 Harrington

The Trust worked with private partners to begin restoring the wildlife habitat of 26-acre Jordan's Delight, once one of Maine's most significant seabird-nesting islands.



CHRIS HAMILTON

MCHT will remove this prominent house on Jordan's Delight, following the island's purchase by a private buyer who transferred 90 percent of the property to MCHT.

41 Addison

MCHT helped the State acquire an undeveloped 31-acre island in Western Bay that will be open to the public for picnicking, clamming, hiking and camping. The former owners provided a generous bargain sale and MCHT assisted the State in securing needed funds.

42 Jonesboro

Through a revolving loan and technical support, MCHT helped Great Auk Land Trust acquire a 220-acre property with more than 1.5 miles along Tide Mill Creek. This valuable salt marsh habitat supports wading birds, waterfowl and eagles.

43 Roque Bluffs

As part of an initiative to protect eagle-nesting habitat, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service purchased Schoppee Island lying off Roque Bluffs State Park. MCHT acquired the 17-acre island through a bargain sale before reselling it to Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge.

MCHT continued to provide strong support to Maine's land trust community in 2000. Several new trusts formed, bringing the total number of local land trusts in Maine to a record 88. MCHT provided trusts with direct assistance, and hosted workshops and a strategic planning retreat for the Maine Land Trust Network. A successful grant request to the national Land Trust Alliance will help the network address four areas it identified as priorities: membership development, stewardship, conservation planning and moving beyond the donated conservation easement.

AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE

MCHT received two awards in 2000. The Maine Public Relations Council presented their prestigious Golden Arrow Award for the Trust's newsletter *Island Landscapes*. Governor Angus King also honored the Trust with the Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence acknowledging its stewardship of Maine's coast.



LAND HERITAGE AWARD

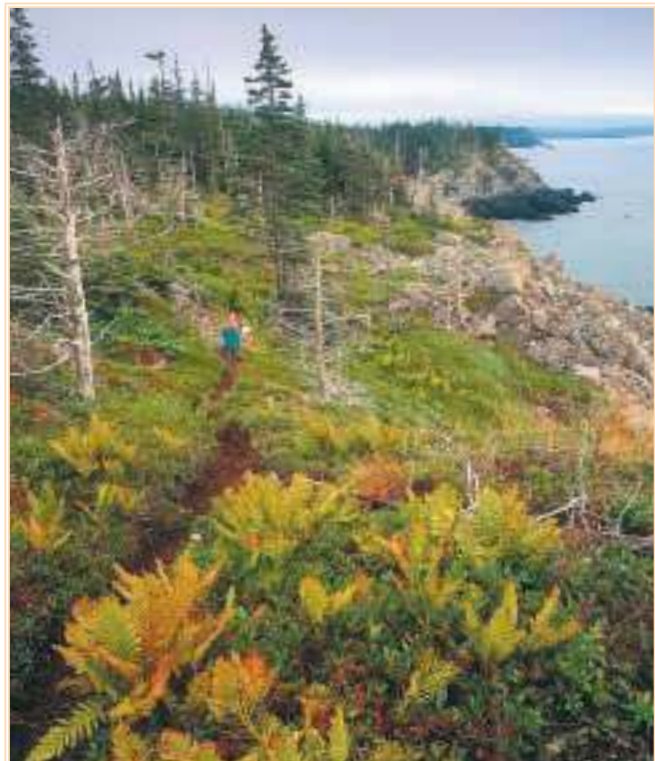


MCHT's 2000 Land Heritage Award recognizes the conservation achievements of Adelaide and Jotham (Joe) Trafton of Topsham. Following an easement gift protecting 7 acres along Merrymeeting Bay, Adelaide restored

an adjoining peninsula by purchasing the land and removing a prominent house. Within a year, bald eagles had returned to nest on the site. Meanwhile Joe purchased and conserved a 726-acre peninsula in Newcastle (see #14). MCHT acknowledges the Traftons for their passionate dedication to preserve the places they cherish.

MCHT assumed stewardship responsibilities for ten new properties in 2000 – eight of them involving coastal islands – through six preserves and four conservation easements. On many of its newer preserves – such as Aldermere Farm, Hamilton Cove and Seal Bay – MCHT conducted site conservation planning. By gathering information and meeting with stakeholders, the Trust developed goals and assessed threats to each property, and determined actions to take. Stewardship staff held public meetings to inform the local community of management plans.

Following major blowdowns at several preserves, friends and neighbors turned out to help clear trails. At Castine’s Witherle Woods Preserve, the extent of dead and diseased trees prompted the Trust to prepare a professional forest management plan. MCHT is now working with the community to determine how best to implement that plan. MCHT also completed a resource inventory and trail cleanup on Frenchboro, its largest island preserve.



MCHT’s Bold Coast preserves afford visitors miles of wild shoreline trails.



Belted Galloway cattle will remain a primary part of the farm landscape under MCHT’s new management plan for Aldermere Farm.

MCHT had solid success in its first full year operating Aldermere Farm. Bringing an entrepreneurial spirit to marketing cattle and hay, the Trust generated revenues to supplement the endowment – ending the year on a strong financial note.

MCHT conducted extensive research in developing a management plan for Aldermere Farm, visiting “public farms” throughout the Northeast and interviewing conservation and agricultural professionals. A series of public meetings – involving town officials and interested local residents – generated additional input into the planning process.

The herd at Aldermere continues to earn top awards at agricultural fairs. The farm itself received the Premier Breeder Award at the Eastern States Exposition in Springfield, Massachusetts.



MCHT staff exhibit Aldermere’s champion herd at the Fryeburg Fair.

GIFTS OF PLACE

Many Trust supporters find that their deepening attachment to the land inspires them to make enduring gifts. Jonathan Stein, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire and Somesville, Maine, first worked with MCHT in 1992 to place an easement on land that he and his sister, Judith Goldstein, own along Somes Pond. Gradually, Stein came to realize that many places he cherished on Mount Desert Island were privately held and vulnerable to development. One particular favorite, an open meadow along Seawall Road in Manset, affords views toward the Eastern Way that – Stein says – “make my heart skip a beat. I’ve taken enormous pleasure from that spot, and wanted others to share in that joy.”



STANLEY MACDONALD



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Donor Jonathan Stein helped MCHT acquire Manset Fields.

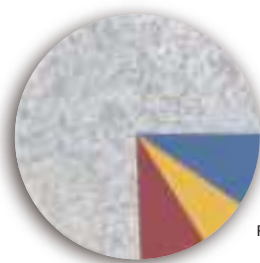
When Stein learned that MCHT was negotiating to purchase Manset Fields (see #30), he made a major gift toward the acquisition. “The great joy,” he says, “is knowing that Manset Fields always will be there.”

Seeing that gift as a “down payment” on a larger contribution to conservation, Stein set up a substantial bequest to benefit MCHT in the future. “The older I get,” he reflects, “the more I realize we must take affirmative steps to ensure that these wonderful treasures are protected.”

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Operating Budget Statement

	2000 Actual	2001 Budget
PROGRAM REVENUES		
Unrestricted Contributions	\$732,630	\$800,000
Restricted Contributions/Grants	121,603	118,300
Investment Income used for Operations	644,999	734,070
Other Revenue	33,628	30,500
Restricted Revenue, Prior Years	103,113	80,059
Restricted Revenue, Future Years	(25,000)	0
Totals	\$1,610,973	\$1,762,929



LAND PROTECTION 73%

STEWARDSHIP 11%

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH 7%

FUNDRAISING 9%

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Land Protection 73%	\$1,162,615	\$1,256,777
Stewardship 11%	178,263	213,250
Public Education and Outreach 7%	117,918	158,869
Fundraising 9%	140,899	134,033
Totals	\$1,599,695	\$1,762,929
Net Surplus	\$ 11,278	\$ 0

Notes on Financial Information

Maine Coast Heritage Trust is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined in Section 170(b)(1)(A)(vi) and not a private foundation under Section 509(a). Contributions are tax-deductible I.R.S. # 23-7099105.

Audited financial statements and opinion letter for 2000 were prepared by Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, CPAs, Bangor, Maine. Copies available upon request.

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FOUNDERS

Thomas D. Cabot (1897-1995)
Margaret M. Rockefeller (1915-1996)

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

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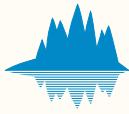
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