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Georges River Land Trust 8 N. Main Street, Suite 200 Rockland, ME 04841 georgesriver.org info@grlt.org 207-594-5166



Dear Friends,

From its headwaters in Montville to where it meets the sea in Port Clyde, the St. George River connects and supports communities and provides habitat for wildlife. We love the river and this part of Maine as much as you do. That's why, with your help in 2019, we wholeheartedly tackled the challenges of climate change, protected valuable ecosystems, and promoted healthy ways for our communities to enjoy the outdoors. It was a great year. Thank you!

- In 2019, together we conserved over 125 acres of fields, forests, rocky coastline, and salt marsh. Protecting these iconic Maine landscapes mitigates climate change by sequestering carbon and helping wildlife habitats to adapt to changing conditions.
- We created two new trails, the Bobolink Trail and Phase 2 of the Oyster River Trail, and now there are more ways than ever to get outdoors and connect to community forests and our own preserves and trails. By our count, over 52,000 people this year enjoyed our outdoor amenities made possible by the Georges River Land Trust.

 We celebrated art and nature at the Langlais Sculpture Preserve and offered new adventures for kids, provided inspiration for visitors, and orchestrated a homecoming

for a certain red, white, and blue vest.

None of this would have been possible without *you*. You generously gave your financial support, volunteered your time, and offered your professional expertise, all of which made a real difference! Together, we are a growing and vibrant community that sustains our environment, supports local habitats, and champions the St. George River that connects us all.

With gratitude,

Mig Rasmin

Meg Rasmussen Executive Director alin Clase

Alvin Chase Board President



As a nationally Accredited Land Trust, the Georges River Land Trust meets the highest quality standards to conserve land today and for future generations.







One tree can sequester 88 lbs. of carbon each year. Georges River Land Trust has conserved over 4,000 acres of land, much of it forested.

The good news is we've been mitigating climate change for 30 years! The great news is we have redoubled our efforts to conserve the most precious and vulnerable landscapes in the beautiful Georges River watershed we call home. We've got some hard work to do and some exciting projects ahead but together we know we will accomplish our goals!



Plants and animals need places to thrive as their existing habitats are changing. Protecting marshes and the surrounding forest, like at Meadow Brook in St. George, helps to provide space for these ecosystems to adapt as sea level rises.



Long Cove in St. George is a special place. From the start, Leslie Hyde and Anne Cogger, owners of Pocket Cove Farm, shared a commitment to keep this small stretch of Maine's beloved coastline wild and free. Thanks to their vision and generosity and with help from the Georges River Land Trust, this iconic landscape on Long Cove is now permanently protected.

"Sustaining natural habitat and open space for generations to come was a priority. We did not see a conservation easement as just a possibility; it was a responsibility."

—Anne Cogger

► Members of Georges River Land Trust's lands committee and Anne Cogger (second from right).



CONNECTING PEOPLE TO NATURE

Experts say that getting outside is a great stress reliever, and it's fun!

In 2019, our goal was to create more ways for you to get outdoors with two great new trails, the Bobolink Trail and Oyster River Trail Phase 2.



Oyster River Trail Phase 2 in Thomaston is complete!

The popular multi-use trail offers opportunities to explore on foot or by bike. Georges River Land Trust, Sidecountry Sports, Oceanside Middle School, the town of Thomaston, and the Midcoast chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association all collaborated to create this family-friendly new trail.

We created an adventure guide to the watershed highlighting our 17 preserves and the Georges Highland Path, a network of over 60 miles of low-impact foot-paths from Searsmont to St. George. Look for it when you renew your membership.



2019 WALKS AND TALKS

Enhancing public access to the outdoors is important, so Georges River Land Trust hosts popular educational and recreational outreach programs. Whether it's a hike on Pleasant Mountain, a river paddle, or a photography workshop, we make the great outdoors available to all!







"As a relative newcomer to
Maine, I had little idea of how
wonderful a paddle trip on the
St. George River would be! It
was sunny, beautiful, quiet, and
calm—it was perfect! We had a
terrific guide and a lovely picnic
lunch awaited our return. The
trip was Maine at its very best:
beautiful, unspoiled, and serene."

—Candace Vancko

CELEBRATING VOLUNTEERS

The generosity and hard work of our many volunteers is the lifeblood of the Georges River Land Trust. Thank you!

"As a trail volunteer, I enjoy helping to provide access for others to the beautiful landscape of the Georges River watershed. It is a labor of love, and I benefit from being out on the trails and from the camaraderie with other volunteers."

—Charlie LeRoyer







BRIDGING ART AND NATURE

Inspiring visitors of all ages, the studio and home of the artist Bernard Langlais is a local gem gaining national attention; volunteer stewards welcomed more than 1,000 visitors during summer weekends in 2019.







Our year-round youth programs welcomed 82 elementary school children to explore their creative potential through multimedia arts and nature. Seasoned artist/teachers instilled an awareness of stewardship, mindfulness, community connections, and a strong sense of place.

Generous donations of Blackie's artwork added exciting new pieces to the collection including a bicentennial-themed wool vest given by the Wolf family.

BUILDING OUR COMMUNITY

Nearly 400 garden enthusiasts enjoyed amazing flower and vegetable gardens in the middle watershed towns of Appleton, Union, and Warren, during the 28th annual Gardens in the Watershed tour in July.



▼ A picture perfect beautiful day at the home of Walter and Barbara Reitz provided an idyllic setting for our ALL THE BUZZ benefit party, celebrating our shared commitment to this special part of Maine.









SUPPORTERS

We are grateful for the support of the following individuals, businesses, and foundations that made gifts to protect and conserve land and habitat throughout the Georges River Watershed between January 1 and December 31, 2019. Thank you!

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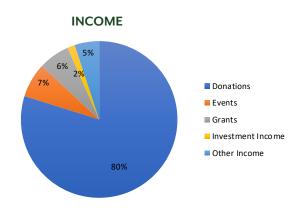
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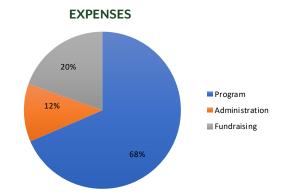
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2019: INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME	2019
Membership	\$89,243
Fall Appeal	\$136,176
Gifts	\$348,960
Donations	\$574,378
Events	\$51,239
Grants	\$46,300
Investment Income	\$11,154
Other Income	\$36,441
Total	\$719,512



EXPENSES	2019
Outreach	\$77,438
Land Acquisition	\$81,879
Stewardship	\$71,600
Conservation Trails	\$140,640
Program	\$371,558
Administration	\$64,844
Fundraising	\$105,906
Total	\$542,308









Lush mosses carpet Quigg Island's forest floor.

"Quigg Island has been owned by Jenness and Jim Robbins since 1967. It has always been a favorite place of my uncle and father. Although they bought it for the timber, they wanted to see its beauty preserved and made accessible to the public forever. They offered it at a bargain price to the Georges River Land Trust whom they thought could best accomplish their objectives."

—Catherine Robbins-Halsted

YOU CAN ENSURE GEMS LIKE QUIGG ISLAND ARE PRESERVED FOREVER.



Tucked away in the upper headwaters of the scenic St. George River in Liberty sits an idyllic island hideaway on Stevens Pond called Quigg Island. Serviced by a state-owned boat launch, this 40-acre conservation gem features steep cliffs, deep coves, stands of hemlock and white pine, and moss-lined trails from which to take in some spectacular views. Shallow waters and wetlands surrounding the island provide habitat for wading birds like herons and egrets, while eagles nest overhead. Truly unvarnished territory to protect and enjoy!

Please join Georges River Land Trust's Campaign to protect this special place.

Visit georgesriver.org or call 207-594-5166 today.







