



# 2020

YEAR IN REVIEW

# 2020 IMPACT

We accomplished a lot in 2020 – all thanks to the support from our community.

Here are the numbers:



Conserved 200 new acres of watershed ecosystems



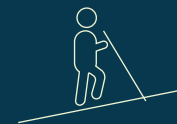
Ensured carbon remains in our protected lands (forests, soils, and wetlands) instead of emitting into our atmosphere



Maintained 61 miles of public trails



Stewarded 4,000 acres of Midcoast habitat, landscapes, and traditional character



Provided safe recreation experiences for residents and tourists through the 14 towns in our watershed



Supported Maine's tourism industry, which is linked to 1 in every 6 jobs in Maine

All of this was made possible through the steady involvement and care for the land from our passionate community of supporters. Thank you!

Together we can – and did!

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Resilience! 2020 taught us all to sidestep obstacles and move forward with what's most important. At the Georges River Land Trust, we are committed to protecting essential wildlife habitats, iconic Maine landscapes, and recreational opportunities surrounding the St. George River. And again this year, despite the challenges, we did just that.

- GRLT stepped in to protect over 200 acres of forest and freshwater frontage, coastal wetland, and salt marsh. Conserving these community gems protects water quality and mitigates climate change by helping habitats adapt to ever-changing conditions.
- Did you hike a trail, savor a waterfront view at one of our preserves, or grab your paddle and explore the River? Record numbers discovered healthy ways to enjoy the outdoors through our preserves, trails, and waterfront access. GRLT's volunteers and staff stepped up to make sure it was all safe and welcoming. The year reminded us that access to nature is a necessity, and we are privileged to ensure it for generations to come.
- At the Langlais Sculpture Preserve in Cushing, a new pollinator garden bloomed, and we welcomed home original Langlais works and restored one of the best: *Mr. Warthog*.

We are proud of our accomplishments, and you were right there with us. You stepped up and generously gave your financial support, volunteered your time, and shared your expertise, all of which made a real difference. Thank you! Together, we can continue to grow a vibrant community that protects our environment, supports local habitats, and champions this river that connects us all.

With gratitude,

Meg Rasmussen  
Executive Director

Alvin Chase  
Board President

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



## ENGAGING THE OUTDOORS

2020 was all about getting outside! Through every season, you used our trails and preserves more than ever. We were proud to provide free public access for all.

As the pandemic forced us into lockdowns, precautionary closures, and extended social distancing, one thing remained unchanged: the outdoors. As everyday life was turned upside down, the beautiful places we know and care for remained right side up. In a year that gave us pause, nature allowed us the gift of reflection.

GRLT continued on-going partnerships with outdoor organizations, local businesses, and townships across the watershed in 2020. Thanks to them, we succeeded in sharing our beloved places with those who needed them more than ever.

Appleton Trail Makers Snowmobile Club  
City of Rockland Parks and Recreation Committee  
Coastal Mountains Land Trust  
Maine Dept Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Mid-Coast Audubon  
Midcoast Chapter of the NE Mountain Bike Association  
Sidecountry Sports  
St. George Conservation Commission  
Town of Liberty  
Town of Thomaston  
Trailrunners of Midcoast Maine  
Waldo County Trails Coalition

*"The Georges River Valley is significant in Midcoast Maine for its lengthy sections of undeveloped land. The preserves and trails network are a way for folks to safely get out on the land and experience it for themselves.*

*I love being part of a dream, and a team, that helps people get outside and explore the nature around them. Volunteering is my small, but very rewarding way to contribute to that dream."*

*- Tom Neely, Trail Volunteer*





## QUIGG ISLAND COMMUNITY FOREST | Liberty

Securing a keystone property in the upper watershed demonstrates GRLT's commitment to serving the health of its community from the headwaters to the sea. GRLT worked with Jenness and Jim Robbins, who have owned this 40-acre parcel on the north end of Quigg Island since their days in high school, as well as many in the community, including the US Forest Service Community Forest Program. GRLT is looking forward to welcoming the community and working alongside residents, school and scout groups, Robbins Lumber Co, and CALL (Citizens Association of Liberty Lakes) to ensure the property is well tended and sustainably managed for future generations.

## SCHOOL HOUSE FARM | Warren

Buying local foods is a significant way everyone can participate in sustaining our way of life in Maine while contributing to reducing carbon emissions. This past year, School House Farm owner Yelena Burdina followed up on the vision of her partner Bill Beckwith, who passed in 2017, to permanently protect School House Farm along Route One in Warren. Their plan was to forever protect important farm soils, ensure the land is not otherwise developed and will support local farming. 52 acres with frontage along the St. George River is now conserved and abuts another 68 acres of farmland in easement. While farm soils will remain in production to provide local fruit and vegetables, these conservation properties also protect nearly 12 acres of estuarine marsh along the river and over a half mile of river frontage. This river buffer will help mitigate against storm surge and sea level rise.



## WESKEAG HEADLANDS | South Thomaston

From the vantage point of a wooded headland in South Thomaston, previously owned by David and Lorri Cousens, one can look out onto the Weskeag Marsh and surrounding conservation land. Always committed to the longer view, the Cousens worked with GRLT to sell their land at a bargain so that it would become part of the mosaic of over 1,500 acres of conserved land between the Weskeag Marsh and the St. George River in South Thomaston. The project could not have happened without the support of many individuals, private foundations, and public funding. Additionally, GRLT collaborated with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the State of Maine W. Tyler Wildlife Management Area on this conservation project.

## UP AND DOWN THE RIVER

Spanning the headwaters to the sea, GRLT completed important conservation projects in 2020, safeguarding critical wildlife habitat, securing access to local foods, and creating public access to spectacular waterfronts.



# CELEBRATING ART AND NATURE

The Land Trust continues to celebrate and share in the excitement at the Langlais Sculpture Preserve, a unique property that evokes the intersection of art and nature. Throughout 2020, hundreds of people came out to safely experience the joy of Bernard "Blackie" Langlais' work in Cushing amidst the 90-acre conserved property. With the help of volunteer stewards, guests were welcomed to tour the sculpture preserve along the universally accessible trail, stand in the shadow of whimsical 30-foot tall animal sculptures and visit the artist's studio and workshop.



## Keeping Langlais' Artistic Legacy Alive

In the fall of 1979, Elizabeth Scott Porter was walking with friends in Cushing when they happened to pass by Blackie Langlais' place. She was fascinated by the monumental totem and animals and asked if she could explore. "Blackie was in the barn and welcomed us and we wandered around riveted by his sense of humor and giant talent." She fell completely and totally in love with *Mr. Warthog*, bought him and he soon found a home in her Washington, D.C. garden.

When Mrs. Porter decided to move across the country to a smaller place, it was time for Mr. Warthog to come back to Cushing. After years outdoors, it needed restoration to tease back its quirky personality. Douglas Smith, a local artist and art conservator, spent 70 hours restoring the wooden sculpture to its former self and it now lives happily inside the Little Barn among the rest of Blackie's menagerie.

## Pollinator Garden

"Sleep, creep, leap!" So goes a saying about the first three years of a perennial garden, and in 2020 our pollinator garden really took off. Previously, Master Garden volunteers worked with GRLT to plant more than 260 native plant seedlings, plugs, and transplants to provide food and shelter for pollinators and birds. In the summer, the garden exploded in color and variety, a safe haven for native populations of birds, bees, and other insects.

*"Volunteering at Langlais with fellow stewards has resulted in meaningful conversations, friendships, and pride surrounding the many extraordinary endeavors GRLT undertakes to conserve the beauty and enhance the lifestyle quality in this unique area."*

- Ginnie Hibbard, Langlais Steward





## WATERSHED SOCIETY MEMBERS

Extraordinary donors who have committed to/given a planned gift through a bequest, IRA, life insurance benefit, or gift of real estate. GRLT thanks these individuals for their unwavering commitment to protecting the Georges River watershed.

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### Make the Watershed Part of Your Legacy

All those who make GRLT part of their planned giving are honored as part of this special group of conservationists.

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Georges River Land trust is powered by a committed community of volunteers working across all of our programs. Without the countless hours of service given by members of all ages, our conservation, education, and public access opportunities would simply not exist. We cannot say this enough. Thank you.

Want to get involved? We are always looking for committed individuals to help strengthen our yearly work – or simply lend a helping hand when possible. Here are some ways to volunteer:

- Trails Maintenance
- Langlais Sculpture Preserve
- Outreach Events
- Office Assistance



To volunteer, contact us at:  
207-594-5166 or [info@grlt.org](mailto:info@grlt.org)

Contact us to discuss how we can add to your legacy:

Meg Rasmussen, Executive Director  
[meg@grlt.org](mailto:meg@grlt.org) | 207-594-5166

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Our work is made possible by an incredible community of donors, members, and volunteers. Their yearly contributions allows GRLT to protect the ecological gems of our watershed – and ensure access to them for all. Thank you!

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Meg Rasmussen and Brian Higley  
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Christopher and Betsy Rector  
Steven Rector and Nancy Levin  
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Susanne Richey  
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Arthur Riggins  
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Sandra Roak  
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Deanna Smith  
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Glenn and Sharon Tucker  
David Tudor  
Clare Tully  
Sonia Turek



*Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists. If you see any errors or omissions, please contact us so that we may correct our records. Thank you!*

Tom and Angela Vachon  
Garrett Vail and Michelle Walker  
Sam Vail  
LLoyd Van Lunen and Margaret Wilson  
Candace Vancko  
Alana VanDerwerker  
Andrew Vaughan  
Joy Vaughan  
David Vickery  
Lisa and Andrew Vietze  
Jean Vose  
Diane Walden-Rapalyea and Richard Rapalyea  
David Zella Walker  
John Walker  
Sondra Wallace  
Lena and Bengt Wallstrom  
Amy Wappler  
Jonathan Ward  
Timothy Warden  
Fred Wardwell  
David and Jane Warren  
Deborah and Peter Warren  
Nancy Warren  
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Milton Watson, Jr. and Ruth DeLoor  
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Kathryn and George Stephens  
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Wendy and Roger Wickenden  
Catherine Wiejaczka  
Chip Wienges  
David Williams  
Megan Williams and Archie Green  
Peter Williams  
Christopher Williamson  
Pen and Bev Williamson  
Peter Wilson  
Susan Wind  
Marge Winski  
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Joan Wright and G. Howard Robbins  
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Dan and Heather Wyman  
Thomas Young  
Glenn and Bethany Yovino  
Lawrence Zarin  
Michael Zarin  
Diane Zavotsky  
William and Sally Zierden

## BUSINESS SPONSORS

Our yearly business sponsors provide critical help towards our conservation and public access programs. Please consider supporting their business as they support GRLT!

Adventure Advertising, Inc.  
 Beals Electric  
 Blue Tulip Landscaping  
 Brooks Trap Mill  
 Camden Real Estate Company  
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 Cold Mountain Builders  
 Eastern Tire & Auto Service, Inc.  
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## PARTNERS

The following foundations and government agencies provided support to our programs in 2020:

Anonymous  
 AmazonSmile Foundation  
 Bafflin Foundation  
 Davis Conservation Fund  
 Enbridge Foundation  
 Falcon Charitable Fund  
 Fields Pond Foundation, Inc.  
 Georges River Chapter of Trout Unlimited  
 Kohler Foundation  
 Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
 Mainstream Fund - Maine Community Foundation

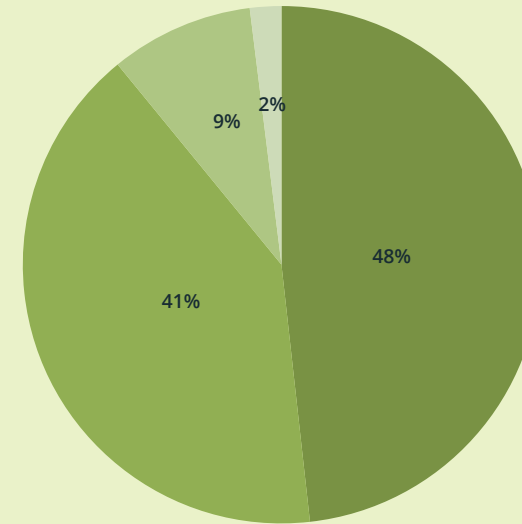
Nellie Leaman Taft Foundation  
 NEMBA Midcoast Maine  
 Onion Foundation  
 Ram Island Fund at Maine Community Foundation  
 RDK Foundation  
 Southern Maine Wetlands Conservancy  
 State of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
 The Wyeth Foundation  
 USFS - Community Forest Grant  
 Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Georges River Land Trust is responsible for the condensed, unaudited financial information presented in this report. For more detailed information, contact Georges River Land Trust.

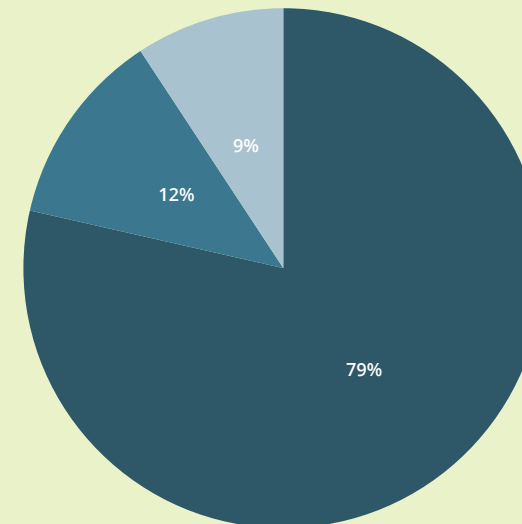
Georges River Land Trust is a gold-level Guidestar Participant, demonstrating its commitment to transparency.



### INCOME

INCOME CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
Donations	\$499,208.21
Grants	\$422,650.00
Membership	\$92,656.87
Events & Other Income	\$20,316.06
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$1,034,831.14</b>

- Donations
- Grants
- Membership
- Events & Other Income



### EXPENSE

EXPENSE CATEGORIES	AMOUNT
Land Acquisition/Conservation	\$455,396.76
Stewardship	\$87,650.56
Trails & Public Access	\$73,017.61
<b>Program</b>	<b>\$616,064.93</b>
Administration	\$95,526.63
Fundraising	\$72,612.23
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$784,203.79</b>

- Program
- Administration
- Fundraising



## GET INVOLVED

To support GRLT and make a difference in 2021 you can:

### Fight Climate Change

Conserved lands keep carbon out of the atmosphere. We're also finding ways to help wildlife survive by preserving and managing fragile habitats for resilience.

### Go Outside!

We're revamping our trails program to bring you the best outdoor experiences in the mid-coast. Joining our top-notch trails volunteers is a great way to support the longevity of these community resources.

### Celebrate Art and Nature

What's happening next at the Langlais Sculpture preserve? We're designing a master plan to envision future possibilities for this local treasure.

### Drive the Next Wave of Conservation Projects

We're developing a comprehensive strategy for conserving the highest value landscapes in the region. Safeguarding our outdoor heritage is so critical right now!

## 4 WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

### DONATIONS

Make a tax-deductible contribution of cash, stocks, mutual funds, or donor-advised funds.

### PLANNED GIFT

Make a legacy gift by including GRLT in your estate planning.

### REAL ESTATE

Make a contribution of land, easements or stewardship grants.

### MEMBERSHIP

Our members sustain all that we do! Join today or renew your membership to be part of this community effort to protect our incredible watershed.





[georgesriver.org](http://georgesriver.org)  
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TOGETHER WE CAN