

Conserve. Explore. Enjoy.



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Falmouth Land Trust's mission is to preserve and care for fields, forests, farms, and shorelines, in the Town of Falmouth, while maintaining the historical character and nurturing an enduring stewardship and enjoyment of the land.

a falmouth land trust newsletter to the community fall 2017



www.falmouthlandtrust.org

SAVE THE DATE

FOR

Falmouth Land Trust's Harvest Moon Farm Fest!



When...

Thursday, October 5, 2017
5pm - 8pm

Where...

Hurricane Valley Farm
Schuster Road (off Rte. 100)
Falmouth, Maine

What...

A celebration of open space and community conservation!
Food, beer/wine, conversation,
live music, raffle

How...

Online tickets available at
www.falmouthlandtrust.org
\$40 in advance
\$50 at the door

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Fall

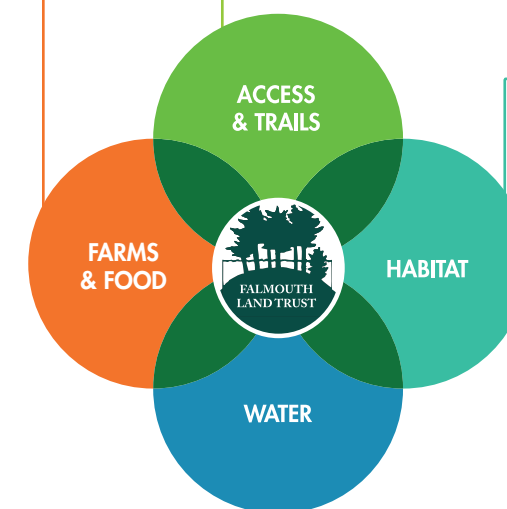
HITTING NEW BENCHMARKS IN FALMOUTH LAND CONSERVATION:

Thirty-seven years since its founding, and the birth of the land trust movement, the volunteers and trustees of the Falmouth Land Trust have helped preserve nearly 1,300 acres in our community (with approximately 500 more in the project pipeline). We anticipate that by 2018 our land trust portfolio of conserved lands will tally up to over 2,000-acres. This is an exciting milestone for our small, mostly volunteer, organization. This includes lands that

FLT holds easements on and annually monitors to ensure that they remain undeveloped and natural for perpetuity. In total, these properties include nearly fifty parcels scattered across Falmouth. Much of our recent acquisitions are available for public access via an extensive trail network. These properties are an important asset in our community in countless ways. Please enjoy a brief update on what we have been doing this year to support our mission.

WHY DOES CONSERVATION MATTER IN FALMOUTH

With the conservation of the Hurricane Valley Farm and the installation of our newest partner (and farm tenant) Cultivating Community, we are excited about a project that provides open space and restores and supports local agriculture. Local food production is important for food security and food sovereignty and will make our agricultural economy strong as well. The design phase of this work is at its midpoint and initial plans for next year's growing season are underway. There will be opportunities for the community to review progress this fall.



Each season the land trust works with its volunteer steward to manage trail needs and the types of projects that keep our trail system maintained. Community volunteers help with the physical labor including our local boy scout troop #93 which came to Blackstrap Hill several times this spring to ensure that bog bridges and other trail crossings are maintained so that stream corridors do not erode.

Habitat protection is a focus for FLT's stewardship and open space conservation work. FLT works to ensure that our native plant populations continue to provide for our pollinators, that invasive species are kept at bay using the most appropriate techniques and that management practices (including user management) balances the needs of humans and the natural world. FLT has also decided to mirror the Town of Falmouth's ordinance on pets. While we appreciate that our lands afford the opportunity to recreate with our pets, we are also aware that pets can impact on our native flora and fauna. Trail users will start to see 300 foot leash signs (signifying that pets should stay leashed within 300 feet of the parking area).

Land use has a significant impact on water resources as vegetation and soil act as filters that are a key to both water quality and water quantity. This past school year, FLT supported the installation of water bottle filling stations as part of Falmouth Elementary School's wellness program. FLT continues to work with students on the concept of watershed and riparian function and the importance of stewarding our lands/waterways and keeping them free waste.



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Letter from the President



"If a man walks in the woods for love of them half of each day, he is in danger of being regarded as a loafer. But if he spends his days as a speculator, shearing off those woods and making the earth bald before her time, he is deemed an industrious and enterprising citizen."
 – Henry David Thoreau

As summer draws to its conclusion, we look back on the days spent on the lake & on trails, at the beach & atop mountains. The brief time that summer comes to Maine finds us compelled to get out and into nature again. The Falmouth Land Trust understands and advocates for the need to spend time outside, amidst nature, each day and each week throughout the year.

FLT has emerged as a community presence in the movement to utilize, respect and preserve our open spaces. In a recent survey of our constituents, during the past 12 months, nearly 85% of respondents had interacted with FLT and over 75% identifying themselves as active trail users. It seems that our residents are an embodiment of the FLT mission and principles.

In September of 2016, the Trust hired our new Executive Director, Jennifer Grimm. Having worked previously in non-profit, community organizations, as well as with forest management and conservation entities, she made an immediate positive impact and is working with the board of trustees to grow the organization so it can more ably fulfill its role and responsibility in Falmouth.

With the Hurricane Valley Farm property coming on-line and other projects in the pipeline, we are confident that **with an engaged and supportive community, we can continue to have impact on open space** in Falmouth and allow us all to be loafers.

Tommy Johnson
 President of Board of Trustees
 Falmouth Land Trust

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends of Falmouth Land Trust,

Each day the work of the Falmouth Land Trust strengthens our community. With its rocky coast, hardwood forests, tall pines and rolling fields, Falmouth is abundant in natural beauty and a history that reflects a community tied to the land. The benefits of this landscape are felt daily as we drive along tree lined streets, walk and wander on the paths across town, see birds at our feeders and enjoy a clean and healthy environment.



Falmouth is ranked as one of the most desirable places to live and raise a family in Maine for the quality of life residents enjoy (proximity to Portland and the coast, excellent schools and a rural feel). Against this backdrop, Falmouth Land Trust is working to steward its extensive land base, acquire new parcels and deepen partnerships with Falmouth's civic organizations, businesses and town leaders.

As someone who has spent her career focused on tropical deforestation and polar ice melt, I never imagined leading a local land trust would be so rewarding. FLT is a special organization that plays a vital role in our community, and I'm honored to be a part of it. In the past year, I have been reminded daily that conservation at the local scale can make a tangible difference in the world and that a small organization, like FLT, can have outsized impact on-the-ground.

The growth path FLT is on is exciting. In the next few years, we anticipate managing, stewarding and monitoring easements on 2,000 acres in Falmouth. This growing responsibility will require the commitment of many supporters, volunteers, trustees and partners. FLT is truly a collaborative effort. Fortunately, the residents of Falmouth understands that **a strong land trust and a strong community go hand in hand**. Together we can create a conservation vision in Falmouth that balances our growth and protects our natural landscape for perpetuity. I hope you will continue to join us on this path to success.

Jenny Grimm
 Executive Director, Falmouth Land Trust

A Legacy that Honors the Past and the Future Alike



Joan Brown Payson Smith, her brother Fletcher Brown, and sister Karen Brown Clarke spent the long days of their childhood in the 1920s riding and exploring the bridal paths of what is now known as the Falmouth Nature Preserve and Mill Creek. These beautiful properties were the site of many adventures for the siblings.

Joan and her extended family loved tramping along the paths and streams, building dams across the waterways and looking for treasures. The walkways were designed by their grandfather and then later maintained by their father. In the spring, the whole family couldn't wait until the first mayflowers appeared and then the trillium and finally the bloodroot their grandmother planted everywhere! Joan's sister Karen documented all the native wildflowers

in the Preserve, carefully listing the Latin and common names. A copy of Karen's guide to seasonal plants are available at the FLT office. The properties were later donated by the family for protected open space.

Joan particularly loved her birds and animals. She delighted in the daily flight of the ospreys that nested in the trees on her property and she gave names to her family of foxes as they scampered across her fields and woods. And while Joan's life included service and support of numerous organizations in the Greater Portland area, above all, she felt a strong dedication to conservation in our community.

Joan peacefully passed away at her home on Foreside Road, where she lived for 96 years. In the months preceding her death, she took steps to leave an estate contribution to the Falmouth Land Trust as the mission of the organization closely aligned with her values and efforts to see land protected forever. This generous legacy gift of Joan B. Smith will strengthen the work of the Trust as it conserves lands in Falmouth in perpetuity. The Trustees of the Falmouth Land Trust are delighted and honored that Joan entrusted us with this legacy.

Fall hikes with ROCKING Ranger Rick

GET TO KNOW the FALMOUTH LAND TRUST TRAILS on a hike with Board Member RANGER RICK! Falmouth Land Trust's own Ranger Rick (Scala) will lead members of the community on **three** easy hikes designed to familiarize our community with our amazing trail system and conserved open space properties that have been protected by the Falmouth Land Trust!

OCTOBER 1

Hike #1 at Falmouth Nature Preserve off Foreside Road as part of Great Maine Outdoor Weekend

OCTOBER 10

Hike #2 at Ridgewood Preserve off Falmouth Road as part of National Mental Health Day

NOVEMBER 24

Hike #3 at Blackstrap Preserve off Blackstrap Road as part of Green Friday (day after Thanksgiving)

All hikes begin at 11:30 and will last approximately 45 minutes.
 No registration is necessary and hikes are Free!

For more information and specific direction visit www.falmouthlandtrust.org and look for upcoming events.



FALMOUTH LAND TRUST P.O.Box 6172 Falmouth, ME 04105

[] Individual \$25.00 [] Family \$50.00 [] Other \$ _____
 [] Patron \$100.00 [] Sponsor \$200.00

Name _____
 Address _____
 City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
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Please make checks payable to Falmouth Land Trust. The Trust is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your contributions are tax deductible. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



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