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Stories and Updates from the Coast

2023

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Cover Photo by Josh Ingram

Josh shares that his favorite MCHT preserve is Harriman Point in Brooklin. He writes, "Harriman Point becomes more interesting and beautiful to me every time I visit. It lures me in, wraps me up in this warm blanket of nature."

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READ ABOUT MORE FAVORITE PRESERVES ON PAGE 22, AND SHARE A STORY ABOUT YOURS AT [MCHT.ORG/TELL-US-YOUR-STORY](https://mcht.org/tell-us-your-story)

I hope you enjoy this collection of stories and updates about our work, the places we have the honor to conserve, and the partners and supporters who make it all possible.

This longer, more in-depth publication includes stories about our collaborative efforts to protect connected forests and wildlife habitat, recent projects to create permanent public coastal access for clambers and diggers, and our collaboration with partners to advance conservation while addressing issues of concern to communities up and down the coast.

Not surprisingly, many themes in this annual publication—namely, connection, access, and partnership—are also surfacing as clear priorities in the conversations we're having as we develop a new strategic plan.

This year, we've carved out time to step back, learn, reflect, and start planning for the years ahead. We're asking ourselves questions like: What are the challenges facing communities in Maine? How can we most effectively contribute to a healthy and vibrant Maine through our conservation efforts?

Grounded in research and ongoing input from people inside and outside the organization, goals are emerging around building climate change resilience, deepening connections with people we haven't reached yet, and leveraging Maine's robust network of land trusts and other partners to accelerate the pace and scale of conservation. We're having exciting and important conversations about what it will take to ready our organization to make the greatest impact possible in the years to come.

The stakes are high, the opportunities abound, and I look forward to working with you to build upon the tremendous impact we have achieved together over the past half-century. If you haven't already signed up to receive email updates from us, you can do so at [mcht.org/get-updates](https://mcht.org/get-updates). We'll keep you up to date on MCHT's strategic plan, events, conservation news and stories, and more.

As always, I'd love to hear from you; please share your thoughts and ideas with me at [president@mcht.org](mailto:president@mcht.org).



Thank you for giving to the lands and waters that give so much to us. With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Stookey'.

Kate Stookey  
*MCHT President and CEO*



# PROTECTING REGULAR PATCHES OF WOODS TO KEEP COMMON SPECIES COMMON



When you think of conservation lands in Maine, perhaps your mind first goes to iconic rocky coastlines or tidal rivers with saltmarsh sparrows perched amongst reeds and grasses. Landscapes with striking vistas that provide habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species.

Such extraordinary tracts of land do, indeed, make up a large portion of Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s holdings, as they are amongst the most ecologically rich and vulnerable to development. But as the compounding pressures of climate change and human development intensify the vulnerability of all lands—not just the seemingly most spectacular—our efforts to protect more mundane patches of open space have become ever more urgent, says Amanda Devine, MCHT’s Associate Director of Stewardship for Southern and Midcoast Maine. These easily overlooked lands provide habitat for species that we may take for granted as abundant today, but that won’t remain that way if we keep subdividing and paving over their habitat. “At a certain point, where are these animals going to live? Where are these plants going to live? We are taking away the homes of many, many creatures by virtue of the spread of humanity across the face of the earth,” Amanda says.

Already, common feeder birds like the White-throated Sparrow are showing signs of significant decline across North America, with populations plunging by as much as 30 percent over the last 50 years. As global climate continues to warm, species like these will need to move great distances to survive but will struggle to do so as development encroaches ever further on their habitat.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust is working to support these common species by strategically protecting and connecting large swathes of their habitat across the state so that individuals may easily travel between them. “In order for them to not be a sad recollection of what they used to be, these parcels need to be bigger and they need to be connected,” Amanda says.

In southernmost Maine, we are partnering with the Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative to protect 19,000 acres of open space from the Tatic Hills to Brave Boat Harbor and Gerrish Island on the southern coast of York County—a region with the state’s highest levels of biodiversity and some of the greatest threats of development. Further down the coast, we are working on our Schoodic to Schoodic Whole Place, a 55,000-acre stretch of conserved land that spans from the Schoodic Peninsula to Schoodic Mountain and provides habitat for sensitive mammals, wading birds and waterfowl. Still further east, we are working toward our goal of connecting the Cutler Coast Public Reserved Land with the bogs and marshes of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, home to more than 225 species of birds and a diversity of other wildlife.

By stringing together these expansive corridors, we are not only supporting Maine’s flora and fauna but, in some cases, also ensuring that humans may continue to have access to nature. Just beyond downtown Biddeford, we are working with the Maine Water Company on a project that could protect more than 250 acres that abut other undeveloped lands.

These strategic efforts to protect regular patches of woods across the state will help common species remain common while also protecting the benefits that nature has to offer us. During these times of heightened stressors, we all stand to benefit from the solace of open space—no matter how “regular” the land may seem. 🌍

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#### AUTHOR BIO

**Laura Poppick** is a science and environmental journalist based in Portland. She is at work on *Strata*, a book on Earth’s geologic history that will be published by W. W. Norton.



Photo: Bridget Besaw

Over the past several decades, MCHT has worked with numerous partners, including Frenchman Bay Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, and the State of Maine, to conserve key “stepping stones” of forest from the Schoodic peninsula inland to Schoodic Mountain and beyond to the North Woods, establishing a protected corridor for wildlife. Collectively, through over 60 conservation projects, MCHT and partners have conserved more than 55,000 acres. MCHT has played a role in three-quarters of those projects.



While serving as Executive Director of Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust, Angela worked with MCHT on the effort to conserve Woodward Point in Brunswick, a preserve now cared for by both organizations.

## IN MY WORDS

ANGELA TWITCHELL  
LAND TRUST PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Angela Twitchell grew up with a unique perspective on Maine. Her father's family business—Twitchell's Airport in Turner—provided her the rare opportunity to visit largely inaccessible wilderness lakes and ponds and see at landscape scale the impacts of environmental degradation. She knew from a young age that she wanted to go into an environmental field, and to date she's worked with conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy and Brunswick-Topsham Land Trust (BTLT).

In September, Angela joined Maine Coast Heritage Trust full-time as the new Land Trust Program Director. The Land Trust Program is dedicated to strengthening all of Maine's 80 land trusts. Having served as Executive Director at BTLT for 15 years, Angela has unique and valuable insights about the needs of Maine land trusts, and how we can work together to achieve shared goals for Maine's lands, waters, wildlife, and people.

## Four takeaways from my time as Executive Director of a local land trust

1. Even though we work at a "land" trust, it's the people who make everything possible. Putting the focus on building successful, trusting, mutually beneficial relationships is how you build a successful land trust.
2. Local land trusts serve the whole community, and it's important to cast a wide net and build relationships with a diverse cross-section of people and user groups. The ways that people value and interact with the land are many and varied, and the ways that land trusts meet the needs of their community need to be, too.
3. The adage "people give to people" is true, but people really only give to people who have and implement exciting ideas that robustly meet the needs of the community and make a tangible difference in the world. Donors want to be inspired by and proud of the work they make possible.
4. Never let the day-to-day drudgery (record keeping, report writing, endless meetings, etc.) tarnish the incredible honor it is to get to make an impact that will last forever in the place you call home. I often reflect on a thank-you note I received from a landowner after spending years negotiating an easement on his property. He wrote, "Thank you, Angela, for a dream come true." We are in the making-dreams-come-true business. 🌱

Photo of Angela: Lydia Coburn  
Background photo: Katherine Emery



# EXPLORING CLIFFORD PARK

A writer and her young daughter see what a city park near their home has to offer

WORDS AND PHOTOS BY KATY KELLEHER

What do you think of when you imagine green space in the city? The first major city parks in America were basically gardens, with sculpted lawns, large paths, spots of shade, borders of flowers, and picturesque water features.

But Clifford Park is nothing like that.

The forested walk is difficult at times, genuinely so, and an early July visit left me sweating, panting, mosquito-bitten, and exhausted. Afterwards, my four-year-old daughter napped soundly, falling asleep in her car seat almost immediately after I buckled her in.

There's something mildly miraculous about scaling rock ledges and following trail blazes in the middle of Biddeford. Clifford Park is a pocket of wild. It's a woodland, complicated enough that it's possible to get a little lost, tough enough that it poses a challenge, especially if you decide to traverse it on two wheels.

I didn't see any mountain bikers but I saw their swerving caterpillar-like tracks, something that delighted my daughter Juniper. She liked picking out the different signs in the mud, the footsteps of squirrels,

dogs, and people. When we arrived, there was a toddler at the playground, begging their dad to push them higher on the swing set, and a few adults playing pickleball, but the woods felt empty.

As we walked, we followed a series of panels, each one showing a single page of a picture book story about still turtles sitting on a log. It had been an unusually rainy summer, and the ground was squishy and wet. On the side of the trail, patches of moss formed impossibly green, dense clusters of stars. The insects were busier about their business than ever and the air smelled rich and thick with leaf mold and mushrooms.

We stopped often to marvel at some small thing or another—a single early blueberry, a thin stem with speckled white berries (the fruit of mayflower, I later learn), a cluster of ghost pipes, their stems faintly pink and juicily translucent. Juniper tried to catch fireflies, which she recognizes by their distinctive orange crowns. She let a ladybug crawl between her arms, giggling as its tiny legs tickled her skin.

We walked the loop around the park, occasionally venturing onto the interior trail network to check out particularly dramatic rock formations. Covered in lichen, they were easy enough to grip onto, but I still felt nervous watching my daughter on the granite ledges. Her broken arm, encased in a hot pink cast, served as a reminder that even small falls can cause damage. Even little disasters can derail a summer.

Toward the end of the two miles, she needed me to carry her up the final hill before we completed the excursion. It was hard going, and I was glad we chose the easiest trail, but I was also glad to hold her small, damp body. We had done something together, explored a little bit of wilderness. In the car, we had dried fruit waiting for us, and big bottles of water. Bug spray, unused. A small adventure, we left with small, itchy marks. 🌿

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#### AUTHOR BIO

**Katy Kelleher's** work has appeared in *Art New England*, *Boston* magazine, *Paris Review*, and *The New York Times Magazine*. Her recently published book, the essay collection *The Ugly History of Beautiful Things*, explores human desire for rare and pretty objects.

**Maine Coast Heritage Trust helped the city of Biddeford expand Clifford Park by 53 acres in 2011.** MCHT lent financial support to the project with a \$50,000 gift to the city and now holds a conservation easement on the land to permanently limit its development and ensure it's always open to the public. Keith Fletcher, MCHT's Southern Maine Project Manager also helped write and submit a \$110,000 grant request to the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program, which

was ultimately awarded to the project. In the years since, **Keith has collaborated with organizations, including Friends of Clifford Park, to host events here** (like the one pictured below with the Center for Wildlife) and continues to lend a hand where he can. "You can't believe you're in a city when you're there," he says. **"It's really special to have this greenspace within walking distance for so many people."**



Photo: Keith Fletcher

## PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

### Friends of MCHT share their work and stories

Communities across Maine cite lack of affordable housing as a primary concern. MCHT is working with partners, like Island Housing Trust, to help address the issue while preserving wildlife habitat, clean water, working waterfronts, and places for people to be in nature.

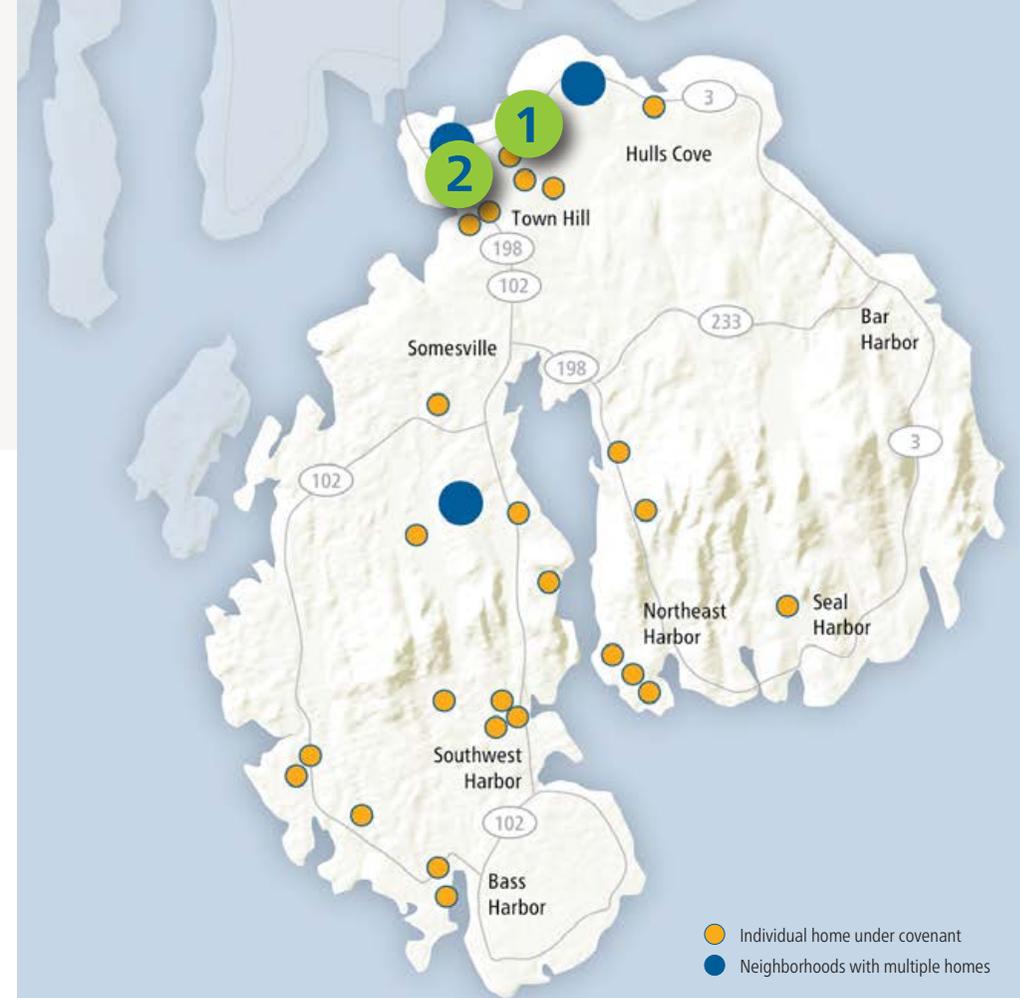
# ISLAND HOUSING TRUST

Island Housing Trust (IHT) is a nonprofit organization based on Mount Desert Island. IHT grew out of a community visioning effort, called MDI Tomorrow, to address longstanding and growing need for permanent, year-round housing for people earning a median income on Mount Desert Island. Medical professionals, teachers, first responders, Acadia National Park employees, scientists, and other workers found it increasingly difficult to find homes they could afford on MDI. It was a problem for those working, and for the communities that needed them.

Year-round housing provides stability for MDI residents: it breaks the summer/winter rental cycle and its attendant uncertainties, as well as the instability for children of not only moving neighborhoods but also, often, moving from one school to another. Year-round housing provides stability for businesses, providing a strong customer base during the off season and making it easier to recruit and retain employees who can afford to live on MDI.

Since its first housing opportunity was completed in 2007, IHT has provided 58 opportunities across MDI, with 47 houses under covenants keeping them affordable for generations. More than 150 individuals have found homes through IHT programs.

LEARN MORE ABOUT ISLAND HOUSING TRUST AT  
ISLANDHOUSINGTRUST.ORG



## 1

One of IHT's first projects was completed in partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust in 2008. MCHT purchased a three-acre property, one acre of which was an Acadia National Park inholding parcel (property eligible to become part of the park). MCHT conserved the one-acre inholding, and worked with IHT to sell the adjacent property, which included a year-round house, to buyers who met IHT's eligibility requirements. In a similar project, in 2023, MCHT ultimately donated a nearly three-acre parcel to IHT, abutting the first partnership property, which IHT is banking for future development.

## 2

In 2016, MCHT approached IHT with another partnership project, to purchase 60 acres of wetlands and upland. MCHT purchased 30 acres of current and future marsh and important wildlife habitat, which has become the Jones Marsh Preserve, and IHT purchased 30 acres of uplands. IHT's property is now a neighborhood of 10 year-round energy-efficient homes, with 20-plus acres set aside as open space, to provide additional buffer for the Jones Marsh wetlands.

Map based on design by Corey Blake, Z Studio Design



## ART FROM THE COAST

Mary Byrom, *Rising Tide*, gouache, 2022, 4 ¼" x 10 ¼"

“Marshes are this vast expanse, very quiet, empty, and yet everything is so alive. I’ve seen fox, deer, eagles, all kinds of migrations—so many different birds. I’ve seen seals pull up to the grass and sunbathe in the warmth.

As soon as you get out to the marsh, you just exhale. It’s phenomenal. It’s really my favorite place.”

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MARYBYROM.COM / MBYROM@MAINE.RR.COM

**Mary Byrom** lives on the southern seacoast of Maine within close reach of her favorite painting locations—the marshes and the rocky coast. Mary has received numerous awards for her paintings, which are found in private collections around the world and have been featured in various publications throughout the U.S., including *PleinAir Magazine* and *Artscope*. She is a popular painting instructor, teaching in schools, communities, on the internet and out in the field.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Tidal marshes represent some of the most important coastal habitats.** They sequester carbon, absorb storm surge, purify water, and are home to countless species. **They’re also uniquely threatened in a changing climate.** If we can conserve and restore Maine’s most resilient marshes and surrounding

uplands in the next ten years, we will make it possible for them to migrate inland as sea level rises, keeping coastal ecosystems intact. MCHT has identified the most resilient marshes along the coast and is leading a state-wide initiative to save them.

Learn more at [mcht.org/marshes](https://mcht.org/marshes)

# ON WATCH FOR THE BAGADUCE RIVER



BY CIONA ULBRICH, BAILEY BOWDEN, AND HANS CARLSON

For much of his life, Bailey Bowden has waded in, fished, hunted, dug clams, or boated on the Bagaduce River that runs through his hometown of Penobscot. Over that time, he has seen a lot of change: in fish and wildlife populations, in how streams flow, in water quality, in shoreland development. These are things he worries about a lot, and he has been actively involved as a volunteer for years to try and address the challenges associated with change.

In 2018, Bailey's volunteer role in watching over the river was given more shape and added capacity when he became the Bagaduce River Monitor, a position funded by Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust. These two conservation organizations share the cost of a stipend that allows Bailey to work a bit less at paid jobs and put that time into doing more volunteer advocacy for and on the river.

"The Bagaduce River is a defining feature of this peninsula and an ecologically and culturally significant place on the coast of Maine," reflects Hans Carlson, Executive Director of BHHT. "The collaboration between our two organizations and a passionate and knowledgeable local expert has been a force multiplier for conservation. I hope that this can serve as a model for other partnerships."

Photo: Tate Yoder, Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Seine fishing, pictured here, is a method that uses a net, called a seine. Its bottom edge is held down by weights, and its top edge is buoyed by floats, making it possible to surround a significant area and catch many fish at once.

The River Monitor moniker gives Bailey more of a platform to be a voice for the river: writing letters, being in the press, or attending meetings. “Bailey has a strong set of skills that range from excellent correspondence to public speaking, and boating and fishing, to scientific understanding and awareness. He also is a fast learner, unafraid to tackle new lessons. All of that made him such a great fit for the idea of a river monitor,” notes Ciona Ulbrich, Senior Project Manager at MCHT.

Mike Thalhauser, Co-Management Specialist at Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, heads out on the water with Bailey, with all manner of nets and sampling equipment to collect data on just about everything you can think of that has to do with alewife. “Bailey and the towns on the Bagaduce River are absolutely committed to their role in local fisheries management and stewardship and have served as a model example of how to do it right,” he says.

Not only does Bailey collect real data, he also serves as a voice on issues potentially impacting the river. His well-worn truck can be spotted driving up to Washington County for fisheries partnership meetings, driving south for harvesting meetings or heading over to Augusta to testify before the legislature on bills. “People might not always like to hear the words that come out of Bailey’s

mouth, but they can’t deny that his knowledge, words, and the capacity that he brings have had great positive effects on alewife restoration and policy in the state of Maine and beyond. I have seen that first-hand,” Thalhauser adds.

“The role that Bailey fills so well requires him to be ‘multilingual.’ He is an accomplished translator and interpreter of science and policy as well as local knowledge, heritage, and on-the-ground observations,” notes Dwayne Shaw, Executive Director of Downeast Salmon Federation. “Collection of information and interpretation of that information between and across all sectors is an immense undertaking. Bailey is showing us how this can be done. He does so while never losing sight of the collective interest in making positive change and bringing people together to take action.”

Actively monitoring and caring for the ecological health of the river has also made Bailey care a lot about its future. Each year, Bailey is outside with kids talking about the importance of pollinators, birds and fish migrations, or getting them into streams to help alewife move upstream, just the way he and his friends got wet as kids. In the spring, nearly every school on the peninsula has a field trip or classroom visit lined up with Bailey and helpers. “One day it dawned on me that a huge pitfall of gentrification is that many of today’s youth are no

longer connected to our local natural resources and that the best way to introduce these kids to our environment is through educational field trips. This effort is more than simply conserving real estate, preserving resources, or restoring habitats, this is an effort to introduce our youth to the values that promote the good stewardship that has defined and will sustain Maine’s heritage,” he says.

During the 2023 alewife migration, Bailey led eight field trips to Pierce’s Pond in Penobscot, hosting 145 participants including 62 elementary school students, 21 college students, and 62 adults. Some of the adult participants came from Georgia, Florida, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. As a huge supporter of collaborative efforts, Bailey enlisted the help of Mike Thalhauser from the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries, Ciona Ulbrich from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Sarah O’Malley from Maine Maritime Academy to help with the educational field trips for elementary school students. Activities for these events included a discussion about alewife biology and life history, moving fish over an obstruction, catching macro-invertebrates from the pond, and making a fish-print T-shirt using a Japanese art form known as *gyotaku*.

The idea of enabling more community science and community engagement is a natural one to both Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Blue Hill Heritage Trust. The impacts of Bailey’s work are tangible and multi-faceted, helping to take better care of this place than our organizations could alone. Owning a few properties will not in itself keep a natural system intact and functioning over time, but helping people learn to notice it, care about it and care for it, sure can help. BHHT and MCHT are proud to continue this pilot support of the Bagaduce River Monitor, and hope that we can continue it well into the future. 🌊

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TO SEE AN AWARD-WINNING FILM ABOUT THE MULTI-YEAR, MULTI-GROUP EFFORT TO RESTORE FISH PASSAGE IN THE BAGADUCE RIVER WATERSHED, VISIT [MCHT.ORG/WATERSHED](https://mcht.org/watershed)



Photo: Donna Reis

# VICTOR TRODELLA'S INSPIRATION TO GIVE

“I immediately fell in love with the people and the land and now I want to do whatever I can to help out.”

IMAGE OF COBSCOOK BAY COURTESY OF VICTOR TRODELLA



## GIVING BACK

Victor Trodella was on a Maine Coast Heritage Trust tour of Cobscook Bay, looking out across the water edged with silver as the sun set, when an idea came to him. Before departing from the boat, he said to the couple beside him, “I’m going to put Maine Coast Heritage Trust in my will.”

Soon afterward, he did just that. Victor worked with his attorney and with Planned Giving Officer David Warren to arrange for MCHT to receive the remaining value in his home at the time of his passing.

Victor, who practiced architecture for fifty years before recently retiring, came to Maine in 1973 and has considered this place home ever since. “I immediately fell in love with the people and the land and now I want to do whatever I can to help out,” says Victor.

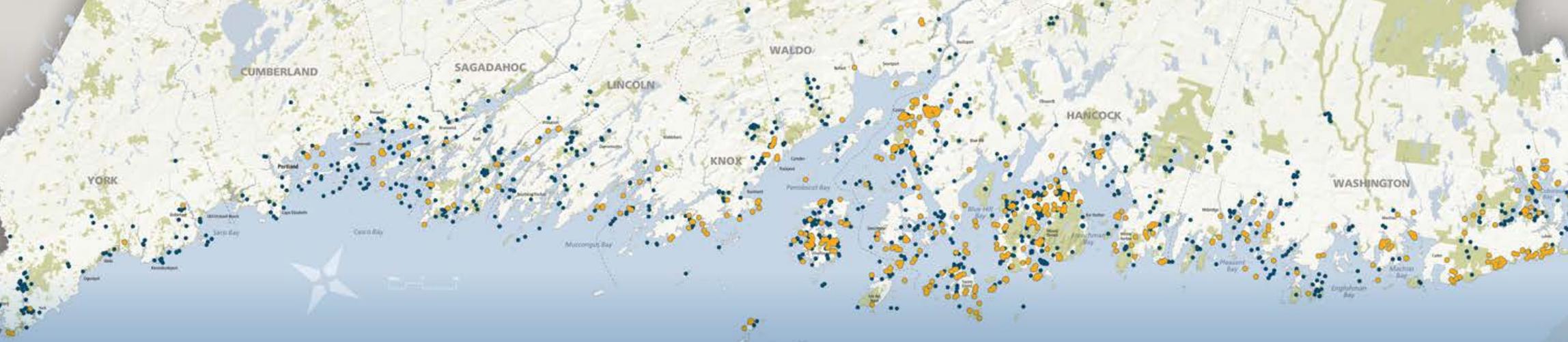
He was inspired to make his first gift to Maine Coast Heritage Trust following the death of a life-long friend who was a committed conservationist. In 2021,

Victor pitched in to help protect and care for Little Whaleboat Island in Casco Bay. As he learned more about MCHT and its impact, his interest in and support for the organization grew.

“I trust MCHT to do the right thing because I see them doing the right thing all the time. The proof is in the land that they have saved that benefits all of us, and that future generations will be able to enjoy. Giving to MCHT is something that I can do to make a positive impact on my local ecology and the people of Maine.” 🌊

THERE ARE COUNTLESS WAYS TO MAKE THE MAINE COAST A PART OF YOUR LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT, AND IT’S NEVER TOO SOON TO CONSIDER HOW YOU MIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

VISIT [MCHT.ORG/LEGACY](https://www.mcht.org/legacy) TO LEARN MORE OR REACH OUT TO DAVID WARREN AT [DWARREN@MCHT.ORG](mailto:dwarren@mcht.org) OR 207-522-9228.



# WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MCHT PRESERVE?

● MCHT conserved places    ● MCHT partner projects    ■ Maine conserved lands



"We're grateful for all the beautiful places we can visit in Casco Bay. My husband spent many summers overnight at **The Goslings** and we've begun making memories with our two little ones with day trips. We look forward to camping as they get a little older."

**MANISHA D., FREEPORT, ME**



"I am grateful for **Aldermere Farm** and Lily Pond and the meadows and views we enjoy every day!"

**CHARLIE C., ROCKPORT, ME**

MCHT photo



"I walk regularly at **Stone Barn Farm** in Bar Harbor. I especially like it because the trails go through many habitats, from hayfields and blueberry patches to natural forests and old pine plantations. We also have access to a tidal creek with great views of a salt marsh. It is wonderful to have a place to walk where dogs are welcome, too!"

**TOM G., BAR HARBOR, ME**



"There's a simultaneous sense of adventure and tranquility on entering the **Milbridge Commons**—leaving behind the daily hubbub of Main Street to be instantly transported to the delights of nature in bloom, kids at play, families picnicking, al fresco art and music, and the kiss of an ocean breeze. The community garden, with fresh healthy food for all, is amazing."

**NANCY M., HARRINGTON, ME**

MCHT photo

SHARE ABOUT YOUR CONNECTION TO MCHT PRESERVES AT [MCHT.ORG/TELL-US-YOUR-STORY](https://mcht.org/tell-us-your-story)



Since officially acquiring Cousins River Fields and Marsh in Yarmouth early in the year, stewards have been **installing signage, constructing trails, removing invasive plants, and welcoming the public!**

Top left: Courtesy of Intercultural Community Center  
Left: Justin Smulski, Tide to Pine Photography  
Top right: Ryan Smith, Rooted in Light Media  
Right: MCHT photo

We collaborated with the **Intercultural Community Center and Portland Paddle** to bring refugee, immigrant, and asylee youth to **Lanes Island Preserve**. It was a beautiful, sunny day and a first-time paddling and island experience for many participants.

We worked with the state entomologist to release beetles at Woodward Point Preserve in Brunswick to **attempt to control the invasive woolly adelgid population, an insect threatening hemlock trees** here and elsewhere in the state.

Working with a generous landowner in Phippsburg, we **protected an important coastal access site for local clambers and diggers**. With access now legally guaranteed, clambers are re-seeding the flats this fall.

**Numerous volunteers joined us for work days on Monroe, Sheep, High, and Louds islands.** More frequent intense storms over the past several years means more work for stewards responsible for maintaining trails and campsites.

A \$100,000 partnership contribution from MCHT helped make it possible for Midcoast Conservancy to **conserve 12 acres along the Sheepscot River**. The Sheepscot is an area of focus in our Rivers Initiative, a coast-wide effort to advance land protection and restoration of five key coastal rivers.

Midcoast steward Kirk Gentalen continues to keep an eye out for wildlife in his neighborhood and on the job for MCHT. His **encounters with Shrewlets, Fishers, Killdeers, and other cool creatures** are documented on his informative blog "Nature Bummin'" at [mcht.org/nature-bummin](http://mcht.org/nature-bummin).



**Early donations to a campaign for Aldermere Farm and Erickson Fields are already making a difference.** At Erickson Fields, a new barn is housing equipment and freeing up time for programming and food distribution. At nearby Aldermere Farm, the new barn and visitor center building is well underway! **All gifts to the campaign are now being matched dollar for dollar up to \$250,000.** Learn more and give at [mcht.org/moo](http://mcht.org/moo).



# MDI-AREA UPDATE



# WASHINGTON COUNTY UPDATE



Farther east in Hancock County: MCHT provided partnership funds for Frenchman Bay Conservancy to purchase a waterfront parcel in Sullivan to **secure permanent water access for harvesters and paddlers.**

This fall, **a collaborative art project** with the Mount Desert Island Historical Society, Schoodic Institute, and local artist Jenn Booher at Kelley Farm Preserve in Bernard **will depict the anticipated impacts of sea-level rise on the landscape.**

In August, over 40 MCHT staff members and volunteers joined forces to remove **2,300 pounds of plastic buoys, rope, and trash from Marshall Island Preserve.** In the image above, Eastern Hancock County Project Manager Bob DeForrest tosses a line to MDI Regional Steward Tatia Bauer.

We're now **finalizing plans for marsh restoration projects** at Mitchell Marsh in Tremont and at Babson Creek in Mount Desert, which is also close to the site of an ongoing conservation effort. After protecting 70 acres with The Community School of Mount Desert Island—MCHT's largest conservation project on MDI in the past decade—**we continue to fundraise for stewardship of land on Babson Creek.**

MCHT and the town of Cutler completed a collaborative project to **protect 4.4 shorefront acres** that will eventually be developed into a town park and ensure the town has the opportunity to expand public access to Cutler Harbor if needed. MCHT has secured access to Western Head Preserve and has long-range plans to improve parking.

Land stewards are overseeing the installation of a parking lot and beginning trail construction at Meserve Head, which will be **MCHT's first preserve in Machias**—stay tuned for more information!

Over 100 people attended an **open house at our Whiting office** in August. Guests toured the renovated building, learned about our conservation work, snacked on smoked alewives and blueberry treats, and gathered information from partner organizations Downeast Salmon Federation, Washington County 4-H, and the Whiting Historical Society.



In July, the University of New Brunswick and University of New England Joint Field School conducted **an archaeological dig at Sipp Bay Preserve in collaboration with the Passamaquoddy Tribal Historic Preservation Office.** Global heritage coastal archaeological sites are in crisis due to rising sea levels and increased severity of storms, which is acute in Washington County.

Top left: Maine Mountain Media  
Left: Bridget Besaw  
Top: MCHT photo  
Right: Kyle Koch

# SHOW THE LOVE



You can now purchase Maine Coast Heritage Trust shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and more!

We're excited to offer you an array of products inspired by special conserved places and initiatives to protect wildlife and make the coast more resilient to climate change. Thank you for showing your support for MCHT!

VISIT [SHOP.MCHT.ORG](https://shop.mcht.org) TO SHOP THE FULL LINE OF MERCHANDISE.



People have been asking for MCHT merchandise for years, but it took us a while to find the right production and distribution partner. Printful is an on-demand supplier, which means they only produce items they get an order for, avoiding textile waste from overproduction. We've selected their most eco-friendly items, made with at least 70% organic or recycled materials, or a mix of these materials. Their printing tech creates almost no wastewaters and uses less energy than standard industry printers.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) is a nonprofit land conservation organization.

Our work spans the Maine coast and extends up coastal rivers and into inland forests, benefiting communities throughout the state and the vitality of the region at large.

Recognizing the value of connection and collaboration, we're founders and leaders of the Maine Land Trust Network, a statewide community of land trusts supporting one another in a collective effort to make sure land conservation benefits all Maine people.

Right now, we're working with people, towns, organizations, and agencies to make the greatest impact in four key areas:

- Mitigating the impacts of climate change
- Securing habitat for plants and animals
- Supporting Maine communities
- Increasing people's access to the coast

MCHT photo  
Amanda Kowalski  
Courtesy of Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries  
MCHT photo



TO LEARN MORE AND JOIN THE EFFORT, VISIT [MCHT.ORG](https://mcht.org)



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Photo: Tara Rice, *Down East* magazine