



SACO VALLEY LAND TRUST

2016

PRESERVING LAND IN THE SACO RIVER VALLEY SINCE 1988
sacovalleylandtrust.org

Officers:

Chair: Richard Rhames
Vice Chair: Nicol Tiftt
Secretary: Sue Littlefield
Treasurer: Debra Hilton

Board of Directors:

Denis Rioux
Chris DiMatteo
Annica McGuirk

Advisory Board:

Mike Brennan
Nan Cone
Dan Dallaire
Tamara Gallagher
Jim & Edna Leary
Sue Sladen

Meetings are held on the
first Thursday monthly, 7
pm, Saco City Hall.

Annual meeting: May 15

Website:

sacovalleylandtrust.org:
For information and maps

[Facebook.com/sacovalleylandtrust](https://www.facebook.com/sacovalleylandtrust):

For upcoming events,
news and photos

Contact us:

sacovalleymaine@gmail.com
P.O. Box 1581
Saco, ME 04072

SVLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit

The purpose of the Saco Valley Land Trust shall be to promote for the benefit of the general public the preservation of natural resources in...Biddeford, Saco, and Old Orchard Beach. These resources shall include land and water resources, plant and animal life thereon, and unique, scenic, agricultural natural historic sites.

So states our bylaws, accepted in 1988. Land trusts everywhere are focusing more and more on public benefits and community needs as the core of their mission. We remain committed to the basic promise to preserve natural resources and the plants and animals that need those resources to thrive.

How does SVLT pursue its conservation mission? Listed below are some of the public benefits provided by our seven easements and 26 properties:

•**Significant Habitat:** Great Cranberry Marsh, CMN, Moreau Donation, Wedgewood Donation, Davis Farm, Taylor Estates Donation, Proctor Rd/City of Biddeford Donation

•**Air Quality/ Carbon Sequestration:** (active and passive forest management)
Moses Woodman Preserve, Cranberry Marsh North, Great Cranberry Marsh, New England Woods Easement, Arundel Land Stewards, Sevigny Donation, Teaberry Lane Donation, Davis Farm

•**Water Quality and River/Stream Protection:** Great Cranberry Marsh, Garnache Donation, Gannon Donation, Heath/City of Saco Donation, Cranberry Marsh North, New England Woods, Swan Pond Brook/City of Biddeford Donation, Land Stewards Donation, Huff Donation, Riverbend Farm Easement

•**Agricultural Land:** Chappell Donation Easement, Riverbend Farm, Huston Easement (Timber Ridge Farm), Libby Farm/City of Saco Donation, Patoine Easement

•**Hiking trails, picnic spot:** Thurston Mill Donation, Middle Goosefare Trail/Brandt and Mobil Donation (maintained by Saco Bay Trails), Moses Woodman Preserve

•**Educational Experiences:** New England Woods, Great Cranberry Marsh

What we're up to...

Board education has been the theme of the last year. Several Board members attended a GIS training session last spring to gain exposure to GPS and mapping tools. That inspiration led to a push to learn more about what we can do ourselves. We were aided by a Norcross Foundation grant to purchase equipment. Tom Iannello, an intern provided by the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative, has guided us through use of a GPS and online mapping on several properties so far. Soon we'll be able to share this info so that anyone can find a property, learn how to locate the access, look at photos of features before going, and add to that information by sharing their own collected data. Stay tuned to see how you can participate!

We also completed, through a grant by the Davis Conservation Foundation, the updating/completion of our baseline documentation on all seven easements. Doing this project has taught us how to improve our property information collection, organization and archiving. We're continuing to review and update all our properties.



With a little help from our friends....

The vast majority of SVLT's holdings are wooded. Part of a Trust's mission is to understand its parcels: The features they contain in terms of wetland habitat, waterbodies, invasive species, threatened or endangered critters, and potential for sustainable forest management. For the past several years our collaboration with the federal government's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has proven extremely helpful in our work.

With the assistance of NRCS, the Trust is developing sophisticated management plan documents including boundary identification, mapping, soils information, overlays showing critical habitat areas, needed access improvements, invasive plant locations, and future forest management possibilities.

To date, NRCS has approved several New England Cottontail (habitat restoration) projects on SVLT properties. With the decline of dense brushy habitat which it requires, the New England Cottontail rabbit is facing extinction in this part of its range, and the federal government is working with willing landowners, trust organizations, and others to create pockets in the landscape where this endangered species can perhaps thrive. SVLT is pleased to be part of the effort. *Continued below...*

All photos by Annica McGuirk. Left: invasive Japanese Barberry. Below, right: Wildlife biologist Derek Yorks



Saco Valley Land Trust
P.O. Box 1581
Saco, ME 04072

This issue of
SVLT News
focuses on
STEWARDSHIP
THE LAND:

- managing
- monitoring
- sharing
- protecting
- studying
- appreciating
- defending
- expanding

With a little help from our friends....(continued):

Our stewardship/oversight of our easement parcels (which generally allow sustainable forestry) is also greatly aided by the NRCS management plans. These documents clearly spell out what is allowed, what is not, and when; meeting any requirements stated in the easement. Such guidance benefits both the landowner, the perpetual easement holder, and the public— whose interests SVLT is charged to protect.

•Thanks to Wayne Munrowe, Andrew Johnson, and all the staffers at NRCS.

Spring has sprung and Saco Valley Land Trust is buzzing with event ideas for the year! Details will be posted to:

- Our Facebook page, facebook.com/sacovalleylandtrust
- Our website, sacovalleylandtrust.org.

We look forward to seeing you on a walk soon!

