



Summer 2023 Newsletter of **PRESUMPSCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST**

CONSERVE - STEWARD - ACCESS LOCAL LAND

Photo by Cole Rowland



COMMUNITY CONSERVATION in Gorham & Westbrook

As our Land Trust grows, so does our ability to conserve more land and provide access to nature close to home for more people. Our Land Trust has over 600 supporting families, and we have grown to three staff. We now provide 18 public access preserves with 30 miles of trails, conserve 2,170 acres of land and coordinate the Sebago to the Sea Trail.

In 2023 we plan to conserve four new conservation areas in Gorham, Westbrook, and Windham. All four of these projects will include public access walking trails, growing our conserved land by 30% and walking trails by 50%.

The East Windham Conservation

Project, a partnership project with the Town of Windham, is on track for the land to be conserved and trailwork to begin this summer. In addition, we will launch three new conservation projects this summer, two in Gorham and one in Westbrook, and we plan to conserve all three this year and build trails next year.

We are delighted to have two conservation opportunities within one mile of downtown Gorham and a conservation project near downtown Westbrook. Together the projects will protect over half a mile of the Presumpscot River and the surrounding forest. The Gorham projects will preserve the forest and

wild brook trout habitat along the Little River of Gorham.

In the last five years, we have worked closely with the City of Westbrook to double the miles of trails open to the public in Westbrook. Likewise, we have collaborated with the Town of Windham to double the conserved lands and trail access in Windham in just the last two years.

Expanding conservation and public access through Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham is happening thanks to hundreds of ongoing Land Trust supporters, generous land owners, and community partners. Stay tuned for more exciting updates coming this summer.

PRESUMPSCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST

A community based nonprofit serving Gorham, Gray, Standish, Westbrook, and Windham.



PRESUMPCOT
Regional Land Trust

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Board of Directors

Gretchen Anderson	Tom Pitman
David Cole	Marla Stelk
James Hughes	Matt Streeter
Amanda Lessard	Sandy Truslow
Jim McBride	Mikki vanSummern
Tamara Lee Pinard	

Advisory Council

Jim Boyle	Rob Lavoie
Cheryl Cameron	Kate McDonald
Heather Chandler	Michael Parker
Joanne Chessey	Priscilla Payne
Andrew Colvin	Will Plumley
Patrick Corey	Don Rich
Matt Craig	Dale Rines
Richard Curtis	Scott Roberts
Valerie DeVuyst	John Tewhey
Bill Diamond	Bob Wake
Fred Dillon	Don Wescott
Nate Dyer	Dan Willett
Colleen Hilton	

Staff

Rachelle Curran Apse,
Executive Director

Toby Jacobs,
Program Manager

Brenna Crothers,
Community Engagement Manager

Volunteers make it happen. Thank you to the over 150 ongoing volunteers who support the Land Trust. We have volunteer opportunities this summer including:

- PRESERVE STEWARDS
- TRAIL WORK VOLUNTEERS

Learn about and sign up to volunteer by using the QR code or visit: prlt.org/get-involved. New volunteers welcome; no prior experience necessary. For volunteer inquiries email Program Manager: Toby Jacobs: toby@prlt.org



THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Thank you to the over 30 businesses, foundations and organizations who supported the Land Trust this past year. To see a full list and to join as a Business Partner go to prlt.org/business-support

ADOPT-A-TRAIL BUSINESS PARTNERS:

Black Brook Preserve, Windham:

Frazier Preserve, Gorham:

Pride Preserve, Westbrook:



Hawkes Preserve, Gorham:

Mill Brook Preserve, Westbrook:



LEAD BUSINESS PARTNERS:



PATRON BUSINESS PARTNERS:

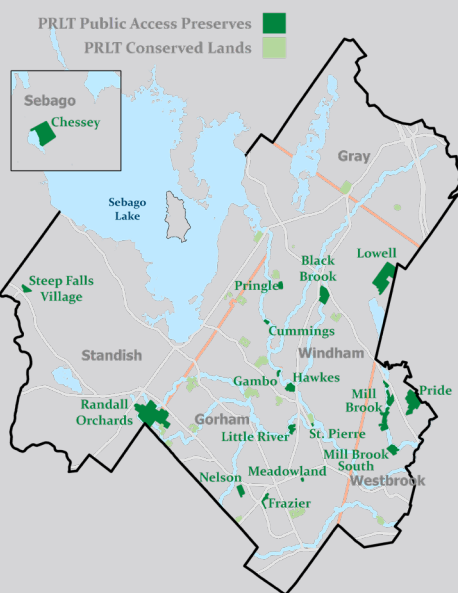


SUPPORTING BUSINESS PARTNERS:

CHALMERS INSURANCE GROUP
DOUGLAS, MCDANIEL & CAMPO

GORHAM HOUSE OF PIZZA
SHAW EARTHWORKS

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Preserves



WOODLAND NURSERIES: Why I love Vernal Pools

Growing up in the Maine woods, I had a vernal pool near my home. The chorus of spring peepers and wood frogs often woke us up with the delightful news that spring was on the way. I continue this tradition of welcoming spring with my daughter with an evening walk on the first warm and rainy evening at our neighborhood trail, listening for the chorus of frogs. Amphibians such as spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers travel to vernal pools to breed over multiple warm rainy nights.

Vernal pools provide specialized habitats for a remarkable variety of wildlife species. Throughout the spring season, April-June, vernal pools offer a window into a world full of life: egg masses of frogs and salamanders can be seen along the surface of the pools clinging to high bush blueberry and other

wetland shrubs. As the days grow warmer, fairy shrimp can be found in pools, often on sunnier days, camouflaging with the leaf litter below. Caddisflies move along the bottom of the pools building their casings from decaying leaves, twigs, and bark. When May and June arrive, freshly hatched wood frog tadpoles and salamander larvae can be seen swimming and resting along the bottom of the pools.

Our Land Trust is delighted to be able to provide space for vernal pools and the wildlife that depends on them throughout the 2,170 acres of land we conserve. Conserving new lands and caring for the lands we conserve is only possible due to the hundreds of members who support the Land Trust - thank you for your involvement.

- Brenna Crothers,
Community Engagement Manager



Pictured: Wood frog egg mass and yellow-spotted salamander.



Ways to Give:

BECOME A RIVER PARTNER:

The River Partner program is an easy way to give, when you become a River Partner and make a recurring monthly gift. You choose how much to donate, and you can increase, decrease, or stop your gift at any time. Your recurring gift can be made through a credit card by going to www.prlt.org and clicking on donate.

PLANNED GIVING:

By naming Presumpscot Regional Land Trust in your will or trust arrangement as a primary or contingent beneficiary, Land Trust supporters can leave a legacy for their beloved organization and for future generations to enjoy. For more information contact Rachelle Curran Apse at rachelle@prlt.org or (207) 839-4633

For more information about Ways to Give use the QR code or visit prlt.org/donate





PRESUMPCOT

REGIONAL LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 33, Gorham ME, 04038

SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Is it time to renew your Presumpscot Regional Land Trust membership?

Scan this QR code to renew today:



Upcoming Events



SUMMER TRAIL CHALLENGE

New this year, the Land Trust is hosting a Summer Trail Challenge. This challenge is free and intended for all ages and hiking experience levels.

The challenge is to visit and photograph six Land Trust Preserve destinations from June 15th - August 31st. At each location, you will be challenged to identify a landmark at the preserve. The six trails of the challenge are each 1-2 miles long.

The first 100 participants that complete the challenge will receive a co-branded custom REI Co-op and Land Trust water bottle.



2023



PRESUMPCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST

SUMMER TRAIL CHALLENGE

June 15 - August 31

www.prlt.org/2023-summer-trail-challenge

Save the Date

PRESUMPCOT REGIONAL LAND TRUST'S

2023 Annual Meeting

October 1st at 5pm | Randall Orchards, Standish



Trail Challenge participant images, pictured: Abigail McGuire and family, Kevin & Lucinda Piccone.