



Ribbon cutting

## NEW PRESERVE DEDICATED TO BIRD & HABITAT CONSERVATION

In October, FLT was proud to introduce the community to our newest nature preserve. After a formal ribbon cutting, we explored the property with nearly fifty people who came to celebrate this accomplishment. Samatha Wolf, FLT's stewardship coordinator, led the six month effort to establish and open the Morrill-Stillings Nature Preserve -- working throughout the summer to create a meandering trail system, inventory the site, manage volunteers and most importantly, build (with board members) a welcoming kiosk. Grants from the Onion Foundation and the Ed Meadows Fund at the Maine Community Foundation supported the material costs of this work. FLT is thrilled to have this new preserve established as a place to observe nature and restore and enhance migratory bird and raptor habitat within the Highland Lake watershed. Our greatest thanks to Suzanne and Bruce Stillings, who donated the property in December 2018.



Peter Hubbard & Sami Wolf building our new kiosk.



Stillings family in front of the finished kiosk.

## GROWING A BRIGHT FUTURE AT HURRICANE VALLEY FARM

The second growing season at FLT's Hurricane Valley Farm property has been as exciting as we could imagine. This season, under the guidance of Cultivating Community, the farm hosted ten farmers growing vegetables for regional markets. An additional 30 gardeners, hailing from The Congo, Burundi, South Sudan, Mali, Rwanda, Kenya, The Gambia and Falmouth, were on site establishing and improving the community garden program. Farmers



Farm Managers from Cultivating Community at Hurricane Valley Farm

grew over 2,000 pounds of food as part of the New Arrival CSA program, where food was delivered weekly to refugee, immigrant and asylum families. In addition, farmers sold nearly \$2,000 of tomatoes, eggplant, basil and onions to local restaurants and grocery stores. Over \$1,000 worth of local, fresh food was delivered to the Falmouth Food Pantry in collaboration with the Good Shepherd Food Bank. HVF's program was able to install a demonstration of low and no-till vegetable production, planted over 100 perennial shrubs and trees for market and ecological diversity, expanded the apiary to 13 hives, and began to explore managing soil carbon on organic vegetable farms. In the next phase of the HVF project, we will be tackling some long overdue repairs to the barn, and install wells and greenhouses in time for the 2020 growing season.



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# Stewardship

## MILL CREEK ESTUARY - SALINITY MONITORING

FLT Stewardship Coordinator, Sami Wolf, is working with Casco Bay Estuary Partnership to install conductivity and salinity equipment in Mill Creek. The data gathering tools will record the flow and salt presence in upstream and downstream portions of the creek. Falmouth High School student Patrick Wahlig is undertaking a species inventory for the area as a student volunteer. This work is the early phase of an effort to gather the data needed to ensure the ecology of the stream and marsh in this beloved and important estuary is protected. Mill Creek is habitat to stripers, rainbow smelts and other species that rely on very specific temperature and stream conditions to spawn. Sami is also working with the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife on a species inventory for the stream.



Matt Craig of Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

## WAYS OF GIVING TO FALMOUTH LAND TRUST

### Your Support is What Keeps Us Going and Makes Our Community Green

Please consider giving a gift to the Falmouth Land Trust Annual Fund campaign this year. The Annual Fund is the source of support that enables FLT to operate. Our Annual Fund is comprised entirely of donations from individuals, families, businesses, corporations, and foundations. Gifts may also be made as memorials or tributes to honor loved ones.

**Annual Gifts** - Please consider a yearly gift by donating online at [www.falmouthlandtrust.org](http://www.falmouthlandtrust.org) or by mailing your check to Falmouth Land Trust, Attn: Development, P.O. Box 6172, Falmouth, Maine 04105. Annual gifts provide donors with an immediate tax deduction for the full gift amount.

**Monthly Giving** - Please consider making a monthly gift, which allows for the convenience of being a monthly donor while providing ongoing support and stability for the work of FLT. Your gift will automatically be charged monthly to your credit card. You are able to adjust your giving level or cancel your commitment at any time.

**Gifts of Securities** - You may wish to consider the benefits of making a gift of securities. Some donors find that a gift of this type can provide significant advantages.

**Matching-Gifts** - Many local corporations sponsor matching-gift programs by which an employee's charitable donation is matched with a contribution by the corporation. In this way, donors can easily leverage the value of their contribution; in some cases, the matching contribution is as high as three to one.

**YES!** I/we wish to support land preservation in Falmouth and would like to give a tax deductible gift of:

Supporter:  \$25.00    \$50.00    \$100    \$250    \$500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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My check, payable to Falmouth Land Trust, is enclosed.

**I wish to provide a recurring gift to the Falmouth Land Trust.**

Please charge my credit card in the following amount with the following frequency:

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Monthly    Quarterly    Semiannually    Annually

You may also contribute online at [www.falmouthlandtrust.org](http://www.falmouthlandtrust.org)



## Programs

### INVESTING IN YOUTH: FIELD TRIPS AND HANDS-ON NATURE EDUCATION

FLT continues to expand nature-based programming for youth in our community by hosting school field trips and conducting fun and educational community events on open space properties. During late summer and fall, FLT's outreach and education coordinator Kate Nicoll led several field trips that provided hands-on opportunities for students to experience the link between a healthy environment and land conservation in Falmouth. In June, all two-hundred kindergarten students explored pond ecology and learned about the many species of frogs, fish, and turtles that rely upon pond habitat to survive. Early summer also gave some children the opportunity to plant pumpkins from seeds at the historic Tidewater Farm. The class was extremely proud of their magnificent looking vegetables when they returned to the gardens this fall. Another favorite community program is our Pollinator Event, which FLT hosts each fall in partnership with the University of Maine Cooperative Extension. The purpose of this initiative is to enjoy a beautiful conservation property while learning about the links between healthy land and the critical role that pollinators play in our lives. Nearly all the plant food we consume requires pollination. We were thrilled this year to have free honey lavender ice-cream for our participants as well as garden tours. Local beekeeper, Thalassa Raasch, brought a mobile hive and explained how a beehive functions with an up-close demonstration.



Kate Nicoll with Students at HVF



## Executive Director's Update



FLT Trustees Michelle Draeger, Kathy Hillman Reed, and Michael Vance preparing for Farm Fest 2019.

It's a challenge to distill the Land Trust's activities down to a short summary given the breadth and depth of what we do at FLT. The ongoing duties around stewardship, land acquisitions, trails, easement monitoring, farm upkeep, nature programs and 4 a.m. bird-counts keep us very busy. This fall, when reflecting on the work and history of the organization, I find myself overwhelmed with thankfulness for the countless people in our community who make this organization and its impact possible. Chief among them is our dedicated and wise trustees (past and present) who have led the organization for four decades and selflessly donated thousands of hours of service. Equally important are FLT's fantastic staff who have created connections through programs and unique events focused on conservation. In addition, there are fifty or sixty volunteers who keep things running - leading hikes, finding property boundaries

on snowy days and clearing downed trees. I want to thank our partners (corporate, municipal and non-profit organizations) - each working to strengthen our community in their own way. Cumulatively, this constellation of actors has created the conditions that make it possible for the Falmouth Land Trust to succeed. We have a lot to be thankful for in Falmouth, and I hope this newsletter helps to shine a light on the many helpers working together to keep Falmouth a wonderful and healthy place to live.

- Jennifer Grimm, Executive Director

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**Falmouth Land Trust** is grateful to local businesses for lending their support to keep Falmouth **green and healthy!**

## Looking for a unique Stocking Stuffer?

Give the gift of **FLT Membership** to those you love this season.



Available at Skillin's in Falmouth December 7th!

*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.*

PO Box 6172  
Falmouth ME 04105  
info@falmouthlandtrust.org  
207-200-5488

CONSERVING LAND IN OUR COMMUNITY  
FROM 1981 'TIL FOREVER

