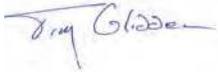


FROM THE PRESIDENT

THANK YOU FOR 50 YEARS



Tim Glidden



As it was told to me, Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s origin story goes something like this: on a summer evening in the late 1960s, on an island off the coast of Maine, Peggy Rockefeller walked into her friend’s camp and said, “Mary, we’ve got to do something!”

An avid sailor, Peggy had a front-row seat to the rapid and unplanned development transforming Maine’s coastline, and she loved this place too much to let that happen. In 1970, together with Tom Cabot, she co-founded the nonprofit conservation organization Maine Coast Heritage Trust to forever protect coastal lands of extraordinary value and beauty. In other words: to keep the coast Maine.

Since that time, MCHT has grown from a small cohort of volunteer board members to a community of thousands, each with their own unique story of connection to the coast and dedication to its protection.

As the Maine coast evolved over time, MCHT evolved with it—conserving land to keep the coast beautiful, but also healthy, working, and open to the public. Time and time again, MCHT served as a powerful catalyst for conservation, bolstering other land trusts, and playing a supporting or leading role in some of the most significant land conservation efforts in the state of Maine.

The impact of this work, some of which is highlighted in this newsletter (see timeline on inside flap), is staggering, and all of it has been made possible through generosity—of donors, volunteers, advocates—and a spirit of partnership. Thank you to all who have been a part of this 50-year journey.

The refrain, “We’ve got to do something,” is as true now as it’s ever been. In the face of a rapidly changing climate, conserving our natural lands and systems is becoming even more important. Expansive forests, connected rivers, and protected salt marshes: these are key to making the Maine coast more resilient in the decades to come. With you at our side, MCHT is doing critical work to keep the coast Maine.

Thank you again for being a part of Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the ongoing effort to keep the coast beautiful, healthy, working, and open.

MCHT’s founders are pictured on the cover of this issue. Peggy Rockefeller appears in the top left-hand corner and Tom Cabot appears in the top right-hand corner.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF LEADERSHIP

What follows are some of Maine Coast Heritage Trust's milestones since our founding in 1970. To learn more, visit mcht.org/stories/Celebrating-50-Years-of-Leadership.



MCHT Photo

Facilitated the protection of 30 islands in first year.

MCHT's founders Peggy Rockefeller and Tom Cabot partnered with Acadia National Park to conserve islands in the Mount Desert Island region using a then-underutilized tool called a conservation easement, a voluntary land conservation agreement with private landowners.

Established the Maine Land Conservation Conference

MCHT has helped dozens of land trusts form since the late 1970s, and continues to provide support and services to the state's land trust community—including hosting an annual conference, now in its 37th year.

Helped form the state's Land for Maine's Future Program

This program, which allocates state funding for land conservation, has conserved more than 150 special places and created public preserves in all of Maine's 16 counties.



Melissa Lee

Established a land stewardship program

With a growing portfolio of lands to care for, MCHT hired its first land steward. Today, MCHT has a staff of 16 year-round and over 10 seasonal staff, caring for and monitoring over 37,000 acres of conserved land, including more than 140 preserves. (And that original hire, Jane Arbuckle, is the program's director!)



© Sara Gray

Conserved Marshall Island

One of the largest undeveloped islands on America's eastern seaboard was conserved through the Campaign for the Coast, a fundraising effort that began in 2000 and concluded in 2006. Donors conserved 15,000 acres, including 125 miles of shoreline and 56 islands.

Conserved the Goslings Islands

Beloved islands in Casco Bay were conserved through a comprehensive Campaign that began in 2014. Through this Campaign donors also conserved Woodward Point in Brunswick, Monroe Island in Owls Head, and realized nearly 200 more conservation projects up and down the coast.

1970 1981 1983 1985 1987 1988 1996 1999 2003 2005 2014 2016

Helped form the nation's leading land conservation advocacy group

To support the nation's burgeoning land trust movement, MCHT worked with three other land trusts to form what is now the Washington D.C.-based Land Trust Alliance.



© Jerry Monkman

Created first preserve

In addition to protecting land through conservation easements, MCHT began acquiring lands to own and manage as public preserves, beginning with the Witherle Woods Preserve in Castine.

Began effort to conserve the Bold Coast

Maine's world-class Bold Coast spanning from Cutler to Lubec was under threat of development, and MCHT led the charge to protect the best of it, creating extraordinary preserves and assisting in the creation of the state's Cutler Coast Unit of public lands.



© Sara Gray

First outdoor youth program commenced

MCHT runs programs and collaborates with community partners to educate and connect people to the land, now reaching over 3,000 every year. It all began with the Lubec Outing Club, still in operation today.

Prioritized community conservation in strategic plan

Recognizing the unique strengths and needs of every coastal community, MCHT emphasized working in partnership with towns, schools, and others to protect and care for land to maximize local benefit.



MCHT Photo

Launched initiatives to make the coast more resilient to climate change

The Marshes for Tomorrow Initiative (launched in 2014) aims to protect Maine's essential salt marshes and the Rivers Initiative (launched in 2016) aims to reconnect coastal rivers to the sea and restore fish passage to shore up Maine's coastal ecosystems in the decades to come.



DAYS TO GO IN THE LARGEST COASTAL CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN IN MAINE'S HISTORY

© Bridget Besaw

The Goslings Islands, conserved through the Campaign in 2014.

Limited public access to the coast, a changing climate, and loss of beloved lands: these threats to the coast inspired Maine Coast Heritage Trust's \$125 million Campaign to keep the coast open, healthy, working, and beautiful into the future. Since 2014, every donation to Maine Coast Heritage Trust has been in support of this effort. Over 7,000 have contributed. Through their generosity, kids in Machias got to keep their local sliding hill, clambers can get to work in the flats at Woodward Point in Brunswick, and Owls Head's Monroe Island is now a public preserve with trails and campsites.

These are just three examples of the nearly 200 projects the Campaign has made possible so far. And here are some more stats: over 11,000 acres conserved (twice the

size of Camden Hills State Park), including over 50 miles of shoreline (the distance from Portland to Damariscotta).

The fundraising goal—and all it will make possible for the coast—has not yet been realized. To encourage others to give, the Bass Family generously donated \$10 million to the effort, and offered to match every \$3 donated with an additional \$1. At the time this newsletter went to press, more than 4,000 people had taken advantage of the match. There's still time to take advantage of the match and to be a part of this historic Campaign, which concludes on December 31, 2019. 📍



CONSERVING THE STONE BARN FARM SPECIAL PROJECT



Rich Knox

Conservation of the Stone Barn Farm, including its two miles of trails, is likely to be one of the final projects of the Campaign (see above) that concludes at the end of 2019.

For over a century, Bar Harbor's iconic Stone Barn has been a welcome sight as travelers cross Mount Desert Island on the Crooked Road. Earlier this year, long-time landowner Harry Owen reached out to MCHT about selling the buildings and surrounding land, including two miles of hiking trails.

A minimum of \$2.5 million needs to be raised to cover the purchase price, stewardship costs, and anticipated programming. "We expect to own the property before the end of the year," says Misha Mytar, MDI Project Manager. "Many have already pitched in, and we're so grateful, but we've yet to raise all of the money to care for the beloved barn and lands for the long haul." 📍

TO LEARN MORE AND MAKE A GIFT TO THE PROJECT, VISIT MCHT.ORG/STONE-BARN-FARM

IN BRIEF

A Special New Preserve

It may be small (just 17 acres) but Brooksville's Lookout Rock packs a big punch. A short walk up a stunning new staircase leads to extraordinary views of Penobscot Bay to the Camden Hills.



Monroe Island Gets an Upgrade



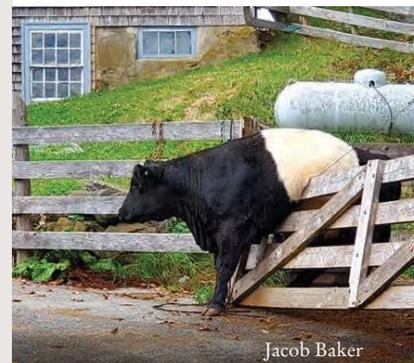
When you think of land stewardship, you might not think of heavy equipment and demolition. Sometimes, Amanda Devine does. The regional steward spent much of the summer hauling old equipment off the island and improving trails and campsites.

Maine Coast Sojourn: A Year Painting a Legacy of Land Conservation



“On the Maine coast, I can lose myself in the landscape. I feel a bond with nature that’s seldom possible in contemporary culture. And that’s largely because there are places on the coast that are open and undeveloped,” says Portland-based painter Timothy P. Wilson. In honor of MCHT’s 50th year, he is traveling to MCHT preserves up and down the coast. Cove Street Arts in Portland will exhibit his work in the fall of 2020 (stay tuned) and the gallery and artist will donate a percentage of sales from the works to support MCHT’s mission to keep the coast Maine.

Cows Keeping Things Interesting



Ever have one of those days? Don't worry: this Belted Galloway from Aldermere Farm was okay. She just got a little stuck on the way to visit her bud in a nearby pasture.

These are the highlights! To see expanded versions of all the stories, visit:

[MCHT.ORG/MAINEHERITAGE](https://mcht.org/MaineHeritage)



KEEP THE COAST *MAINE*

Everything you read about in this newsletter is possible thanks to the generous support of Maine Coast Heritage Trust donors like you.

You're creating more public access to the coast, protecting important wildlife habitat, connecting people to the land, and so much more. Thank you for being a part of MCHT and the ongoing effort to keep the coast Maine.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust
1 Bowdoin Mill Island, Suite 201
Topsham, Maine 04086

WHAT'S INSIDE:

MCHT
Turns 50

Conserving an
Iconic MDI Property

An Artist
Paints Preserves



NAME THAT PLACE

Some hints...

It's on the National Register of Historic Places

It's surrounded by 128 acres of land

Maine Coast Heritage Trust is now working to conserve it!

SEE INSIDE FOR MORE ABOUT THIS SPECIAL PROJECT

50
Years of
Leadership

Rich Knox