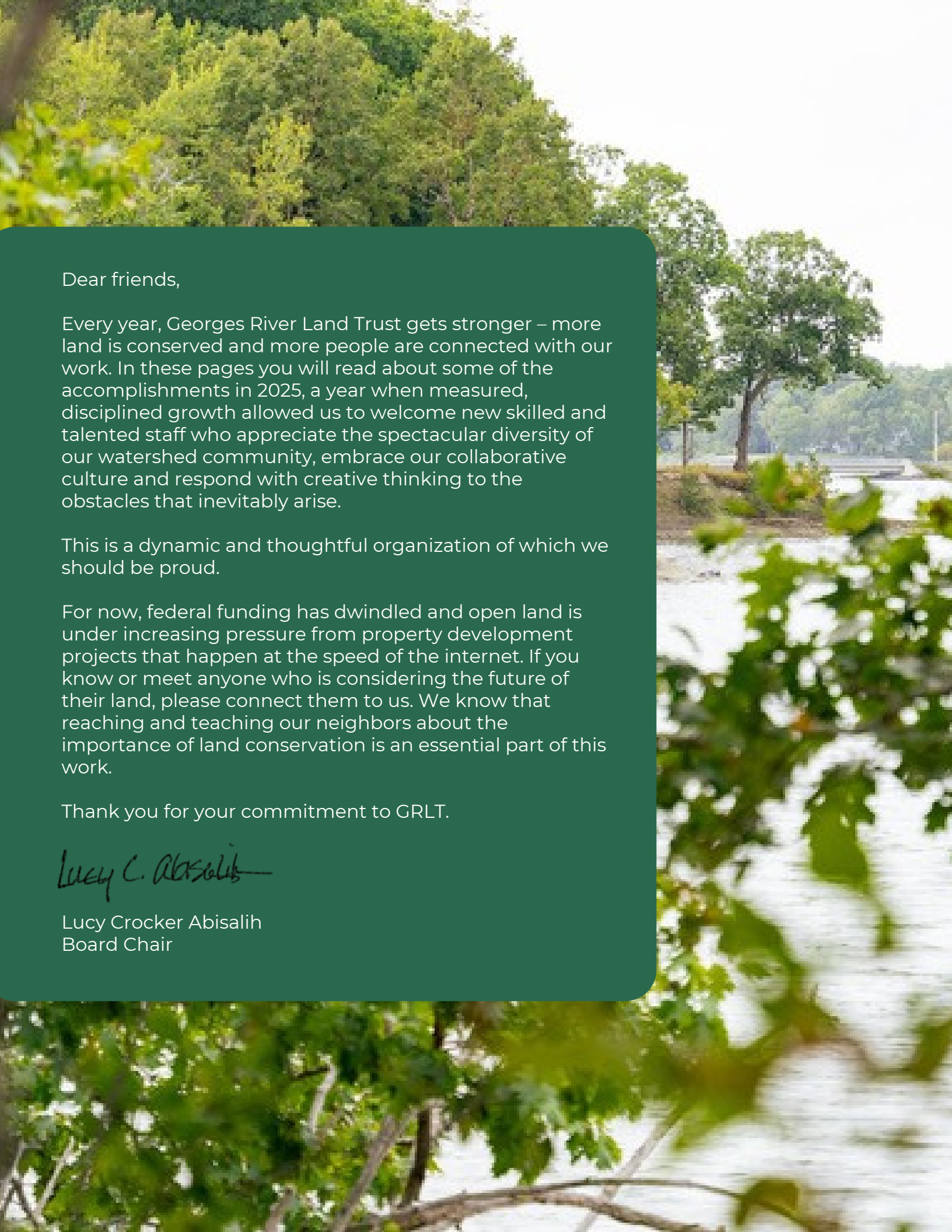


VOLUME 25, ISSUE 1
APRIL 2026

CURRENTS

ANNUAL REPORT EDITION





Dear friends,

Every year, Georges River Land Trust gets stronger – more land is conserved and more people are connected with our work. In these pages you will read about some of the accomplishments in 2025, a year when measured, disciplined growth allowed us to welcome new skilled and talented staff who appreciate the spectacular diversity of our watershed community, embrace our collaborative culture and respond with creative thinking to the obstacles that inevitably arise.

This is a dynamic and thoughtful organization of which we should be proud.

For now, federal funding has dwindled and open land is under increasing pressure from property development projects that happen at the speed of the internet. If you know or meet anyone who is considering the future of their land, please connect them to us. We know that reaching and teaching our neighbors about the importance of land conservation is an essential part of this work.

Thank you for your commitment to GRLT.



Lucy Crocker Abisalih
Board Chair

OUR 2025 IMPACT



315 New acres in conservation

throughout the watershed - **bringing our total to 5,495 acres**

5 Newly conserved properties

including Haystack Mountain Preserve in Montville, Riverbend Preserve in Union, and Alford Brook Preserve in Waldoboro - **bringing our total to 23 public preserves**



45 Miles of public, multiuse trails

maintained and improved for hiking, biking, birding, skiing, and more

376 Participants in Creative Nature programs

offered free of cost, including Wonder Walks, Art Adventures, and Watershed Workshops



170 Students from 7 public schools

engaged in outdoor learning

753 Community members attended our free programs

from paddles, to bird walks, to guided hikes with naturalists



RESTORATION AT ALFORD BROOK PRESERVE

Grant funding from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program will support habitat restoration at Alford Brook Preserve in Waldoboro



This winter, we were awarded a \$420,000 grant from the Maine Natural Resource Conservation Program (MNRCP). This grant will fund the restoration of approximately eight acres of disturbed habitat to repair the riparian buffer, forested wetlands and uplands adjacent to Alford Brook, a tributary of the St. George River.

Over time, the riparian buffer around Alford Brook has been disturbed or cleared by historic farming practices. Riparian buffers are vegetated areas adjacent to streams, wetlands, or lakes, commonly containing trees or shrubs, and perennial plants. These forested zones provide numerous benefits, including stabilizing the brook's banks, filtering sediment from runoff, and supporting wildlife habitat.

This year, MNRCP awarded \$4.6 million to 10 projects to restore and enhance freshwater and coastal wetlands and streams, including our work at Alford Brook Preserve. MNRCP, which is managed by The Nature Conservancy, was created to allocate funds collected through Maine's "In Lieu Fee Compensation Program." This program allows entities impacting natural resources, primarily wetlands, to make a payment directly to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as an alternative to the traditional mitigation process.

Alford Brook Preserve is home to a diverse array of species, including an active beaver population and wild brook trout. We are thrilled to have support from MNRCP, and look forward to enhancing the natural resources of the St. George River watershed.



Top: Alford Brook in spring

Bottom: Native red trillium blooming along the brook



NEW PRESERVE COMING TO UNION

110-acre preserve in Union will create opportunities for outdoor learning and recreation

We have a new preserve coming to Union! This summer, Georges River Land Trust will finalize a new 110-acre preserve just east of Sennebec Pond. This conservation project has the potential to greatly strengthen and transform our relationships with local schools and communities, while protecting unique habitats and aquatic resources.

Ecologically, this land plays a critical role as a wildlife corridor and is vital for the protection of several species of rare freshwater mussels found in the nearby ponds. The presence of these sensitive species make the St. George River an ecologically significant site and a State of Maine focus area – one of only 140 in the entire state! Conservation of this property will create access for hunters and foragers to what will become the largest public preserve in Union.

This property also offers an exciting and unique opportunity to partner with local schools to use the preserve as an outdoor classroom and introduce students to new, hands-on experiences on the land. We are already working with Mid-Coast School of Technology to bring their Outdoor Leadership Program to the preserve, along with public schools in Union and Appleton.

We are so excited about the educational possibilities that can take place at this new preserve and envision a future where local residents come to learn, hunt, birdwatch, and be immersed in nature.

We are grateful to the local family trust whose partnership and patience has made this conservation project possible.

Help us create our largest preserve in Union! If you would like to contribute to our public campaign to support conserving and caring for this property, **please reach out to Linnea Patterson at linnea@grlt.org.**

A Note from our Executive Director

Dear community,

2025 was an exciting year for us – and we are so thankful for all that you made possible. Our financial strength has allowed us to add three new staff members and conserve 315 acres across 5 projects.

For the past four years I have been part of the leadership team at GRLT as Director of Operations, and am happy to announce my new title as Executive Director. I am energized by our staff and board, who continue to expand not only our conserved lands, but our program offerings to better connect our communities with the land we protect.

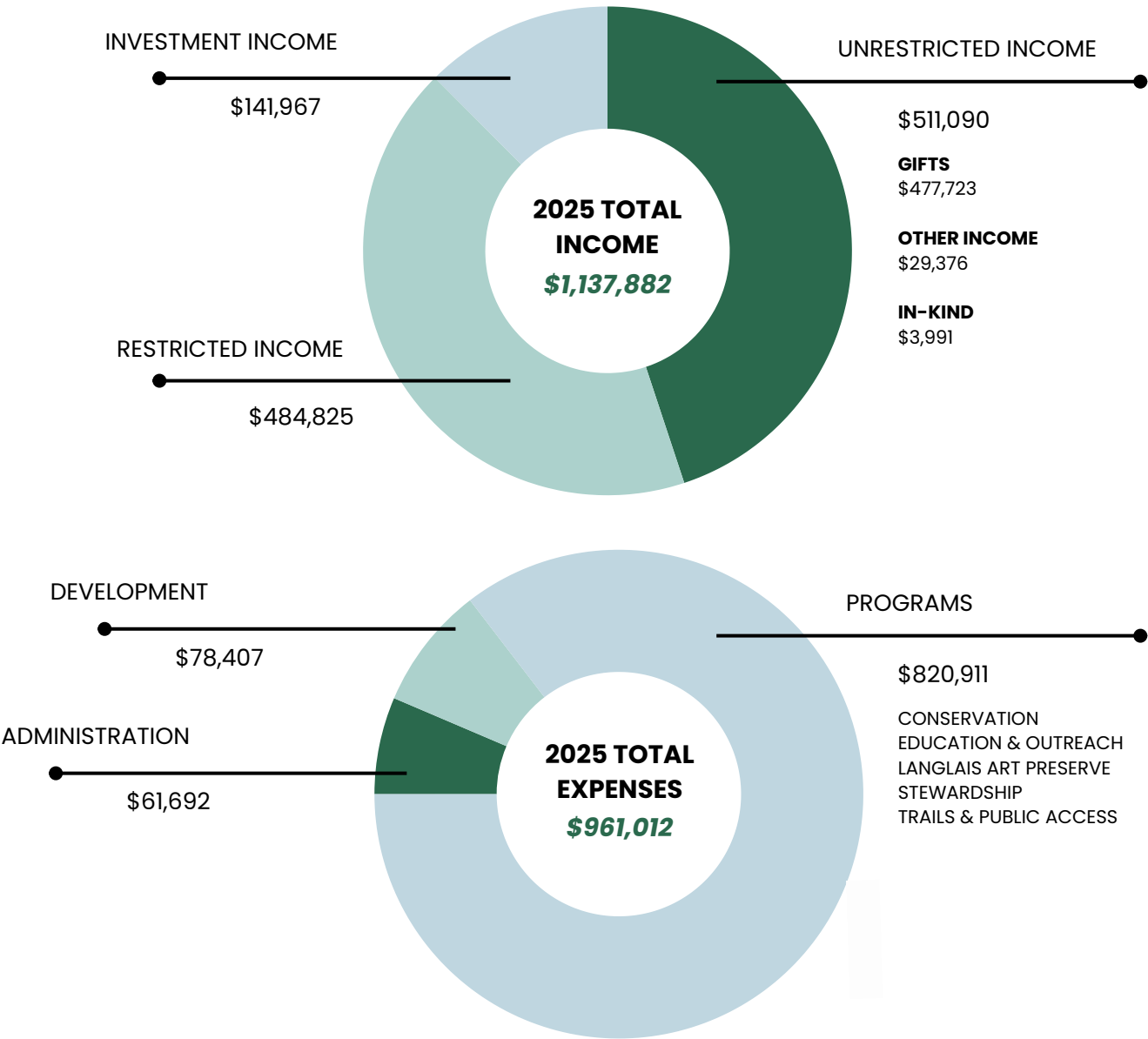
Looking ahead, we are thrilled to continue conserving vital ecosystems and natural places that the community values.

I hope to see you at an event or on the trails this year.



Julia Sampson
Executive Director

2025 FINANCIAL STATEMENT





Celebrating 30+ years of giving

We are so grateful for our longtime supporters who have made our conservation work in the St. George River watershed possible. Thank you to these extraordinary and generous members who have supported Georges River Land Trust for three decades or more.

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Liz Stanley and Ike Johnson
Chuck Paine and Debby Wheelock
Pen and Bev Williamson

Business Sponsors

Our business sponsors provide critical support for our conservation and community programs. These businesses recognize the role the St. George River watershed plays as a vital economic and social engine in our communities. We encourage you to support these conservation-minded local businesses.

Allagash Brewing Company
Allen Insurance and Financial
Anonymous
Barley Joe Farm Greenhouse, LLC
Beal's Electric
Brooks Trap Mill
Camden Real Estate Company
Colby College
Eastern Tire and Auto Service, Inc.
Hannaford Community Bag Program
Harbor Hives
Hedgerow
Lake St. George Brewing Company
Lie-Nielsen Toolworks

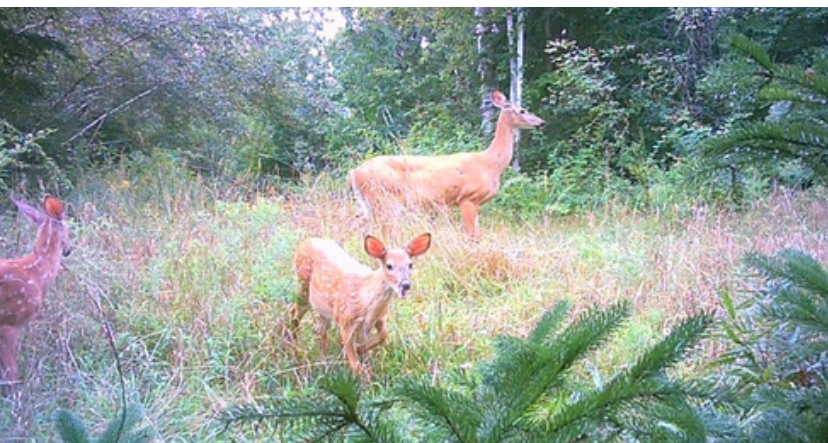
Lyman-Morse Boat Building Company
Mars Hall Gallery
Mid-Maine Forestry
Monhegan Boat Line, Inc.
Oyster River Joinery
Oyster River Winegrowers
Pro Moving Services
RFB Advertising
Sara Gagan Design
Shaw's
Shaw & Tenney
The Pour Farm
TREEKEEPERS LLC - Johnson's Arboriculture
Viking, Inc.

Foundations & Public Agencies

These foundations and public agencies provided funding for our efforts in 2025. We are grateful to receive ongoing support, year after year, from many of them.

Aldermere Foundation
American Online Giving Foundation
Ann Armstrong Guild Charitable Giving Fund
Bock/Hanaway Fund
Broad Bay Congregational United Church of Christ
Charities Aid Foundation of America
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Herring Gut Learning Center
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Midcoast Conservancy
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Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Ruth Foundation for the Arts
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The Carl Jud Foundation
The Cleveland Foundation
The Leshner Family Foundation
The Lunder Foundation
The Marshall Family Charitable Foundation



Deer in the Rockland Bog Preserve



Artist Sam Finkelstein leading a Watershed Workshop at Ash Point Preserve in Owls Head

Watershed Society Members

These extraordinary individuals have committed to a planned gift at a future date through a bequest, IRA, life insurance benefit, or a gift of real estate. We thank them for their significant demonstration of commitment to protecting the St. George River watershed.

Anonymous
Pat Ashton and Robert Steinmetz
Jan Braumuller
Alvin Chase, Jr. and Tozia Chase
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Sustaining Benefactors

Total gifts of \$5,000+

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Debra and Doug Morgan
Susan and John Morris
Anita Siegenthaler
David and Peggy Stuart
Richard and Sheila Tasker
Jeff Twitchell
Ken and Barbara Wexler

Our conservation work is funded by the generosity of an engaged community through membership donations and grants. This support is a testament to the love we all share for the beauty and ecological importance of the St. George River watershed.

Thank you!

Major Donors

Total gifts of \$1,000–\$4,999

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Total gifts of \$10-\$999

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Blueberries at Haystack Mountain Preserve in Montville

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 Imogen Moxhay
 William Mroz and Ingrid Booker Mroz
 Molly Mugler
 Judy Mullins and Neil Macmillan
 Janet and Thomas Munger
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 M. Marguerite Murphy
 Eileen Murray
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 Andrew Nesheim
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 Pam Swing and Marty Plotkin
 Marianne and William Swittlinger
 Kristen Sykes
 Amy Tan
 Robert and Beverly Tappan
 Carl Tarbell
 Linda Tatelbaum and Kal Winer
 Joan Tax



A chilly, fun day of outdoor exploration at Creative Nature Club



Tasting seaweed with Rachel Alexandrou during a foraging workshop at Ash Point Preserve



Robert and Nectar paddling the St. George River in Warren

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Paul Terranova and Nancy Eberle
Jeffrey P. and Marli Thibodeau
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We have made an effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If you see any errors or omissions, please contact us so we may correct our records.

Thank you!



Visiting *Dodecahedron (Cosmos)*, one of Gina Siepel's *Forest Geometries* along the woodland trail at the Langlais Art Preserve during our monthly early release day program for the Cushing Community School

Looking and Listening in the Watershed



Salamander eggs found in the Rockland Bog



Stewardship Manager Natalie Curry counting nesting bobolinks at Riverview Hayfields Preserve in South Thomaston



Second grade students at Warren Community School observing insects



Fun during Wonder Walks at the Langlais Art Preserve in Cushing



Looking for butterfly eggs at Gibson Preserve in Searsmont



Exploring and observing during Creative Nature youth programs at Gibson Preserve in Searsmont



Watershed Workshop: "Amplifying the Senses" with Karen McCoy at the Langlais Art Preserve in Cushing

Spring 2026 Events



APRIL
25

Nature Journaling with Sherrie York

10am–12pm at Gibson Preserve – Join Maine Master Naturalist and artist Sherrie York for a guided nature journaling and field sketching course

MAY
2

***Becoming a Bird* with Sarah Haviland**

2pm–5pm at the Langlais Art Preserve – Our first of six Watershed Workshops, led by regional artists from May to October

MAY
3

Vernal Pool Party

10am–12pm at the Rockland Bog (Rte. 90 trailhead) – Explore the amazing amphibian and insect world at this guided vernal pool walk

MAY
7

Women in Trails Panel

6pm–7:30pm at the Rockland Public Library – A conversation with women trails professionals moderated by GRLT's Isabella Childs Michael

MAY
9

Creative Nature Club: Perfect Union

9:30am–12:30pm at the Langlais Art Preserve in Cushing – A free program blending nature and art for childrens ages 6–10

MAY
16

Fairy House Building

10am–12pm at the Rockland Bog Preserve (Beechwood St. trailhead) – Invite magic in by crafting creations with natural materials

MAY
21

Rockland Bog Trailhead Opening Celebration

5pm–6:30pm the Rockland Bog Preserve (Beechwood St. trailhead) – Check out the new trailhead, offering 7+ miles of connected trails

MAY
30

4th Annual Little Sprouts Seedling Sale

9am–1pm at the Langlais Art Preserve – This plant, seedling, and bake sale will benefit the Cushing Community School



Visit georgesriver.org/events
to learn more and register!





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Georges River Land Trust

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Cover image: Volunteer
Bird Hoggren paddling the
St. George River in Union

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(@thombsphotography),
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throughout this publication.