



Landmark Heritage Trust

A land trust for the towns of Carmel · Dixmont · Etna · Hampden · Hermon · Monroe · Newburgh · Winterport

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FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

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We have arrived at the Fall season of colorful foliage. I encourage you to enjoy a ride on the Kennebec Road in Newburgh and drive by the beautiful vista of the Landfall Farm, thoughtfully preserved by the DeFeo family. Or drive along Rt. 202 and/or I-95 in Hampden for the glorious foliage that can be enjoyed in the forests and pastures around Hammond Pond (thanks to the Deighan family preserve). Either drive will inspire you to get outside for some crisp, healthy fresh air and exercise. Where to go? I suggest that you hike the trail maintained by Landmark Heritage Trust on Kennard Road in Newburgh. Or, take in the spectacular foliage that can be seen while hiking the miles of trails at the Northern Pond Natural Area in Monroe, another Landmark gem.

Landmark Heritage Trust continues to work on projects to preserve the beauty of our area. Some of the LHT holdings under Conservation Easements are privately owned so are not accessible to the public without prior owner permission. However, their owners are rewarded by seeing value in their conserved lands, under terms that they themselves set, which allows the land to remain pristine and enjoyable for both vistas and wildlife.

Please join us in our work. We meet on a regular schedule, as posted on our website. We want your input and encourage you to help with our present and future projects.

Sincerely,

Allan Tubbs

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We think this guy on the right (who lives behind the Town's Elementary School) will become a favorite with Monroe kids pretty soon. Turn to page 4 to find out why.



Photo compliments of Andrew Letourneau

Landmark Heritage Trust is a nonprofit corporation available to work in Carmel, Etna, Dixmont, Hampden, Hermon, Monroe, Newburgh, and Winterport to protect open space and the area's agricultural, scenic, historical, and recreational resources. We encourage conservation of natural resources by fostering environmental awareness through education and preservation of open space through conservation easements, donations of land and other resources. Landmark Heritage Trust is open to everyone. We are always looking for new members, especially people interested in helping by volunteering their time and expertise. All are welcome to attend our meetings to learn more about this local land trust.

MAINE LAND CONSERVATION CONFERENCE

by Paul Jacobi

On April 28, I was one of three members of LHT who drove down to attend the annual Maine Land Conservation Conference. This conference was sponsored by the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. It was held at the Orion Center & the Mt. Ararat Middle School in Topsham. LHT president Tony DeFeo had already arrived there for the full weekend program.

The conference itself focused around issues of land use policy, environmental impacts, conservation of open land, and economic pressures. Almost 500 people had registered. The rousing Saturday morning keynote address was given by Peter Forbes, a noted writer and conservationist from Vermont. His address was followed by a social period where attendees could mingle and could look at all the vendor/organizational exhibits that had been set up in the gymnasium.

The rest of the day was based around a series of workshop sessions. Each workshop was centered on some specific topic that was important to members of land trusts. The workshops were scheduled into three time frames: late morning, after lunch, and late afternoon. There were about ten or eleven different workshops during each time period. The workshops themselves were run by presenters. Each workshop lasted about 90 minutes, and included time for questions and answers. They were held in various classrooms around the middle school, and each one appeared packed to capacity. Each workshop had been given a “difficulty” rating in its description so that prospective attendees could have an idea of the complexity level of the discussion that would be taking place there.

I attended the morning session workshop that addressed the issue of preserving farmland. Each of the three presenters running it spoke about a differing perspective of this very important issue. It was especially edifying to learn how the differing goals and outlooks about land use could be blended into a larger and more complete picture.

During the long lunch time break, all the participants had time to talk with one another, see the exhibits in the gym, or just see who else was there. After all, this was a statewide event. We were given box lunches for the noon recess, and attendees either sat in the cafeteria or stood up anywhere else nearby where they could talk. Since it was a lovely day outside, some people even ate their lunch outside on the grass. I personally ran into several people that I hadn't seen in years. The whole atmosphere in the crowded cafeteria area seemed so positive as it buzzed with conversation.

During the early afternoon, I went to the workshop titled Terrestrial Connectivity. This talk dealt with the habitat needs of various wildlife creatures, and their needs for adequate open space. It further discussed how land trusts themselves can help to provide intelligent land-use practices in order to help preserve important natural areas.

The final workshop for me was called Community Forest Conservation. Our group was presented with descriptions of two large community forest arrangements. One of them is located in the town of Amherst and is owned and jointly administered by the town, the state Bureau of Public Lands, and the Forest Society of Maine. The other is a large shoreland preservation area in West Grand Lake. We were given lengthy descriptions of how both

(continued next page)



Conference goers listening to keynote speaker Peter Forbes

of these conservation areas came to be formed. The success stories here seem to focus on the theme that the needs of competing factions in a conservation plan should be acknowledged and addressed.

As the whole conference ended, everyone that I saw there seemed to express a positive impression of their experiences. You could not have left that conference without learning something. I hope to be back next year.

NORTHERN POND MUSHROOM FORAY

by Joan Cheetham

On a warm and sunny summer afternoon (July 22nd) mycologists from the Maine Mycological Association joined Landmark Heritage Trust members and other fungal enthusiasts to survey the Northern Pond Natural Area in Monroe for mushrooms. After an hour-long search through the forests and wetlands, we gathered back at the trail head and the specimens were laid out on a folding table. Mycological Association members took the lead in grouping the fungi based on their taxonomic classification and then identifying them to species. The diversity was amazing: 41 different species of mushrooms, along with two species of slime molds! There was a wide assortment of shapes, sizes, and colors. The gilled mushrooms were well represented with six species of the *Amanita* genus, along with five *Russula* species. Other gilled mushroom genera included *Lactarius*, *Laccaria*, *Panella* and *Pluteus*, as well as the two species of Chanterelles. There were three species of Boletes, these mushrooms have pores in place of gills on the underside of their caps. All of the above mushrooms have the typical stem and cap, toadstool appearance that most of us are familiar with.



Greg Marley

Eleven species of Polypores were collected, these are the very common bracket or shelf fungi that generally grow on trees or logs rather than on the ground, they decompose wood and their appearance on a tree usually means it is dying or already dead. Species found included the hoof-shaped Birch Polypore and the Hoof Fungus, both of which were pulverized for use as tinder before the invention of matches. Also found were the Dye Polypore which can be used for dyeing wool and other fibers and the Artist's Conk which has a white undersurface perfect for sketching. Rounding out our collection were the coral fungus known as Golden Spindles and the Velvety Fairy Fan fungus (do look at photos of these lovely fungi!). Finally two slime molds (slime molds are not mushrooms, strictly speaking) were identified – the Coral Slime and Dog Vomit Slime Mold – obviously these two slime molds differ greatly in appearance! A good website for both information and photos of North American mushrooms is www.mushroomexpert.com. You can use the following link to see the full species list for the Northern Pond (Monroe) July 22nd foray: <http://nemfdata.org/assets/mmalists/MMACollectionSeason2012REPORT.pdf>

Our thanks go to Greg Marley and Mary Yurlina for organizing this entertaining and informative outing!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



We're planning more events for 2013 and will announce some in about 3 months

If you would like to be on our e-mail notification list, please call Tony DeFeo at 234-2053 or e-mail him at landmarkheritage@gmail.com . For Outing and/or Event ideas, email Rebecca Childs at rchilds58@myfairpoint.net .

LHT Annual Meeting – October 28; 2012

The Annual Meeting will be at the home of Tony and Ruth DeFeo (President and member of the Board of Directors, respectively) at 2:00 pm, 2885 Kennebec Road, Newburgh. Featured speaker: Matthew Houghton, Principal of the Monroe Elementary School and the Morse Memorial School in Brooks – see article below

LHT NEWS & TIDBITS

IN-GENERAL NEWS

➤ While not *directly* related to the LHT, we understand that people in Monroe are getting excited about a project that we here at the LHT hold dear since it involves everything that we stand for. But let's let Matthew Houghton (Principal of the Monroe Elementary School) tell us. Below is an email that he sent to LHT Board Member Rebecca Childs on September 20, 2012:

From: Matthew Houghton
 Reply-To: Matthew Houghton
 Subject: Monroe Elementary School and Community Trails and Bridges presentation
 To: rchilds58@myfairpoint.net

The Monroe Elementary School and Community Trails and Bridges Project is in its infancy. We are branching off an existing snowmobile trail on our 25 acre parcel to create the first leg of our trail and bridges project. This project will get students out of the indoor classroom and into the woods to integrate with their learning of math, science, and social studies at each grade level. The first leg of our trail system will consist of three bridges and an observation deck which will allow students to experience the stream, bog, and a variety of hard woods, soft woods, plants and animals during all seasons. We are looking for additional partners to support this project. These will include Mt. View High School, Unity College, and hopefully many local organizations.

Matthew Houghton
 Principal, RSU #3
 Morse Memorial School, Brooks, Maine
 722-3636
 Monroe Elementary School, Monroe, Maine
 525-3504

MORE LHT NEWS & TIDBITS

➤ We've also learned (from the very active members of the Monroe Conservation Commission) that the Maine Chapter of *The Wildlife Society* honored it, as well as all other municipal Conservation Commissions in Maine (78 of them) with an Award of Recognition. We too applaud the efforts of those members who serve on their town's Conservation Commission within the area of our Land Trust; specifically, in the Towns of Dixmont, Monroe, and Winterport.

➤ With this issue of the LHT Newsletter, we have gradually begun the process of sending it out via email to our members. Some of you know already that we sent it to you by email (because you're reading it that way at this moment) while others know that you received it by USPS. Exactly who amongst our readers received it by email was a decision that was made by our Newsletter staff using a process that came closer to eeny-meeny-miny-moe than by any other more thoughtful method. We will continue sending future issues to everyone in the same manner as how you received this one, unless we hear from you requesting otherwise. And do let us know soon because we plan on sending the next issue out shortly after the new year. Contact Don Phillips at info@phillipsecoservices.com or by calling at 525-0930.

➤ Don't forget that LHT Newsletters going back to 2008 can be downloaded from our website.

PROPERTY-SPECIFIC NEWS

Northern Pond Natural Area

➤ We thank long-time member Sandra Johnson for her initiative to organize a day-hike for fellow members of her *Downeast Outing Club* on April 26. At least 20 people showed up on this blustery but beautiful day and they told us they had a great time. Two photos from that day are shown below.



➤ Next issue, we'll show photos taken the day some LHT members reconstructed a heretofore wobbly bog walk. And, we'll present the results of the *Great 2012 Year Of The Bird* at the NPNA.



Landmark Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 105
Dixmont, ME 04932

MEMBERSHIP

Please fill out the renewal information below for another year of LHT membership. If you fill it out now, you will save the LHT time, paper, and postage. We thank you for your continual support.

Membership Contribution

To volunteer time & expertise, please check

- \$ 5 Students & Seniors
- \$ 10 Individuals
- \$ 15 Family
- \$ 30 Business
- \$ 100 Donor
- \$ 250 Patron
- \$ 500 Benefactor

- () Public Relations
- () Land Monitoring
- () Fund Raising
- () Planning/Research
- () Mapping/Marking/Existing Roads, trails etc.
- () Education
- () Sign Making

Remember that contributions are tax deductible

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TOWN: _____ STATE & ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Please make checks payable to the Landmark Heritage Trust, and send check to:

Landmark Heritage Trust
 c/o Carol Cuddy, Treasurer
 P.O. Box 105
 Dixmont, ME 04932