



Mill Brook Preserve Expands to Over 100 Acres

For several decades, Ralph Hatt has taken exceptional care of his property along Mill Brook in Westbrook. Now, he's entrusted Presumpscot Regional Land Trust to steward this exceptional piece of land and the beautiful waterway that runs alongside it.

"When I first met Ralph Hatt two years ago he handed me a card that read, 'I have thirty acres with 2,000 feet of frontage along Mill Brook that I want to conserve,'" said Board President Mike Parker. "What it didn't say was that he had been manicuring the land and building a trail network on it for 30 years. The parcel that he donated is park-like in character, a gem in the daisy chain of parcels that now constitutes our Mill Brook Preserve."

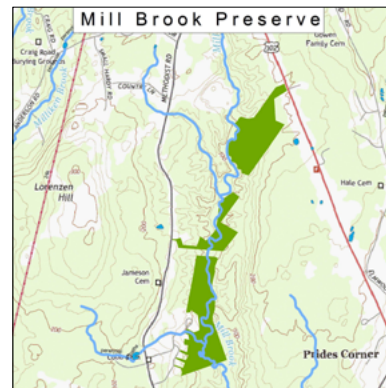
With assistance from the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership in covering transaction costs, Ralph generously donated 32 acres off Bridgton Road (Route 302). This means we now own three parcels along Mill Brook totaling 102 acres and stretching out several miles along the forested and secluded river valley.

Ralph's wish is for the land to forever stay as open space with public access trails—a wish we are happy to grant.

"After walking my land for 45 years, I am so happy to share with the public the effort I have put into the land to make trails so everyone can enjoy the beauty of the land that is part of the greater Portland metropolitan area," Ralph said.

Mill Brook Preserve is a hidden gem that stretches through the urban city of Westbrook, yet remains a largely undeveloped

valley. The area is a priority for the land trust to conserve as open space because the brook supports the largest and most productive alewife run in Casco Bay. Alewife migrate from the ocean up the Presumpscot River through Mill Brook to Highland Lake, where they reproduce before heading back out to the ocean each fall. This concentration of migrating fish attracts a wide variety of wildlife to the valley, including bald eagles, gulls, herons, and osprey.



The Mill Brook Preserve parcels are dark green



Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Celebrating 30 years

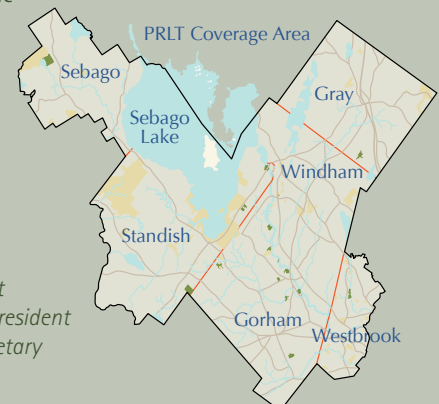
The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust is a nonprofit that conserves and protects outstanding lands in Gorham, Gray, Sebago, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham to preserve the character of the Presumpscot River watershed for the benefit of people and wildlife. The Presumpscot Regional Land Trust has 20 Preserves, conserving over 1,100 acres of land with miles of trails that are free and open to the public, including the 28 mile Sebago to the Sea Trail. Learn more at www.prlt.org.

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- Toby Jacobs, *Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator*



Letter from the Executive Director

Celebrating 30 Years Together

In my first nine months as Executive Director, I have had the honor of meeting and learning from many of the leaders who have guided the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust over the last 30 years. I am so impressed by the commitment of volunteers whose love of wild lands and local agriculture has led us to where we are today.

As an organization committed to conserving open space forever in the Presumpscot River region, we see the first 30 years as just the beginning of our story. This fall we will hold a 30th Anniversary Celebration (see our events calendar for more details) and I hope you will join us to celebrate our beginnings and help create a vision for our future.

I hope to see you on the trail or at one of our monthly events soon,

-Rachelle Curran Apse



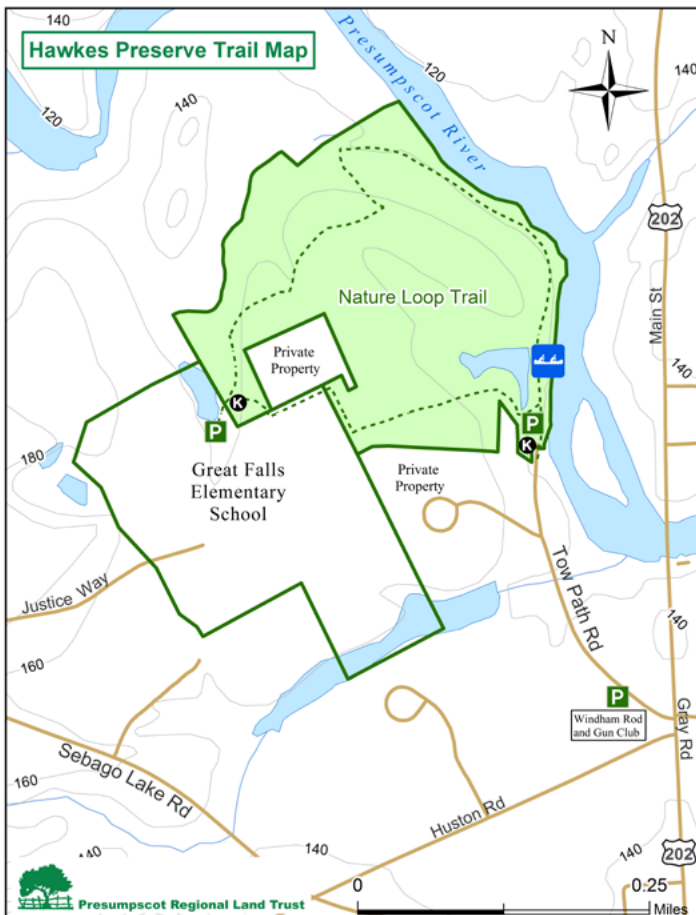
New Loop Trail at Hawkes Preserve Gets A+ From Students

We joined with Gorham's Great Falls School community to officially open a 1-mile nature loop trail this past fall on our Hawkes Preserve, which is adjacent to the school. The ribbon cutting was the culmination of a four-year collaboration that mobilized over 70 volunteers in donating hundreds of hours to build the trail.

The Preserve includes 40 acres of conserved land and over 2,000 feet of frontage on the Presumpscot River. The loop trail has two trailheads that are both open to the public--the first is behind the school and can be accessed by parking in the school parking lot and the second is at the end of Tow Path Road off Route 202 in Gorham.

After the ribbon cutting, nearly 100 students went on the inaugural hike with guides from the land trust. Students were the first to experience six educational stops along the trail, where they learned more about the unique natural lands in their community. Trail maps with education stops for the new nature trail are available at both trailheads for the public to use and explore.

Principal Becky Fortier spoke about the importance of the new trail for the school. "To think that we now have a 1-mile nature loop trail adjacent to our school property is extremely exciting. The learning opportunities are endless. Thank you Presumpscot Regional Land Trust for creating this experience for our students and community."



Board member Don Wescott speaks at the trail opening



Toby Jacobs, Coming to a Trail Near You

Growing up in Brunswick, Toby Jacobs became fascinated with the natural world while exploring the town's network of trails. Now, he's hoping to spark that same passion in others.

Toby is now Presumpscot Regional Land Trust's Stewardship and Outreach Coordinator. In his newly created role, he will manage the stewardship of our Preserves and easements, maintain and build trails, and spearhead efforts to engage our members and the public in the work we do.

Toby's early interest in nature blossomed into a conservation-focused career that has taken him thousands of miles from Maine. He spent time as a volunteer researcher in Costa Rica and managed a mangrove restoration project in Honduras, all while earning a Bachelor's Degree in biology and Master's in Conservation Biology.

"Eventually, I realized there was a lot going on closer to home, conservation-wise," Toby said. Since coming back to Maine, he has managed volunteers at urban gardens, surveyed the City of Portland's trees, and monitored shellfish areas for the Maine Department of Marine Resources.

He has also taken an active interest in local land trusts, serving on the Board of the Freeport Conservation Trust and volunteering for several others. What he appreciates about land trusts is the balance they strike between human use and environmental protection.

"From my experience, I think conservation is strengthened when you bring people in rather than when you try to keep them out," Toby said. "By involving people in

projects and rallying them around common goals—like preserving farms or protecting water quality—you can build the capacity you need to make them successful."

At the same time, local land trusts like PRLT have an important role in tackling some very real environmental challenges, Toby went on, including the effects climate change and invasive species are having on native wildlife. Land trusts not only protect habitat and work to cut the spread of invasive species, but also educate the public on the issues and empower people to address them.

That's what excites Toby most about his new job. "I have an incredible appreciation for biodiversity and natural systems," he said. "I want everyone to be as excited about every plant and animal as I am."

So if you're out on the trail or attending one of PRLT's monthly events, keep an eye out for Toby—and be prepared for his love of the natural world. It's infectious.

-Andy Colvin

Letter From the President

Spring has arrived, but a winter memory is what warms me today.

PRLT kicked off its 30th year this January with a well-attended snowshoe walk in a frigid evening under a full moon at Randall Orchards. Sixty-four participants, well-dressed for the cold, gathered in the cider mill to be welcomed by Robert (Tee-Bone) and Julie Randall. Warmth prevailed in many forms over the cold that night.

Exertion and adventure in the orchard led to camaraderie and hot cider back in the mill, where we celebrated the fulfillment of the late Dick Randall's vision for keeping the farmland agricultural forever. Served warm on a cold night in the mill where it was made, Randall cider was never better.

PRLT is proud to have played a part in bringing Dick's vision to fruition. And we congratulate his family on a successful season, and thank them for welcoming us back for events such as this.

With the land trust now holding events every month, there are even more memories to be made. I hope you can be a part of them. *-Mike Parker*



Four Great Volunteer Opportunities

As a non-profit organization, we are looking for 20 new volunteers to accomplish our goals for this spring and summer.

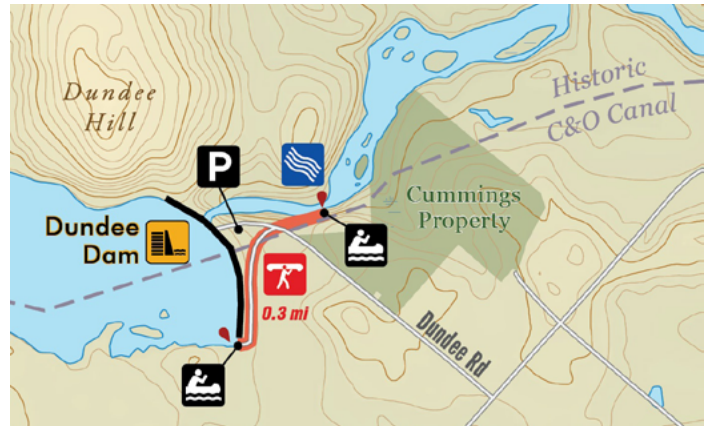
We are currently looking for four types of volunteers:

- Committee Members play leadership roles in making conservation and outdoor recreation possible. We have openings right now on our Community Engagement and Lands Committees, which meet every other month.
- Trail Builders work with their hands, spend quality time outdoors, and get the satisfaction of creating trails for the public. We will have regular trail work days, and we welcome both individuals and groups.
- Stewards monitor individual preserves to ensure they stay in good condition. All preserves are monitored in depth once a year, and ones with trails are checked monthly.
- Program Leaders present at public events that connect people to our Preserves. Programs are held each month and we're looking for leaders who'd like to share their area of expertise in nature.

If you are interested in one or more of these opportunities, please email toby@prlt.org or call us at 839-4633 and let us know your interests, skills, and availability.



IDEXX Volunteer Day at Hawkes Preserve



New Guide to Presumpscot River Adds More Depth to Your Paddling Adventures

The Presumpscot River enjoys a long and rich natural and cultural history best experienced at water level. The Paddling Guide to the Presumpscot River draws from the experience of local organizations, paddlers, and previous maps to create the first edition of a condensed, professional quality, fold up waterproof map and guide suitable for use on the water, and provides highlights of natural, recreational, and historic features of interest, including adjacent trails.

The Presumpscot River Watershed Coalition (PRWC) collaboratively developed the map over a series of meetings and conversations with the City of Westbrook, Town of Windham, Town of Falmouth, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Friends of the Presumpscot River, Portland Trails, SAPPI, Presumpscot River Watch, and local paddling outfitters to meet local needs and incorporate local knowledge. Funding was provided by Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Casco Bay Estuary Partnership (CBEP). To view a digital version of the guide, visit CBEP's web site at: www.cascobayestuary.org. All new and renewing members of the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust in 2016 will receive a free copy of The Paddling Guide to the Presumpscot River in the mail as a thank you gift.

Remembering Bob Frazier, A Tireless Advocate for Local Trails

Robert Frazier, an early member of and tireless volunteer for the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust (then known as the Gorham Land Trust), and later the founder of Gorham Trails, died on February 25, 2016. Many of the trails in Gorham today were originally envisioned and created by Bob, working with crews he was so good at recruiting. We will miss his enthusiasm for everything outdoors and his willingness to share that enthusiasm with the community. To properly remember Bob, go for a walk this spring on a trail in Gorham. The chances are good that he was there before you and had a hand in its creation. *-Richard Curtis*



Upcoming Events

MIGRATORY BIRD BANDING AND RELEASE

Saturday April 30th at 8:30am

River Point Conservation Area, Falmouth

Join us and our partners at the Biodiversity Research Institute to learn more about the songbirds who migrate to Maine from the Amazon.

WORLD FISH MIGRATION DAY HIKE

Saturday May 21, 2016 at 10am

Mill Brook Preserve, Westbrook

Join us on World Fish Migration Day for a guided hike on our new Mill Brook Preserve where we will explore for alewife fish migrating from the ocean up Mill Brook to Highland Lake.

TROUT WATERS OF THE PRESUMPCOT RIVER REGION: AN INTRO TO FLY FISHING

Saturday June 4, 2016 at 2pm

Little River Preserve, Gorham

Learn the basics of fly fishing and trout stream ecology.

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and Sebago Chapter of Trout

Unlimited invite you to join us for a guided hike and on-site seminar of fly fishing information and demonstrations.

10,000 YEARS OF COMMUNITY ALONG THE RIVER: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE PRESUMPCOT RIVER

Saturday July 30th @ 10am

Head of the Presumpscot River, Standish

Join us for a guided walk to learn about prehistoric cultures that lived along the Presumpscot River and see some of the pottery, stone tools, and other remains that have been found and studied by Archeologists.

INVASIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

Saturday August 20th @9am

PRLT Preserve, Gorham

Join us in the field to learn how to identify and remove common invasive plants and put that into practice by helping to remove invasives on one of our Preserves.

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday October 2nd @5pm

Randall Orchard, Standish

Join us to celebrate our first 30 years with a cider pressing, tasting tour and program highlighting 30 years of conservation successes and the leaders who made it possible.

SKIP, SCAMPER, SCOOT! STORIES BY THE POND

Saturday October 22nd @10am

Hawkes Preserve, Gorham

Join Maine children's book author & illustrator Cathryn Falwell for animal stories, games, and a nature walk.

All events are free, but space is limited, RSVP required. To learn more about these events and RSVP go to our website www.prlt.org.

Membership Makes it Happen

Our largest source of financial support—over three-quarters—comes from people like you, our members.

By giving to the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, you help conserve and protect outstanding lands in Gorham, Gray, Sebago, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham to preserve the character of the Presumpscot River watershed for the benefit of people and wildlife. Membership gives you unique opportunities to connect with our Preserves and meet others who care about conservation.

Yes, I want to support the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust today.

\$35 \$50 \$100 \$250

\$500 \$1,000 \$5,000 Other \$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

My company will match my gift

Please contact me about a gift of securities

*With your new or renewing membership you will receive a free copy of *The Paddling Guide to the Presumpscot River in the mail.**

Make check payable and mail to:

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, P.O. Box 33, Gorham, Maine 04038 or donate at www.prlt.org. As a 501(c)(3), all donations to the PRLT are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.



Reading Rural Landscapes program on April 9th, 2016



Presumpscot Regional Land Trust

PO Box 33, Gorham, Maine 04038 | info@prlt.org | www.prlt.org

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Thank you to the foundations that have helped make our special projects possible in the last year:

Casco Bay Estuary Partnership

LLBean Maine Land Trust Grant

Maine Community Foundation - Fund for Land Conservation

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Margaret E. Burnham Charitable Trust

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