



# 2015

YEAR IN REVIEW

*Discover the river.  
Care for the land.*



*ava Bosworth*

APPLETON | CUSHING | HOPE | LIBERTY | MONTVILLE | OWLS HEAD | ROCKLAND | ST. GEORGE  
SEARSMONT | SOUTH THOMASTON | THOMASTON | UNION | WARREN



*“...the care of the earth is our most ancient and most worthy and, after all, our most pleasing responsibility. To cherish what remains of it, and to foster its renewal, is our only legitimate hope.”*

—WENDELL BERRY,  
*The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays*



Dear Friends,

We are pleased to share the Georges River Land Trust’s Annual Report for 2015. We hope that the pages to follow will provide you with some new insights into our work and the many different activities which help us succeed in our mission:

*...to conserve the ecosystems and traditional heritage of the Georges River watershed region through permanent land conservation, stewardship and outdoor experiences.*

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*Special thanks to Alvin Chase and David Elliott who completed their terms on September 15, 2015.*

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*Special thanks to Gail Presley who retired as Executive Director on October 31, 2015*

## The Georges River Land Trust

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[georgesriver.org](http://georgesriver.org)

2015 was a grand slam! Through the generosity of the Blackford and Gibson families, we were able to add to the acreage of our Pleasant Point and Gibson Preserves in Cushing and Searsmont, respectively. Robbins Lumber Company placed a conservation easement on a second portion of the family company’s holdings and we worked with the Town of Owls Head to conserve the Plaisted property, where the Town has plans to provide public access. Lastly, we are excited to announce that the Land Trust received the gift of Bernard and Helen Langlais’ home and 90 acres in Cushing and which we expect to open to visitors as a sculpture and nature preserve in 2017.

The completion of these projects increases the number of acres conserved by the Land Trust to 3,718; this permanent conservation was accomplished through 44 conservation easements completed on privately owned lands and the establishment of 16 nature preserves owned and managed by the Georges River Land Trust.

Added to this portfolio are approximately 60 miles of trails throughout the watershed along the Georges Highland Path. Public access traverses private lands through handshake agreements with willing landowners along trails as diverse as our watershed. We hope that you have a chance to explore some of these wonderful places with your family and friends soon.

While the Georges River Land Trust is in the business of conserving land, we are really engaged in the art of partnerships. None of the projects accomplished this year would have happened without the support of an active membership, the vision of dedicated landowners, and the extra efforts of a diverse corps of volunteers. Your generosity and personal commitment to the conservation of this beautiful place will ensure that future generations will also have the opportunity to enjoy its many benefits. Thank you for helping to build a lasting legacy in the conservation of the Georges River watershed region.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Robbins  
President

Pamela Dewell  
Executive Director



# Conservation Accomplishments 2015

## *Achieving Permanency*

Georges River Land Trust partnered with a municipality, a multi-generational family owned business, and several landowners to secure 104 additional acres of conservation land throughout the watershed. Two of our preserves gained valuable acreage with generous donations from neighboring landowners and two easements in the middle and lower watershed will ensure working forests and recreational access are protected.



*Pamela and John Blackford*

In our headwaters, Gibson Preserve has an additional 26 acres of valuable wetlands tied to the Black Spruce Bog, a significant 2900-acre wetland complex and at the other end of the watershed in Cushing, Pleasant Point Preserve has an additional nine acres of mixed woodland donated by John and Pamela Blackford. The easements secured in 2015 include a partnership with the Town of Owls Head on a 10-acre parcel they were recently gifted and where the local Conservation Commission will create woodland walking trails and a partnership with Robbins Lumber Company on 59 acres of woodland in Warren that they will sustainably manage for white pine.

## *Stewardship*

One of our easement properties, the Torrey easement in Appleton, sold after 18 months on the market to a couple who have ties to the Rockland area and are eager to farm and manage this waterfront property. Otherwise our easement properties were in good condition with no changes in ownership or amendment requests. Regarding our preserves, we added a new parking lot to the Trolley Marsh Preserve on the Oyster River Road in Warren. A main walking path extends to the shore, though we intend to extend the trails in the coming year. In 2015, the Land Trust offered fee for service mapping to the Town of St. George and their Conservation Commission. This included six large-scale maps detailing wetlands, high value wildlife habitats, conserved lands, soils, and public access sites in the town.

## *Along the Georges Highland Path*

In 2015, Georges River Land Trust continued to work with local conservation commissions in Thomaston and St. George to enhance and extend trails. Working with St. George Conservation Commission, staff laid the groundwork for a new three-mile trail in town. In Thomaston, the Town Forest section of the Georges Highland Path was rerouted to include land recently acquired by the Town and a mile of new trail along the Oyster River. During the summer months, the Land Trust had the benefit of Emma Blakeley, a student at Bates College and resident of Appleton, working on the trails. In September a "Hike-A-Thon" raised nearly \$10,000 for the Land Trust's maintenance of these trails, thanks to the participation of avid hikers and trail supporters!





*"To be with, and a part of, nature" is how Bernard Langlais described his years in Cushing, Maine where he built an "environmental complex" comprised of large wooden sculptures inhabiting a farmyard adjacent to his workshop and studio and the old farmhouse he lived with his wife Helen.*



*Conservation work on the large outdoor sculptures will continue through summer 2016.*

## **"To be with, and part of, nature"**

Presided over by the large wooden horse on River Road in Cushing, the Helen and Bernard Langlais property was gifted to the Georges River Land Trust by the Kohler Foundation in November of 2015. Renowned for preserving artist-built environments across the country and conveying them to local non-profits for the education and enjoyment of the public, the Kohler Foundation's gift also included a number of large wooden sculptures created by "Blackie" over the last decade of his life.

Valued at \$1.3 million, the Land Trust will raise funds to match Kohler's gift in order to provide for the long-term stewardship of the Langlais Sculpture Preserve. Plans are underway to construct accessible pathways, complete building renovations and implement energy-saving retrofits.

2016 will be the fourth and last year that art conservators will be on-site, ensuring the sculptures will endure for generations to come. We hope that you will contact us to learn more about "sneak peeks" this summer!

## **Donor Profile: This is for Real**



WICK SKINNER and his wife learned about land trusts when they lived in Massachusetts, so when they moved to Tenant's Harbor, Maine in 1984, they knew they wanted to put their land in a conservation easement. Soon after, friends recommended they work with the newly-formed Georges River Land Trust. That was the beginning of a long and fruitful relationship for the Skinners and for the Land Trust.

Wick has spent many an hour volunteering his time on GRLT's board and strategic planning committees. He has served as an advisor in many capacities and notes that GRLT's board, staff and volunteers are "really terrific people to associate with."

Mr. Skinner has also donated to support many of the Land Trust's projects over the years. He says, "To be involved in conservation—it's really exciting. This is for real—the land is conserved for the duration! I'm fantastically impressed with the good they are doing. I feel privileged to have been able to work on projects like the Hayfields. Being involved with Georges River Land Trust's conservation work allows me to make a lasting contribution to the whole area."

## **2015 Resident Artist**



GEORGE MASON has been the Georges River Land Trust Artist in Residence since May of 2015. George has spent much of this year exploring the Georges River watershed both on his own and with Land Trust members and friends who have introduced him to many of their favorite spots. And, creating art.

Mason said that what he observed from his summer installation at the Land Trust's Appleton Preserve was pivotal in prompting the body of work that will be part of his final installation and show to be held at the Caldbeck Gallery in Rockland in May of 2016.

The Georges River Artist in Residency is sponsored by the K2 Family Foundation, based in Port Clyde. K2 partners with our Land Trust and other non-profits to fund efforts in arts, education, and sustainability. Partnering with the Georges River Land Trust has allowed us to support artists, while also celebrating the deep connection people feel between the land and the arts, especially in places like Maine," said Margot Kelley, K2s Executive Director.

## Preserving Land | and your family's legacy

*As the saying goes, perpetuity is a long time...* How can you help the Georges River Land Trust achieve permanent land conservation? How can we work together to ensure this place that we all love is here for the life-long enjoyment of our grandchildren—and *their* grandchildren?

After making provisions for loved ones, one or more charitable interests are often included in a will, deed, or living trust. By giving a gift through a deed of a remainder interest, a will or a trust, individuals can help the Georges River Land Trust continue our conservation work. This process is called planned giving.

The plans made today will help define a family legacy tomorrow—and ensure that your philanthropic goals are met. Through a proper will, individuals can have a significant impact on the causes they care about, including the Georges River Land Trust.

- Donations made by will or other bequest are 100% deductible for estate tax purposes.
- Donations are simple to make and may only require drafting a simple deed or codicil (amendment) to a current will.
- Many people are able to make larger gifts through their will than would be possible using current income.

### Retirement Plans

Many financial advisors suggest using these funds to make charitable gifts to reduce the tax burden on heirs by reporting the amount withdrawn combined with an offsetting charitable donation.

### Securities

Giving appreciated securities (stocks, bonds and mutual funds) can generate additional tax savings. Such gifts are generally tax-deductible for income tax purposes at their full current value if owned for longer than one year. They can be used to offset taxes up to 30% of adjusted gross income.

### Life Insurance

The donation of a policy that has been paid for allows the donor to receive a tax deduction for its fair market value. A life insurance policy naming the Georges River Land Trust as the irrevocable owner and beneficiary provides the donor with a tax deduction for the policy's cash value and future payments to the Land Trust to cover the premiums on the policy can also be deducted. In either example, you may name more than one charitable organization as a beneficiary.

### Bequest

A bequest is made through a will or trust. Bequests of real estate can also be made through provisions in a deed. Typically, a bequest in a will or trust would specify that a dollar amount or percentage of your estate be left to the Georges River Land Trust. The donation is exempt from federal estate tax and allows the donor use and control of the assets during his or her lifetime.

### Real Estate

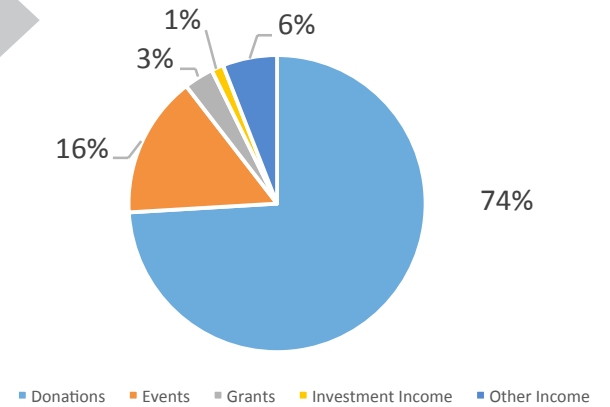
Gifts of real estate can be made to the Land Trust at any time. Individuals may choose to donate the property and retain a life estate, realizing the value of the gift during your lifetime and remaining on the land you love. Condos and properties outside of our service area may also be left to the Land Trust and the proceeds derived from their sale directed to support our mission.

*Won't you consider joining our Watershed Society and leaving a legacy of conservation?*

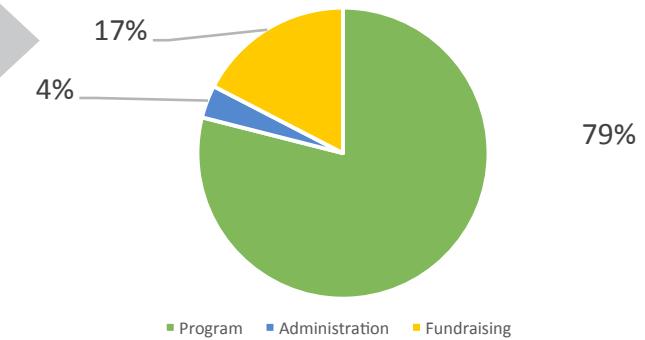
2015  
YEAR IN REVIEW

### INCOME & EXPENSES

INCOME	2015	2014
Membership	\$71,023	\$71,990
Fall Appeal	\$49,313	\$58,645
Major Gifts	\$183,719	\$92,240
<b>Donations</b>	<b>\$304,055</b>	<b>\$222,875</b>
Events	\$63,519	\$54,746
Grants	\$13,234	\$30,472
Investment Income	\$5,459	\$8,618
Other Income	\$24,309	\$32,914
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$410,576</b>	<b>\$349,625</b>



EXPENSES	2015	2014
Outreach	\$80,801	\$48,284
Land Acquisition	\$5,878	\$3,350
Land Protection	\$64,800	\$76,060
Stewardship	\$38,905	\$76,516
Conservation Trails	\$64,843	\$31,292
<b>Program</b>	<b>\$225,837</b>	<b>\$235,502</b>
Administration	\$11,758	\$21,729
Fundraising	\$56,256	\$37,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$317,362</b>	<b>\$294,776</b>



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

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*We are grateful for the support of the following individuals, businesses and foundations who gave between January 1 and December 31, 2015.*

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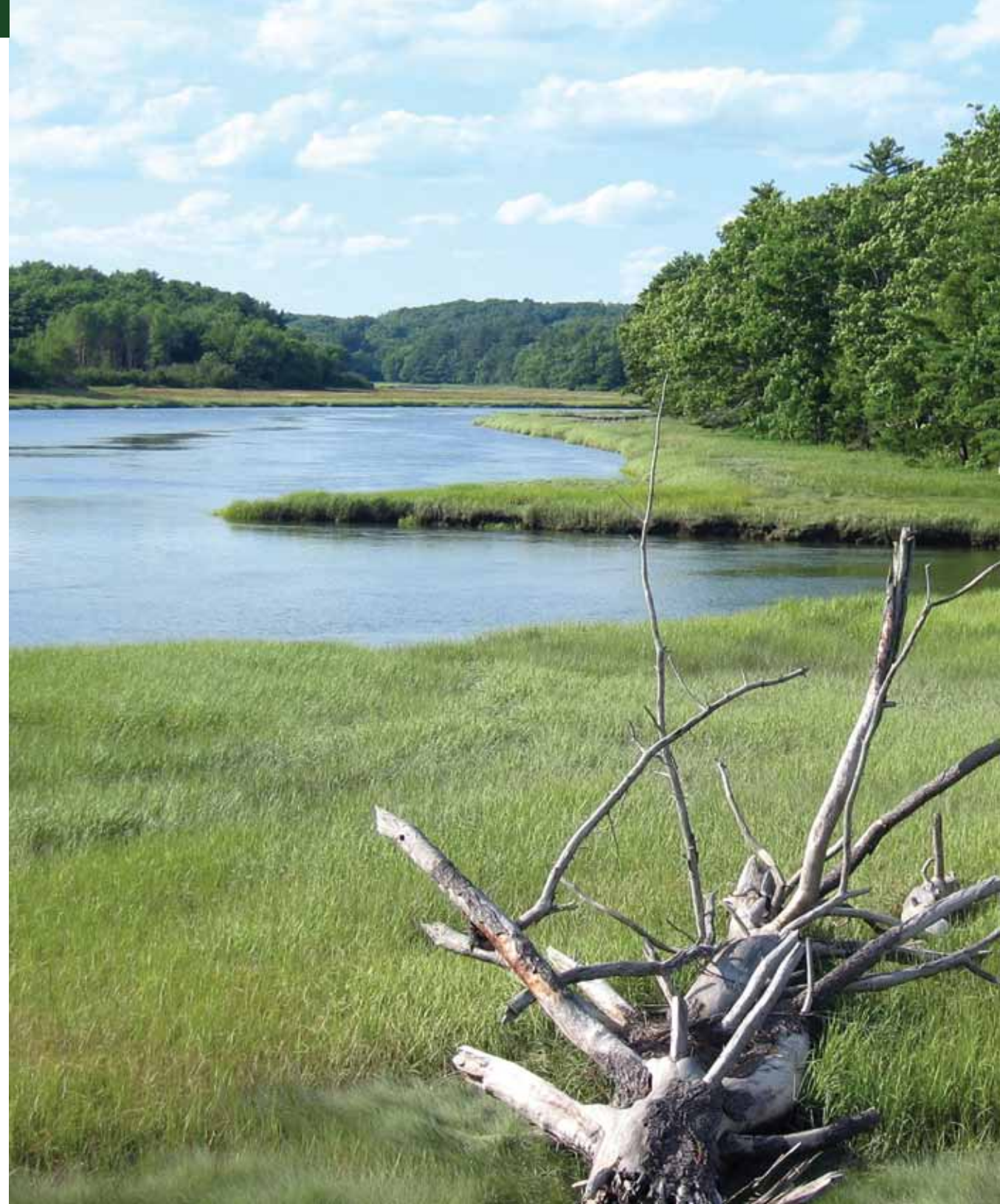
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*Every attempt has been made to ensure the accuracy of this list and we apologize for any errors or omissions. If you see a mistake, please contact us to correct our records.*





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Join us at local events, tours and dinner parties to benefit the Georges River Land Trust!

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There are many ways to help! Office skills, trails work, committee participation and event coordination are all needed
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You can impact conservation in the Georges River Watershed through membership, join us at [www.georgesriver.org/membership](http://www.georgesriver.org/membership)



**cover photo:** *Georges Highland Path on Ragged Mountain*

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