



SACO VALLEY LAND TRUST

2023

Conserving Land in the Lower Saco River Valley since 1988

The Cole Meadow : Past & Present

In 1764, Robert Cole (Shipwright) purchased 20 acres of land in eastern Biddeford from one Henry Pendexter. In 1774 Cole (now described as “yeoman”) added to the lot another 8 acres from Samuel Edgecomb. This Edgecomb lot and others had been granted by the Town of Biddeford (“as by the records of the town may appear”)and were conveyed to Cole “together with sundry other tracts of land and marsh as by deed of November 1, 1764.”

In 1796 Robert Cole’s holdings passed to his son Asa. The younger Cole appears in town records as “Hog Reeve” among other things. But by 1826 he had apparently been found “incompetent” by reason of excessive alcohol consumption. A Guardian, Dr. Ezra Dean, was appointed by the court to settle his accounts. Dean prepared an “inventory” of Cole’s real estate. It included Robert’s homestead with “1 old one story house, shed and barn” together with a separate “60 acres: Cole Meadow Lot.” In 1828, the Cole Meadow Lot was sold to Roger Curtis. Down through time the lot was divided and re-sold until a substantial part of it was more recently acquired by Saco Valley Land Trust.

“Meadows” tended to be “wet” but valued as good hay ground and pasture. In a time when draft animals were key to agricultural tillage this was important. In our times when productive agricultural land is in ever shorter supply, these acres continue to be of significance.

Like most of eastern Biddeford, the wooded part of the lot burned hard in 1947. SVLT will manage the land for carbon sequestration, improving its productive capacity and its habitat values— — — for the Long Haul.
Richard Rhames

Cole Meadow was acquired through bargain sales from Amanda and Joshua Boston, and James Chretien in 2021. There is an unmarked, rough access point at the end of Misty Meadows Lane, off Guinea Rd. in Biddeford. Improved access may be created as timber and field improvements are completed in the coming years. Refer to maps on our website for boundaries-Cole Meadow abuts our Land Stewards Donation, totaling 130 acres of field, forested wetlands, uplands and brook.

New Developments

■ The Trust was fortunate to hire Abby Wilson for the next year, through grants from Davis Conservation Foundation and LL Beans Stewardship grant. Abby already has spring events planned, both indoors and out, with more coming later. You can sign up for email updates or check our website, Facebook, Instagram or YouTube. She will also oversee volunteers for several projects-if you have some time and energy, contact awilson@sacovalleymaine.org

■ We would like to welcome Linda Brown of Biddeford as our new board member! Linda has enthusiastically taken on roles as projects arise.

SVLT continues its work thanks to the support of:

ANNUAL MEMBERS:

David & Melinda Anderson • Tom Armstrong • Joan Buotte • Natalie Cone • Ms. Curtis
Richard Dennison • Cheri Dunning • Glenn Evans • Patricia Farren • Stacie Grove • Ives • Bill & Mary
Johnson •

Steve Kouzounas • Tom & Teresa Ledue • Cynthia Lozier • Margaret Mills & Henry Beuuwkes
Arthur Moreau • Muriel & Roger Pepper • Joyce Purvis • Carol Benoit Reynolds • Nancy Richmond • •
Joseph Seger • William Durkin • Harmon & Jan Woodman

MAJOR DONORS and FUNDERS 2022/23:

Bill and Lorraine Hutchins
Sandra Ste. George
In Memory of Max Brandt- Michelle Balas
Thomas C. Martin Family Fund
Davis Conservation Foundation

John Sage Foundation
LL Bean Land Trust Grant Program
Sebago Seven, Saco Middle School class of 2021
Friends & Family of the late Jim Leary
Rapid Response Team

Back to a 40s Future?

It's hard to imagine a future where we don't crash through the "guardrail" of a 1.5 degree (centigrade) increase in global temperatures. In order to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, international agreements have long-held that "aspirational" standard as "the one to shoot for."

But greenhouse gas emissions have been sharply increasing since say, 1940, and we've been warned that we have less than a decade to radically reduce carbon dioxide/methane emissions or face the "existential" consequences.

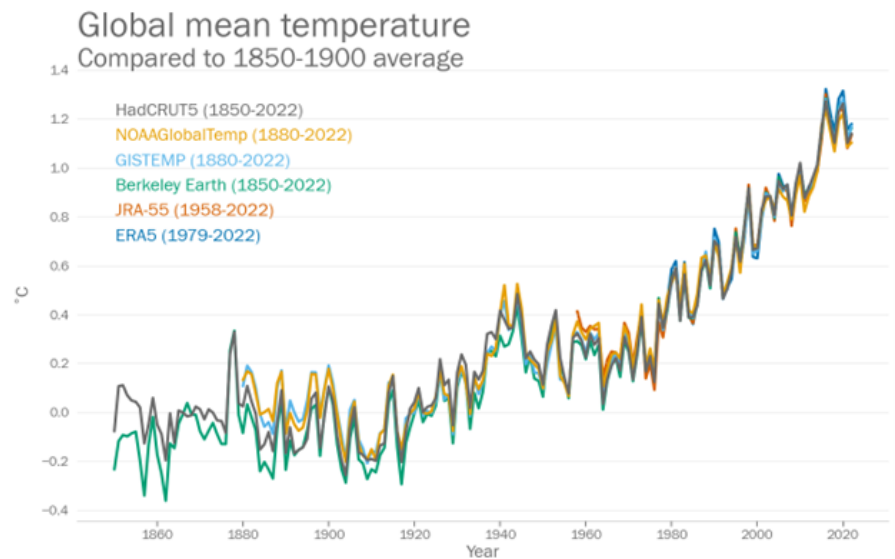
Seemingly, the developed societies can't imagine living in a world minus passenger jets, power-gulping computer infrastructure, an asphalt-addicted car culture, with dairy products and strawberries shipped in from California.

And yet, some of us "elders" can remember a time when long distance travel was done by rail, people wrote letters to each other or talked by phone, city folks lived in-town and farmers lived in the country, and much of Maine's food was produced here. It wasn't a bad way to live.

The World Meteorological Organization's graphing of "Global mean temperature" plainly shows the climate situation getting out-of-hand only in the years since 1940. Many farms around here got turned into gravel pits, subdivisions or shopping malls and a consumer society replaced one previously based on something like "frugality(?)"

Conserving the natural and productive resources from that 20th century time has largely fallen to volunteer Trust organizations like SVLT. And in serving our educational mission we try to suggest another way of looking at the places we call home.

Richard Rhames



YES! I want to join Saco Valley Land Trust and support conservation in 2023

Name _____

Address, if different from mailing label on back _____

Email and/or phone #, if you would like to share with us _____

Join as a member \$30 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 other _____

Join as a BUSINESS (\$300 minimum donation for website, Facebook and newsletter listings) \$ _____

Sponsor a public event, such as those listed below \$250

Donations and memberships by credit card or PayPal accepted securely at: sacovalleylandtrust.org

Beaver News

With the arrival of spring right around the corner, beavers will be back to work, felling trees, building dams, and repairing their homes. As beaver go through their daily duties, conflicts sometimes arise when our roads, trails, and properties are flooded. One of the methods that can be used to resolve these types of conflicts is through the installation of a water flow device.

Common water flow devices include:

- **Fence** – a large, purposefully shaped, floored fence is constructed at a road culvert to keep beavers out and discourage them from building a dam all the way around it.
- **Fence and Pipe** (*see picture below*) – a small fence protects the road culvert, and a levelling pipe extends upstream from it to a large, enclosed intake cage that is submerged in the pond. Beavers do not detect the intake, and instead, build a dam at the small fence at the road culvert. The leveling pipe creates a permanent leak in the dam and sets the water level at a safe height.
- **Pond Leveler** – a leveling pipe is installed in a stand-alone beaver dam and extends upstream to a large, enclosed intake cage that is submerged. The leveling pipe creates a permanent leak and sets the water level for the pond.
- **Diversion Dam** – fencing or natural materials are placed in the stream, about 15 feet upstream from a road culvert, to encourage beavers to dam there instead of inside the culvert.



If a beaver site is assessed and determined to be a good candidate for a water flow device, it is important to use proven construction designs, and high-quality materials. Also, be sure to monitor the device, and conduct routine maintenance as needed. It is a rewarding experience when the needs of people and beavers can be met, where their “paths cross” along the varied and diverse waterways of Maine.

Ben Nugent, Wildlife Biologist, USDA APHIS Wildlife Services

The mission of USDA APHIS Wildlife Services is to provide federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist.



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

SPRING & SUMMER PROGRAMS

Waste Diversion with ecomaine

13-Apr at 6 PM Dyer Library

Earth Day Celebration

22-Apr at 10 AM to 2 PM McArthur Library

Annual Board Meeting

04-May at 7pm Saco Train Station

Yardscaping with CCSWCD

May ? at 6 PM Dyer Library

Thurston Mill History Presentation

8-Jun at 6 PM Dyer Library

Thurston Mill History Walk

10-Jun at 10 AM Thurston Mill

Meetings are usually held on the first Thursday, monthly, 7 pm-Check Facebook or email us for more information

Visit our website: sacovalleylandtrust.org

<https://www.youtube.com/@sacovalleylandtrust>

Contact us at connect@sacovalleylandtrust.org or P.O. Box 1581 Saco, ME 04072

Board: Richard Rhames · Sue Littlefield · Denis Rioux · Chris DiMatteo · Linda Brown

Saco Valley Land Trust is committed to protecting land to benefit people and ecological services. We need your help through:

financial support
being appreciative visitors
offering your time
spreading the word

Want to volunteer? Tell us what you like to do!
walk in the woods, pruning apple trees or build bridges
do tasks at home, such as data entry, mailings, doing research or mapping
be a presenter, lead a walk or a work day
join the board or help us start a committee for your favorite project

Contact us by email: connect@sacovalleylandtrust.org

