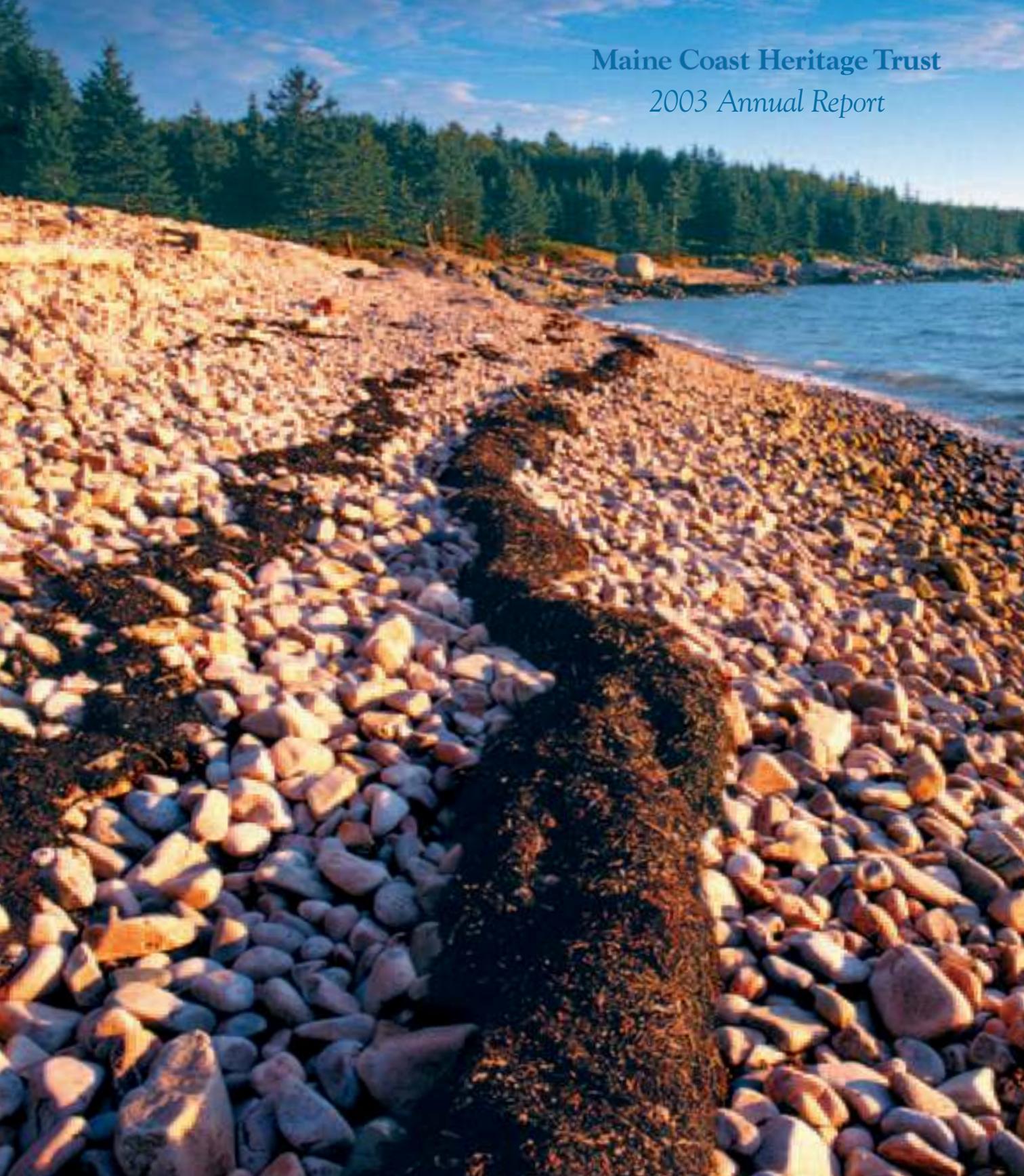
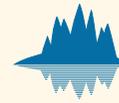


Maine Coast Heritage Trust
2003 Annual Report





Maine Coast Heritage Trust

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, MCHT has helped to protect more than 117,000 acres including valuable wildlife habitat, farm and forest land and 241 entire coastal 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.

Main Office

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Somesville Office

P.O. Box 669 • Mount Desert, ME 04660 • 207-244-5100

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www.mcht.org



On the cover:
Marshall Island
© Sara Gray

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Administrative Assistant, Topsham

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Secretary

Ronald Howard
General Manager

Carole Mathews
Program Coordinator

Travis C. Vincent
Farm Worker

Andy Weaber
Herdsman



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

2003
Annual Report

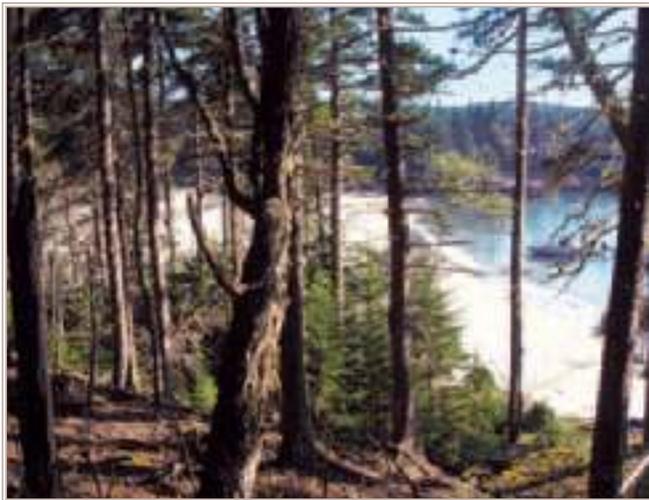


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PRESIDENT'S AND CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Over the course of 2003, Maine Coast Heritage Trust completed one of the most ambitious projects in its history with the conservation of 981-acre Marshall Island. This singular achievement and the many other accomplishments cited in this report reflect a groundswell of support for land conservation—evident in the generous gifts made to our Campaign for the Coast, the popularity of the Land for Maine's Future Program, and the growing public recognition that land conservation is essential to our quality of life. As long-time Swans Island resident Nancy Carter observed at an MCHT press conference, places like Marshall Island and Mill Pond Park (on Swans Island) “are a great thing now, but 30 to 50 years from now they will be treasures.”

Future generations will indeed look back with wonder at this extraordinary period of land protection. At no time in Maine's history has more conservation been accomplished than in the last five years. Alongside the important work that MCHT is doing on Maine's coast, a wide variety of groups are working to protect major forested tracts in



Ambitious protection projects like Marshall Island could not be achieved without broad-based support for land conservation.

Maine's interior. The value of these ambitious conservation efforts, already great today, will only magnify with time.

OUR SHARED NATURAL TREASURES

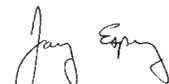


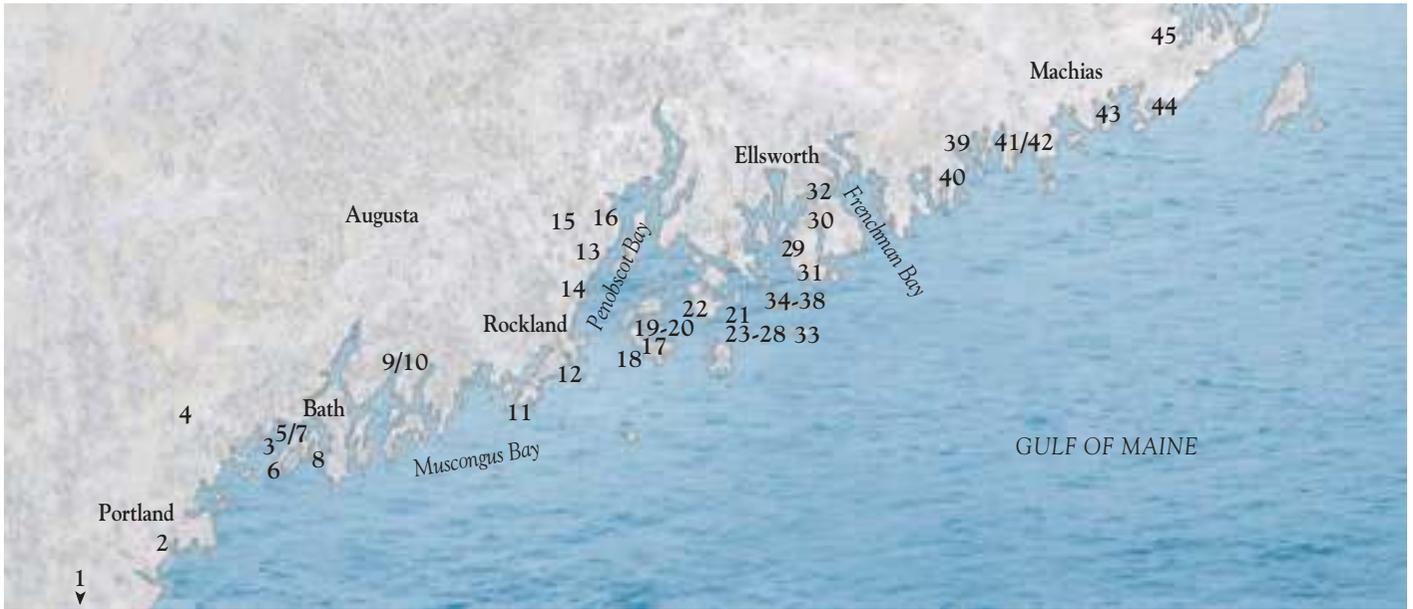
The value of spectacular settings like newly protected Eastern Knubble (foreground), off Cutler, will only increase in generations to come.

Few visitors to Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park can fail to appreciate the foresight and generous spirit of those who worked hard—generations ago—to secure these natural gems for the public benefit. Maine's earliest conservationists knew that these spectacular settings would become Maine's defining places—nourishing our souls, feeding our economy, and helping to sustain the health of our natural ecosystems.

Today the land conservation movement has spread well beyond a few visionary individuals. Scores of devoted landowners, public officials, land trust volunteers and other conservationists are doing the hard work necessary to protect Maine's natural and cultural legacy. Our efforts at MCHT have benefited from this collective commitment, and from the tremendous support of our members. We are deeply indebted to all who are working to preserve our shared natural treasures.


Richard G. Rockefeller, M.D.
Chairman


Jay Espy
President



YEAR IN REVIEW

Summary of 2003 Conservation Projects

	Projects	Acres	Shorefront Miles
Gifts of conservation easements	17	1161.1	7.5
Gifts of land	4	24.9	1.5
Purchases of land	21	2605.1	16.2
Purchases of easements	3	477.0	4.3
Total	45	4,268.1	29.5



Conservation professionals plan for “whole place” protection along the upper York River.

SOUTHERN COAST

1 York

With assistance from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, York Land Trust acquired a conservation easement on 24 acres overlooking the upper York River. The conserved forests and marshlands lie in a focus area of the Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative, a regional project supported by MCHT and nine other conservation groups.

2 Scarborough

A partnership effort enabled the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife to secure 37 acres of prime wetland and upland habitat adjoining Scarborough Marsh, Maine’s largest saltwater marsh. MCHT loaned funds to launch the project and helped the US Fish & Wildlife Service Gulf of Maine Program and the Scarborough Land Trust draft the necessary funding proposals.

3 Freeport

MCHT helped the Freeport Conservation Trust (FCT) protect Pettengill Island, a 9-acre haven for ospreys, heron, shorebirds and waterfowl off Flying Point. The landowner generously donated a “forever wild” easement to FCT, with the Casco Bay Estuary Project helping to cover project costs.

SOUTHERN COAST

4 Pownal

Maine Coast Heritage Trust helped Pownal Land Trust acquire a property along a 7-mile planned greenway linking Bradbury Mountain State Park and the Pineland Center. The former landowner generously offered his parcel at a price substantially below its appraised value.

5 Brunswick

The Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT) protected a wooded, 28-acre parcel on Middle Bay Cove, a productive and vulnerable water body. MCHT helped to initiate this project in which the former landowner sold an easement for less than appraised value to BTLT.



Support from MCHT helped Harpswell Heritage Land Trust conserve an open field on Bailey Island.

6 Harpswell

MCHT transferred ownership of Flag Island to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, completing a project begun two years before. In partnership with six other organizations and agencies, MCHT had purchased this 26-acre island on the open market to protect the 600 pairs of eider ducks that nest there.

7 Harpswell

With funds from its Campaign for the Coast, MCHT supported two land acquisitions made by Harpswell Heritage Land Trust. The local land trust now owns and manages 19-acre Skolfield Shores Preserve on Middle Bay Cove and a 4-acre field with a well-known vista overlooking Mackerel Cove.

MIDCOAST



An easement on 28 acres bordering Middle Bay Cove in Brunswick allows for a future shoreline trail.

8 Phippsburg

Owners of Bear Island off Sebasco generously donated a conservation easement to Maine Coast Heritage Trust that will keep the southern half of their 102-acre island completely undeveloped, protecting an active bald eagle nest there. Bear lies next to Malaga Island, which the Trust owns.

9/10 Newcastle

With help from MCHT, the Land for Maine's Future Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council and other partners, the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association secured two wooded parcels totaling 52 acres along the Marsh River. The properties lie in a wildlife-rich region near 925 acres of conserved land.



Two projects completed in 2003 advanced efforts to protect wildlife-rich wetlands along the Marsh River in Newcastle.

11 St. George

Hart Island, an open, 13-acre island off Port Clyde, supports nesting populations of eider ducks and other seabirds. Maine Coast Heritage Trust moved quickly to acquire the island and transfer it to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to be maintained as a preserve.

12 St. George

Longtime owners of 44-acre Norton Island, off Spruce Head, generously offered MCHT a conservation easement that will keep this beautiful island in its undeveloped state. Norton lies next to Whitehead Island, on which the Trust holds an easement.



CHRISTINA EPPERSON

An easement donated to MCHT protects the entirety of Norton Island, an undeveloped 44-acre island off Spruce Head.

13 Rockport

With funding support from the Land for Maine's Future Program, MCHT transferred Beech Hill to Coastal Mountains Land Trust for long-term management as a community preserve. MCHT retained a conservation easement on this prominent, 295-acre property which offers spectacular views of the countryside from its open summit.

14 Rockport

A conservation easement to MCHT prevents future subdivision and construction of major structures on the open lands and woods of a 61-acre golf course overlooking Penobscot Bay. The newly protected property lies across the road from MCHT's Aldermere Farm.

15 Lincolnville

As an added layer of protection for its Ducktrap River holdings, Coastal Mountains Land Trust donated an easement to MCHT that limits future building to preserve-related structures. The 568 acres held under easement help to buffer the Ducktrap, one of only eight Maine rivers that still supports a run of wild Atlantic salmon.

16 Northport

Area residents can now enjoy a wooded community preserve near Penobscot Bay, thanks to the generosity of the land's former owners, who donated their 71-acre property for lasting conservation. MCHT helped arrange transfer of the property to Coastal Mountains Land Trust, while retaining a conservation easement on the land.



IAN STEWART

A generous land gift created a new 71-acre preserve in Northport where an historic observation tower sits atop Mount Percival.



MCHT

MCHT completed several projects in 2003 that will help to maintain the pristine natural quality of the Winter Harbor shoreline on Vinalhaven .

17 Vinalhaven

An easement gift to Maine Coast Heritage Trust conserves 80 acres of land that buffers Vinalhaven’s water supply and contributes to “whole place” protection efforts around The Basin. The property is now owned by Vinalhaven Land Trust which will manage an established trail system enjoyed by community residents.



MCHT

MCHT helped protect traditional access to Winter Harbor through the creation of the Carrying Place Bridge Preserve.

18 Vinalhaven

MCHT transferred 5-acre Little White Island to Vinalhaven Land Trust, while retaining a conservation easement as a backup layer of protection. VLT will assume long-term stewardship responsibility for the granite-rimmed island.

19/20 Vinalhaven

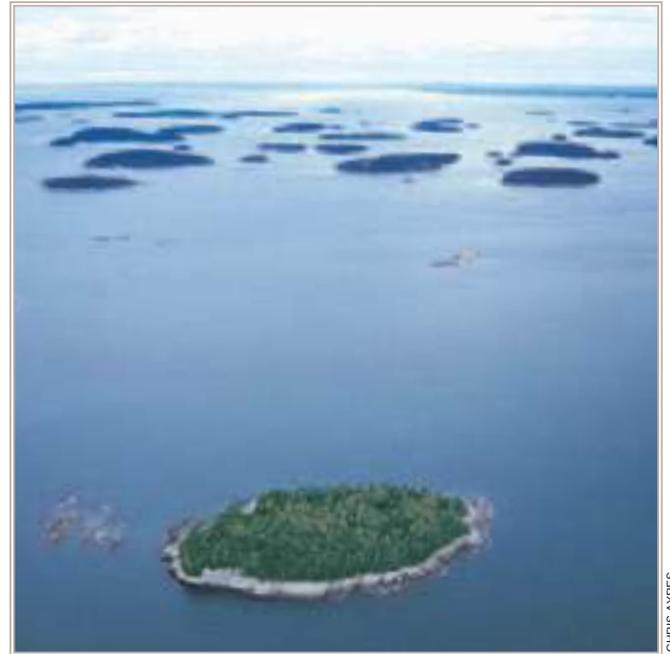
To complete protection of a peninsula overlooking Winter Harbor, MCHT acquired a prominent 5-acre parcel on Seal Bay, adding to the “whole place” conservation effort there. The Trust will resell the land to a private conservation buyer, subject to easement restrictions, after it removes a substantial house foundation near the shore that detracts from the setting’s natural beauty.

21 Stonington

Eastern Mark Island, a prominent landmark at the edge of Merchants Row, contains the only great blue heron rookery currently active in the Penobscot Bay region. MCHT acquired this attractive 14-acre island and will allow daytime use of it outside nesting season.

22 Stonington

Owners of two barred islands generously donated their interests in the 4-acre property to MCHT. The grassy and ledgy knolls lie close to several other conserved properties.



CHRIS AYRES

MCHT’s acquisition of Eastern Mark Island helps to enhance the scenic and ecological value of the legendary Merchant’s Row archipelago.

23-28 Marshall Island

Through several purchases, Maine Coast Heritage Trust secured title to the entirety of 981-acre Marshall Island. The Trust sought to protect Marshall for decades but the property remained out of reach due to its size and development potential. That situation finally changed in 2003, thanks to willing sellers and generous contributions to the project from Campaign for the Coast donors and the State's Land for Maine's Future Program. While the acquisitions are now completed, fundraising for the project continues.

Marshall, with seven miles of shoreline and two fine sand beaches, has lured generations of boaters from East Penobscot Bay, Deer Isle, Blue Hill Bay, Swans Island and the Mt. Desert region. The Trust is currently planning a trail system that will open up footpaths through the island's extensive woodlands. A few small parcels, protected with conservation restrictions, do permit limited use by the former owners. Following their tenancy, those parcels will revert to MCHT and become accessible to the public.



MCHT completed several acquisitions in 2003 that protected all of Marshall Island—a popular destination for boaters from more than three surrounding counties.

29 Tremont

Maine Coast Heritage Trust received an easement gift protecting 57 acres and more than 1,700 feet of shoreline overlooking Blue Hill Bay and Tinker Island (half of which the Trust owns). The wooded land, with a crescent-shaped cobble beach, adjoins another conserved parcel on Dodge Point and includes a small, seabird-nesting island that will remain forever wild.

30 Mount Desert

A landowner generously donated to MCHT a small but important parcel on Babson Creek that protects the rural character of an important gateway to historic Somesville. The shorefront parcel, with mature pine and spruce, buffers the creek from nearby development and offers shore access.

A property donated to MCHT will protect the integrity of Babson Creek.



31 Tremont

Owners of a 19-acre property, first placed under easement to Acadia National Park in 1973, tightened existing restrictions before selling some of their scenic shorefront land on Lopaus Point. MCHT assisted them in strengthening the easement and held the new easement restrictions temporarily before transferring them to the Park.



An easement donated by will to MCHT protects shoreline along eastern Blue Hill Bay and a small seabird nesting island.

32 Bar Harbor

Two years after acquiring South Twinnie Island, MCHT transferred the property to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Petit Manan National Wildlife Refuge. The Trust had purchased the wooded, 3-acre island with an active bald eagle nest to hold until the Refuge could assume ownership.

33 Frenchboro

To ensure its permanent protection, the owner of a 10-acre island off Lunt Harbor donated his property to Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Crow Island, a popular roosting area for bald eagles, enhances the scenic and ecological values of the Trust's 914-acre preserve on neighboring Frenchboro Island.



The gift to MCHT of Crow Island benefits the Trust's nearby Frenchboro Preserve.

34/35 Swans Island

Owners of an undeveloped waterfront tract where local residents enjoy walking and picnicking donated ten acres of their land to MCHT so that this longstanding community tradition could continue. The Trust retained a conservation easement on the property before transferring title to the Town of Swans Island so that it could expand its preserve at High Head.



Community members on Swans Island can now enjoy access to a beautiful waterfront park, thanks to help from MCHT and the Land for Maine's Future Program.

36 Swans Island

When an opportunity arose to acquire a 10-acre waterfront park site, community residents sought help from MCHT to secure the purchase option and to seek a Land for Maine's Future Program grant. More than 330 islanders contributed funds to help the Town buy Mill Pond Park, which offers a picnic area, children's playground, and boat launch on Burnt Coat Harbor.

37 Swans Island

The owner of a 10-acre parcel on Stanley Point donated a conservation easement to Acadia National Park that protects much of a small, undeveloped peninsula. MCHT helped negotiate the easement which conserves a prominent stretch of scenic shoreline at the entrance to Burnt Coat Harbor.

38 Swans Island

An easement given to MCHT protects 176 acres on West Point that includes a beautiful beach and freshwater marsh. The easement extinguishes all building rights and limits tree-cutting, protecting the high scenic and ecological values of this unspoiled shorefront tract.

39 Harrington

Maine Coast Heritage Trust transferred to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife a 22-acre peninsula that it had preacquired for the agency. The undeveloped, wooded point along the Mill River protects prime wading bird and waterfowl habitat.

40 Milbridge

A conservation easement donated to MCHT protects nearly a mile of shore frontage on Monhonon Cove and Narraguagus Bay. The easement prevents subdivision, new structures, and commercial forestry on a 35-acre shorefront parcel with a cobble beach.



Some of the most valuable waterfowl habitat on Crowley Island in Addison was protected in 2003 with the completion of two bargain purchases.

41/42 Addison

Lying between the West and Indian rivers northwest of Jonesport, Crowley Island is a 700-acre natural oasis that supports numerous shorebirds and migratory waterfowl. The Pleasant River Wildlife Foundation, with help from MCHT and the Land for Maine's Future Program, acquired 293 acres through two bargain sale purchases that it will manage as wildlife habitat.

43 Machiasport

MCHT now holds an easement protecting 425 acres with 4 miles of forested shoreline on Little Kennebec Bay, including almost the entire shoreline of Mill Pond. The unbroken shorefront and extensive tidal flats provide valuable habitat for thousands of ducks and hundreds of sandpipers.



MCHT worked with a dedicated landowner to secure the scenic and ecological values of a remarkably unspoiled 4-mile stretch of Machiasport coastline.

44 Cutler

A bargain sale purchase enabled MCHT to acquire Eastern Knubble, a 30-acre promontory (including Laura Day Island) that marks the eastern entrance to Cutler Harbor. Before reselling the land to a private conservation buyer, the Trust will restrict this property with a conservation easement that protects the unbroken shoreline – which lies just across the harbor from MCHT's Western Head Preserve.



MCHT's Western Head Preserve (foreground) and the newly conserved Eastern Knubble (background) form the natural gateways to Cutler Harbor.

45 Edmunds

With help from MCHT's Revolving Loan Fund, the New England Forestry Foundation secured 1,144 acres along the boundary of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Edmunds and Calais. This prime wetland habitat is slated to become part of the Refuge.

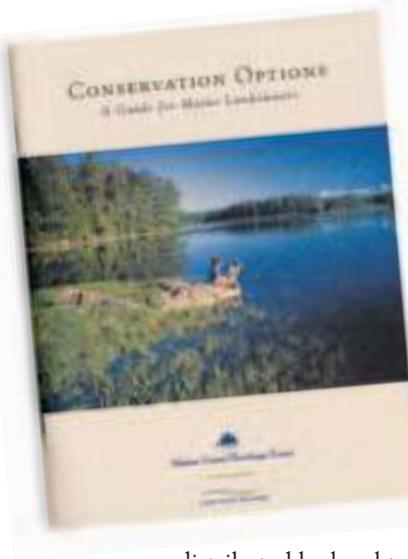
The Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN), which works to enhance the capacity of Maine's 95 local trusts, provided an array of training opportunities in 2003. The annual Land Conservation Conference in May drew more than 350 people, who heard a thought-provoking keynote address by Maine Rivers Director Naomi Schalit, urging land trusts to better publicize their properties.

In August and September, more than one hundred MLTN members and Maine attorneys participated in two specialized workshops on "Limited Liability Companies as a Conservation Tool" and on organizational law, easement development and stewardship practices. MLTN also sponsored six regional meetings to encourage peer exchange and coordination among those engaged in local land trust work. Another round of regional meetings assessed current and future land trust challenges and discussed ways that they might be addressed. Initial responses at these meetings (which continued into 2004) point to needs for greater public awareness of conservation and land trust organizations, stronger community ties, greater collaboration among land trusts, new conservation tools and fundraising approaches, and strategies for providing public access without degrading conserved lands or visitors' experiences. Results of these

meetings will feed into an upcoming strategic planning process that MCHT and MLTN are undertaking in 2004.

MCHT revised and reissued its popular handbook *Conservation Options, A Guide for Maine Landowners*, which is

distributed by local trusts and is now on-line at <http://www.mcht.org/options/index.html>.



Maine Coast Heritage Trust served as a stakeholder to the Governor's Task Force on Marine Aquaculture, working to assure that the Task Force considered potential impacts of aquaculture on conserved lands. The Trust completed an internal policy document as background for those deliberations. MCHT also helped form a broad-based coalition supporting renewed funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program. All funds from the 1999 Bond have been committed and the Maine Legislature needs to approve any future funding proposal before it is voted on by the public.

LAND HERITAGE AWARD



At 6,100 acres, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance's Kennebec Highlands Project represents the largest contiguous tract of conserved land in central Maine.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust presented its annual Land Heritage Award to Jane Eberle and Denny Phillips, dedicated board members of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. These "volunteers extraordinaire" orchestrated the protection of the ambitious 6,100-acre Kennebec Highlands Project. Over the past decade, Denny and Jane led efforts to conserve 29 parcels—with their complementary skills and energy giving direction and momentum to planning, acquisition and fundraising

efforts (which included raising \$1 million in local match for two successful Land for Maine's Future grants).

"Denny and Jane have poured heart and soul into this effort," observes MCHT President Jay Espy. "Not only have they succeeded in protecting a remarkable natural preserve spanning six towns and seven watersheds, but they've enriched local communities in the process—supporting civic groups, educating landowners, and promoting public access. Their far-reaching vision and unflinching dedication are an inspiration to us all."

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship staff began work to establish the Ed Woodsum Preserve on Marshall Island—creating the first part of a new trail, completing a natural resource inventory, and removing dilapidated camps and structures near Sand Cove.

Following meetings with stakeholders, staff drafted management plans for Manset Fields and Whaleboat Island, two properties acquired in 2002. MCHT had a caretaker visit Whaleboat Island during the 2003 summer season to monitor use, pick up trash and complete a visitor survey (which indicated relatively low levels of use). As part of providing Land for Maine's Future funds for Whaleboat and Tinker Island, the State commissioned archaeological surveys of both islands. The surveys found numerous prehistoric and historic sites that reveal clues about the islands' early uses.

Through easements, fee ownership and leases, MCHT took on stewardship responsibility for 29 new easements and fee properties in 2003. Stewardship staff now monitor 125 easements each year.



Local students helped MCHT plant native shrubs that will improve wildlife habitat at the Witherle Woods Preserve.

Community volunteers played a key role in helping the Trust reduce fire hazards and improve wildlife habitat at the Witherle Woods preserve—clearing dead wood and planting trees and shrubs beneficial to wildlife. School children, Maine Maritime Academy students, area residents, Landmarks volunteers, and Maine Conservation Corps members all helped with the project, which received funding support from the Boston Foundation.

With the purchase of a 22-foot SISU work boat, stewardship staff will be better able to monitor and manage Trust preserves in the Mt. Desert region (such as Frenchboro, Tinker, and Marshall islands).

ALDERMERE FARM

Community members, half of whom were young people, spent more than 6,000 hours engaged in volunteer and community service work at Aldermere Farm in 2003.

Volunteers staffed the Visitor Center six days a week during the summer months, and joined in launching a small-scale maple sugaring operation in

early spring (with equipment funded through an MBNA conservation grant). Dedicated friends of the farm helped solicit funds and helped restore the Aldermere buildings and gardens. More than 1,000 people came in July to admire the handiwork of dedicated master gardeners as part of the Camden Garden Club's annual "Open House and Garden Tour" day. Club members were sufficiently impressed that they asked the Farm to become the annual headquarters site for the tour.

The farm launched a 4-H club whose members helped care for a cow and show it at several agricultural fairs. It also held its first "Summerscape" program, in which two local teachers engaged 6- to 8-year olds in activities to strengthen their connections to each other and the natural world. The popular "Cow Whisperers" program grew into a "Farmhands" Program, in which eighteen young people worked four hours a week for eight weeks on the farm, combining farm chores with studies of art, the environment and agriculture.



Members of Aldermere's new 4-H Club prepare cattle for a show.

The third annual Aldermere Art Show, held in August, displayed the work of 30 regional artists and netted more than \$3,000 to support farm operations and programs.

Volunteer "Master Gardeners" helped to create and restore many beautiful gardens on the Farm.

GIFTS THROUGH TIME

Louisa Conrad spent time in her youth on Bartlett's Island off Mount Desert Island (MDI) and came, in her brother Sam Vaughan's words, "to appreciate deeply the beauty of the mountains meeting the sea." By the time she was grown and married, she longed to return to MDI and bought with her husband Al a small property overlooking Somes Sound. They also spent time cruising the coast of Maine, enjoying the wonderful diversity of islands and coves along its serpentine shores.

COURTESY OF SAM VAUGHAN

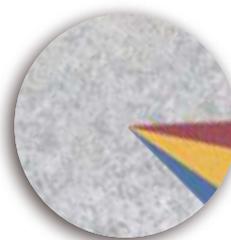


A deep affinity for Maine's coast, particularly Mount Desert Island, motivated Louisa and Al Conrad to make a lasting gift to Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

"Louisa and Al considered the coast of Maine one of the most remarkable places on this Earth," reflects Sam Vaughan, "and they felt that they should do some small thing to help preserve it." The Conrads decided to create a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT), a planned giving tool that puts an appreciated asset to work – ultimately benefiting both the owners and a chosen charity (in this case Maine Coast Heritage Trust). The Conrads funded their CRT through the sale of another property which was not subject to capital gains so all sale proceeds could be invested—providing a lifelong income stream for the Conrads as the CRT's primary beneficiaries. When Louisa Conrad, the second CRT beneficiary, passed on in 2003, all the remaining CRT funds came to Maine Coast Heritage Trust. MCHT is grateful for the Conrads' remarkably generous and foresighted gift, which will help support the Trust's land protection work along the length of Maine's coast.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

PROGRAM REVENUES	2003 Actual
Campaign Donations*	\$ 6,963,811
Unrestricted Contributions	967,739
Restricted Contributions/Grants	818,693
Investment Income used for Operations	842,896
Other Revenue	67,717
Restricted Revenue, Prior Years	56,374
Board Designated Revenue, Future Years	(31,689)
Totals	\$ 9,685,541



PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Land Protection 86%	\$ 4,533,670
Stewardship 5%	257,906
Public Education and Outreach 6%	318,922
Fundraising 3%	182,466
Totals	\$ 5,292,964

Net Surplus

Donor Restricted for Campaign for the Coast	\$ 4,392,577
Less outstanding commitments for land acquisitions at year end	(\$ 328,000)
Balance - Donor Restricted for Campaign for the Coast	\$ 4,064,577

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 2003 were prepared by Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker, CPAs, Bangor, Maine. Copies available upon request.

* Under Generally Accepted Accounting Practices (GAAP), revenue includes contributions pledged but not paid as of year end. This schedule reflects actual contributions received in the year 2003. It does not include outstanding pledges or values of gifts of land.

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Margaret M. Rockefeller (1915-1996)

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

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