



Maine Heritage

COAST-WIDE EDITION
2022



TRAIL BY TRAIL, A MORE ACCESSIBLE MAINE

Photo courtesy of Enock Glidden

Enock Glidden enjoys the accessible trail at Bog Brook Cove Preserve in Cutler and Trescott, which he reviewed for Maine Trail Finder.

Enock Glidden grew up in Patten, Maine, in a log cabin built by family and friends, surrounded by horses and many acres of woods. He spent countless hours among the trees, pushing his wheelchair as far as it could go, then getting out of it and crawling, dragging his wheelchair behind him. “I’ve always loved adventure, is what it boils down to,” says Enock.

This love of adventure has brought him all over the country, including to the top of El Capitan, a towering granite rock formation

in Yosemite National Park he climbed in 2016. He also enjoys less extreme outdoor adventures through his work as Maine Trail Finder’s Accessibility Ambassador. Enock, who was born with spina bifida and has been using a wheelchair since age four, has spent the past year visiting and assessing the accessibility of trails around the state, many owned and maintained by land trusts.

“There are so many free places to go where people can just enjoy nature—I didn’t realize there were

that many until I started doing this,” says Enock. “All the land trusts are doing an amazing service.” Earlier in 2022, Maine Coast Heritage Trust was thrilled to have him as keynote speaker for the Maine Land Conservation Conference, an annual gathering bringing the state’s land conservation community together to learn and connect, virtually and in-person. At the conference Enock’s message to land trusts boiled down to this: small changes over time can make a big difference when it comes to accessibility.

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TRAIL BY TRAIL, A MORE ACCESSIBLE MAINE

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Earlier this fall, Enock presented at an accessibility workshop coordinated by MCHT and partners through the Maine Land Trust Network.

“It’s not a cheap undertaking to build an accessible trail—it’s expensive—but I know of at least four accessible trails being built right now. It’s amazing to see. The world is opening up to people,” says Enock. “But it’s not always possible [to build an accessible trail]. Pick away at it. Small things like removing obstacles—fallen trees, branches, rocks, filling in holes, covering roots—those little things make a big difference.”

Enock also emphasizes communication as an important component of accessibility. “It really does start with information,” he says. “When you provide a lot of information about the trail, then everyone can decide for themselves what they are and are not capable of. It really is individual. It’s not one size fits all.”

Enock is excited for a future where more people in Maine have access to nature and places to “relax and unwind.” He says, “Many of the land trusts I’m working with want to make as many of their lands available to as many people as possible—that’s really the movement I’m seeing. As long as we’re given some help and resources, the world can open up for people with disabilities. That’s what I’m hoping to achieve.” 🌍



Photo courtesy of Enock Glidden

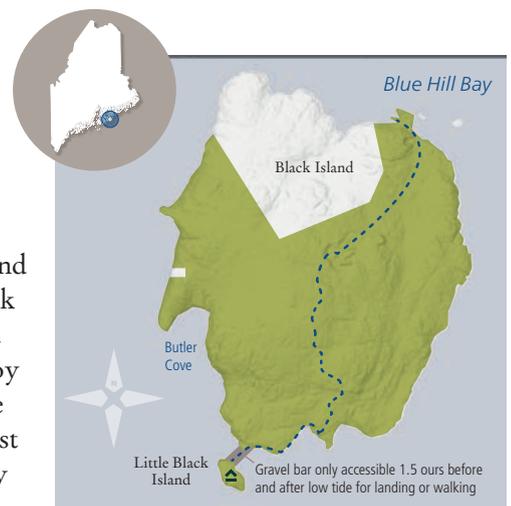
Enock says, “As long as we’re given some help and resources, the world can open up for people with disabilities.”

Learn more about Enock and his adventures at GOBEYONDTHEFENCE.COM.

FEATURED PRESERVE

BLACK ISLAND & LITTLE BLACK ISLAND, FRENCHBORO

This epic preserve in Blue Hill Bay encompasses most of Black Island and all of Little Black Island, totaling 337 acres. Black Island and Little Black Island (where you’re welcome to camp overnight!) are connected by a sandbar around low tide. On Black Island, visitors can picnic and enjoy views from the pocket beach or the ledges lining the shore, or hike the 1.75-mile path that cuts across the island. This is one of many Maine Coast Heritage Trust preserves in the area—you might also check out nearby Great Gott, West Sister, and Pond islands. 🌍



For more information about this preserve head to MCHT.ORG/PRESERVE/BLACK-ISLAND-AND-LITTLE-BLACK-ISLAND.

LOVE OF PLACE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Kate Stookey

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kate Stookey".

“... to care for this land and the lives and livelihoods it supports. For me, that’s what conservation is all about.”

My first six months at Maine Coast Heritage Trust have flown by, and I continue to be impressed and inspired by the dedication, expertise, and teamwork I see among my colleagues and within our broader network of partners and supporters.

At any given time, MCHT staff are working on dozens of projects around the state. Each one involves people from up and down the coast who represent a wide range of professional backgrounds, political persuasions, and life experiences, all coming together in support of a shared goal—like creating accessible trails (cover story), protecting and restoring marshes (page four), or guaranteeing permanent public access to a stunning Maine island (page two). Every day at MCHT, I witness this love of place for Maine and the collaboration that it engenders.

I fell in love with Maine as a kid growing up in Blue Hill, exploring, hiking, camping, and often seeking serenity in the woods and along the rocky shorelines of the peninsula and coastal islands. This place, and the people who also call this place home, made me who I am and instilled in me a desire to care for this land and the lives and livelihoods it supports. For me, that’s what conservation is all about.

It is a privilege to be a part of this collective effort to protect and care for this place we love so much. I look forward to meeting more of you, hearing your thoughts and ideas, and experiencing how you are bringing your own unique offerings to this work. I still have much to learn, and, as always, I welcome your questions, suggestions, and feedback.

Please feel free to be in touch at president@mcht.org.

SAVING MAINE MARSHES

MCHT photo

MCHT plans to acquire 82 acres in Yarmouth by the end of the year. This property includes vital salt marsh habitat and uplands and is highly visible from Interstate 295.

Protecting land is one of the most valuable tools we have to respond to climate change, and on the Maine coast, protection and restoration of tidal marshes has a profound impact. Tidal marshes are incredibly effective at removing gases like carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and storing them in roots and soils below—as much as ten times more effective than forests per acre! Marshes also help protect built infrastructure and provide essential habitat for countless species, including juvenile lobster and clams, herons, and the endangered salt marsh sparrow.

Recognizing the value of marshes, MCHT launched the Marshes for Tomorrow Initiative in late 2016. This coast-wide initiative—the only one of its kind in Maine—is focused on protecting undeveloped areas surrounding current marshes. As sea level rises, this will allow room for marsh systems to migrate inland while also providing a buffer for plants and animals sensitive to human disturbance.

Over the past six years, we've worked with partners to complete 36 marsh protection projects from York to Washington counties, conserving a total of about 1,800 acres of marsh and upland buffers. And we're just getting started! We're currently working on over twenty active marsh migration projects, with several expected to close before the end of the year.

“We have a long-term goal of conserving another 37,000 acres of marsh and adjacent uplands on the coast of Maine,” says MCHT's Senior Community and Conservation Planner Jeremy Gabrielson. “This is an ambitious goal, but I'm hopeful as we continue to get the word out to potential partners and supporters and make progress every year.” 🌱

To learn more about and support the Marshes for Tomorrow Initiative, visit [MCHT.ORG/CONSERVATION-WORK/INITIATIVE/THE-MARSHES-FOR-TOMORROW-INITIATIVE](https://mcht.org/conservation-work/initiative/the-marshes-for-tomorrow-initiative).



Photo courtesy of the Blanchard family

PETER P. BLANCHARD III, 1951 – 2022 IN MEMORIAM

All of us at Maine Coast Heritage Trust mourn the passing of Peter Blanchard, a true champion for the Maine coast. Peter served on the board of MCHT from 2009 through 2018 and actively on council in the years following. However, his work on behalf of the coast began long before he joined the organization. “Peter combined deep scientific knowledge with a passionate love of the coastal landscape and its

inhabitants,” says board member Tom Ireland. “He was a quiet but persistent advocate for stewardship worthy of the land he was helping to protect. His generosity, his gentleness, and his sense of humor made him a wonderful conservation partner. His impact on the coast was profound and will continue to inspire those of us who were lucky enough to work alongside him.” 🌱

Peter was a great supporter of our effort to care for conserved lands and generously established a bequest. If you would like to make a gift in his honor, you can make a donation online or by mail and denote that you would like it designated to the Peter and Sofia Blanchard Stewardship Fund or contact Nicky Blanchard at NBLANCHARD@MCHT.ORG OR 207-607-4369.

IN BRIEF

Downeast Marsh Restoration Provides Insights for Other Land Trusts

Like many marshes in Maine, Old Pond Marsh in Hancock was heavily manipulated for salt hay farming. MCHT is working with marsh scientists and restoration specialists to improve its water flow, making it more resilient in the decades to come.



The Aldermere & Erickson Campaign is Underway!



A successful campaign to raise at least \$3 million for critical new infrastructure and equipment will make these beloved agricultural preserves in Rockport safer, more efficient, and more inclusive in the decades to come.

MCHT and Mount Desert Island School Collaborate to Protect Land on Babson Creek

Kids from The Community School have been learning and exploring in the 72 acres abutting their school for years. Now we're ensuring students—and other community members—can continue to access this beautiful and ecologically significant place.



IN MY WORDS, MAGGIE COZENS

SOUTHERN MAINE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Earlier in 2022, Maine Coast Heritage Trust welcomed two dedicated outreach specialists to the Stewardship Department who will be leading outings, managing MCHT programs, and partnering with other organizations to connect people to the land. Welcome, Maggie (and Renee)!

How did you know this was the job for you?

Connecting people and place is something that's always interested me, and I think it's at the heart of addressing environmental and societal issues. It required boating experience and outreach experience, which I have, and it was open enough for me to bring a vision to it.



Have tips on places for Maggie to check out? Ideas about potential collaborations with groups in Southern Maine and the Midcoast? She would love to hear from you! You can be in touch at MCOZENS@MCHT.ORG.

What excites you most about the position?

I'm excited to work with people who might not have opportunities to get out on the land or the water otherwise, and to help them develop a relationship with the place they live. I'm also excited to bring more voices to the conversation—and, of course, I'm looking forward to spending lots of time outside!

What's it like living in Maine so far?

I love it! I have been doing lots of exploring on my free time, going paddling, and spending time hiking in the woods. There are so many places I can't wait to see. 🌲

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

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

IF YOU HAVEN'T MADE YOUR 2022 GIFT TO MCHT YET, THERE'S STILL TIME! GIVE BACK TO THE COAST TODAY AT [MCHT.ORG/GIVE-NOW](https://mcht.org/give-now).



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

Donors are creating more public access to the coast, strengthening coastal communities, making Maine more resilient to climate change, and so much more. Thank you to all who are a part of MCHT.

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Making Trails
More Accessible

Saving
Maine Marshes

& More!

NAME THAT PLACE

Some hints...

It encompasses two islands located 3.5 miles south of Bass Harbor in the town of Frenchboro.

At the turn of the 20th century, this island was home to about 50 year-round residents practicing subsistence farming, logging the island's forests, and fishing in the surrounding waters.

SEE INSIDE FOR
THIS FEATURED PRESERVE



Photo by Bridget Besaw