

# Conservation Commitment in Tatnic

Joe Hardy and Alice Schleiderer and family standing in front of Schoolhouse Field, one of the eight parcels the couple have placed under conservation easement since 1987. L to r: Joe Hardy, Eben Boyko, Alice Schleiderer, Hesper Schleiderer-Hardy, Ellis Boyko, Jacqui Boyko.

The donations of two conservation easements from Joe Hardy and Alice Schleiderer have moved the needle on land conserved in the Mt. Agamenticus area. These properties, located on Tufts Road and Hill Road in the Tatnic region of Wells, include eight acres of woodland with a bog that provides habitat for the endangered Blanding's turtle, and thirteen acres of open fields with some wetland habitat. Both parcels lie within the Mt. Agamenticus to the Sea (MtA2C) Conservation Initiative Focus Area, helping to strengthen connections between critical forests and wildlife corridors. MtA2C is an eight-member coalition with a goal, set in 2002, to conserve 19,000 acres within this focus area by 2035. Today, over 15,000 acres have been permanently conserved toward that vision.

As Great Works Regional Land Trust approaches its 40th anniversary, it's fitting to recognize that Joe Hardy and Alice Schleiderer were among the concerned citizens who, in the early 1980s, founded the organization to counter growing development pressures. Over the years, the couple has placed conservation easements on more than 200 acres across eight projects, all centered on Tatnic Hill in Wells. The largest was their own family land; the others were smaller parcels they purchased specifically to keep them from being developed.

"There's a great deal of satisfaction in conserving property and knowing that it's not going to be developed," Joe shared. "That's really why we've spent time and money on it. It's pretty simple. It's far more

important to me to have land protected than any money that we could get from sales of it."

Their connection to the land runs deep-rooted in generations past and carried forward in their own family's values. Alice explained, "The underlying philosophy of these decisions is wanting to live sustainably on the Earth. That's why we have all the climate change concern, so whatever we can do, we do. We are keeping this land in a more natural state for perpetuity, because so much land is going to be developed. People need places to live, and we're not ignorant of that, but they also need places to be outdoors. And nature needs a spot of its own, too."

The couple also takes pride in making their conserved lands accessible. "People are welcome to hike and hunt on any of the parcels," Joe noted. "It's at our pleasure, and our pleasure is for people to walk on them. I feel like hunting is a tradition in the region, and as long as they're responsible hunters, we don't feel that it's our role to prevent it."

Looking ahead, Joe and Alice hope their example inspires others to take action. "We also hope that we set an example for other people to protect land and to put up solar panels and to install heat pumps and do all those things," Alice said.

**Thanks to their decades of commitment, hundreds of acres of critical habitat are now permanently protected—ensuring that future generations can enjoy open space, clean water, and the beauty of the Maine woods.**




Great Works Regional Land Trust

Your local land trust in the communities of the Berwicks, Eliot, Ogunquit and Wells

[www.gwrlt.org](http://www.gwrlt.org)



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GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST is dedicated to the protection of the natural, historic, agricultural, scenic, and recreational resources within the Maine communities of Eliot, No. Berwick, So. Berwick, Berwick, Wells and Ogunquit. Great Works Regional Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation. Contributions are tax-deductible.

## Dear Friends,

As the vibrant colors of fall sweep across southern Maine, we're reminded that this season is all about sharing—sharing the trails, sharing the harvest, and sharing gratitude for the community that makes our work possible.

At Great Works Regional Land Trust, membership is the foundation of that community. Your membership is more than a gift—it's a partnership that allows us to protect the lands we all cherish and keep them open for everyone to enjoy. Together, we've created a legacy of conservation that future generations will inherit.

Because of you, over 8,000 acres of farms, forests, and waterways are permanently conserved. Because of you, families can take a quiet walk in the woods, wildlife has a safe place to thrive, and children can discover the wonders of nature close to home. Your membership also supports something priceless: our dedicated team of professionals who make this work possible every single day. They are the ones who steward the land, maintain trails, build community connections, and respond quickly when critical properties come under threat.

This work isn't just about land—it's about preserving the Maine way of life. The working farms, scenic fields, and rugged woodlands we protect are part of what makes this region so special. When you renew your membership, you help ensure that these landscapes and traditions endure for generations to come.

This season of sharing is the perfect time to reflect on what we've accomplished together and what lies ahead. If your membership has lapsed, we hope you come back. Every renewal, every new member, and every gift ensures that these special places remain protected—forever.

From all of us at GWRLT, thank you for your generosity, your trust, and your commitment to conservation. We are grateful to share this mission with you.

With appreciation and warm wishes for a beautiful fall,  
Derby, Jane, Jill, Shaun, and Zoe  
The Staff at Great Works Regional Land Trust

## Welcome to new members January-August 2025!

Leonard Anderson  
Tara Bates & Matthew LeComte  
Cammie & Russell Belcher  
Cathy Breen  
Cynthia Brown  
Bob & Helen Burns  
Lisa A. Ciaccia  
Dennis Coffey  
Jon Colantuoni  
Kimberly Conard  
The Cresseys  
Katherine Derby  
Paul Dever  
Steve and Carol Dow  
Beth Elwell  
Renee Frizzell  
Nick Giangrasso  
Sarah Gray  
Theodore Hallett  
Renee & Austin Hardy

Hink Herrick  
Terry Higgins  
Glenn Hoag  
Mylene & Adam Hollick  
Judy & Steve Houghton  
Holliday Kane Rayfield  
Linas & Meghan Kenter  
Quinn Kolmar  
Aimee Lockhardt  
Michael Love  
John & Alison MacKinnon  
Thomas & Nancy Magruder  
Brian Manning  
Bradley Maravalli  
Mary Marchand  
Richard Matteson  
Christie Merino-Jones  
Stephen Moran  
Gloria Morgan  
Denise Nugent

Mary O'Brien  
Brian Ordway  
Lucy & Wesley Palmer  
Anthony Paone & Sarena Liqui  
Michelle Paradis  
Allison & Aaron Ramsey  
Andrew Sammarco  
Eva Seger  
Jenn Silva  
Jennifer Smith  
Susan Talon  
Bonnie Thomas  
Joseph Tuminowski  
Tom Vasicek  
Kelsey Wallingford  
Beverly Westerveld  
Kristy Whipple & Corey Simpson  
Maegan Whitaker



# Spotlight on Upcoming Events

GREAT WORKS REGIONAL  
LAND TRUST PRESENTS

## WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL



SEC:  
FLR

SEAT:  
GEN ADM



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SEP 19

04:00 PM

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## WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL

[WWW.GWRLT.ORG/WSFF2025](http://WWW.GWRLT.ORG/WSFF2025)

The Wild & Scenic Film Festival is a premier environmental and adventure film festival known for showcasing 12 short, inspiring films that celebrate nature, community activism, and conservation.

**Friday, September 19, 4PM-8PM**

Wells High School - Olenn Performing Arts Center  
200 Sanford Road, Wells, Maine

Admission is \$20/adults, \$10/students and children

**Bring your friends, bring your family. RAFFLES // INFORMATION // CONSERVATION CONVERSATIONS**

## BEACH PLUM PURSUIT

October 24, 25 & 26, 2025

*Discover Ogunquit's Trails and Find a Hidden Treasure!*

Explore the Great Works Regional Land Trust trails of Beach Plum Farm, Payeur Preserve, and Old Boston Preserve in search of an exclusive, glass blown beach plum.

### A FULL WEEKEND OF TREASURE HUNTING IN OGUNQUIT

Each day, trail stewards will hide the glass ornaments. A total of 39 will be hidden on all 3 trails. Since the number of glass beach plums are limited, we ask participants to keep only ONE. Please leave any additional beach plums on the trail for others to find. Make sure to LOG YOUR TREASURE so we know when all have been found.

Go to [www.gwrlt.org/bpp25](http://www.gwrlt.org/bpp25) for more information!

brought to you by

On the Right Path Productions, Ogunquit Chamber of Commerce, and Great Works Regional Land Trust



This is a  
fundraiser to  
benefit: GWRLT &  
3 Dogs Rescue  
of Berwick



## Tails on the Trails: A Hike of Gratitude

**Sunday, November 16 | 10 AM - 1 PM**

**Location: Negutaquet Conservation Area, North Berwick**

This November, give thanks for the trails you love—with your favorite trail buddy by your side! Join us for a festive, fall-themed, easy hike celebrating our gratitude for nature, community, and our four-legged friends.

Enjoy a self-paced hike on one of our dog-friendly conservation areas, complete with cozy gear, treats, a photo booth, information on adoptable pets in our area, and seasonal cheer.

**More information and registration: [www.gwrlt.org/tails2025/](http://www.gwrlt.org/tails2025/)**

# Climate Status Report



**O**ur current emissions trajectory will raise the average world air temperature another two and a half degrees Fahrenheit during this century, a dire forecast given that most climate impacts rise exponentially with temperature.

*– Joe Hardy, Environmental Educator*

**W**hen Great Works Regional Land Trust was formed in 1986, global warming was not on our radar, though scientists were beginning to sound the alarm. Many people couldn't accept that climate change was human induced. Fortunately, that misconception has changed in recent years, but the world has kept on warming. As a consequence, we are now grappling with one climate catastrophe after another. Space limits me here to a brief climate status report but there may be an opportunity for follow-up essays about renewable energy options and technological developments—providing Trust members with a sense of hope and inspiration rather than more doom and gloom.

Annual world-wide carbon emissions now total a staggering 37 billion tons (in carbon dioxide equivalents). China ranks number 1, followed by the U.S. and India. These emissions are byproducts of carbon compounds used for fuels and manufacturing. Carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide are the most impactful, and their concentrations in the atmosphere continue to rise. From a pre-industrial level of 280 parts per million (ppm), the carbon dioxide concentration has risen to an alarming 423 ppm.

Inasmuch as so-called greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere, it should not be surprising that average air temperatures worldwide have risen in lockstep with their rising concentrations. The average pre-industrial air temperature has increased by 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees F). That rise is unprecedented—ten times faster than what would be considered “normal” following an ice age. Furthermore, biological systems are extremely sensitive to small temperature changes. Thus, all the climate impacts we have experienced to date can be traced to that 2.7 degree Fahrenheit increase.

What can we expect in the future? It depends on whether nations get emissions under control. In the U. S. and in Europe, emissions have seen a modest decline in the past decade, but worldwide they are still increasing but at a slower rate despite the billions of dollars invested in renewable energy and associated remedial technologies. Whether the world can sustain and improve upon these efforts remains to be seen, especially given the development of artificial intelligence and its huge appetite for power.

Our current emissions trajectory will raise the average world air temperature another two and a half degrees Fahrenheit during this century, a dire forecast given that most climate impacts rise exponentially with temperature. That is most evident in the Arctic; there is a high probability that the accelerating melting of the Greenland ice sheet is now irreversible. In this country we have already experienced significant sea level rise, loss of glacial ice, droughts, fires, storm flooding, species extinctions, and climate refugees. One could argue that forest fires, droughts, and flooding caused by hurricanes and other rain events have been the most consequential.

As for Maine, our average temperature has risen more than the world average, likewise the water temperature in the Gulf of Maine. The latter is disrupting the Gulf's fisheries and contributing to unprecedented coastal storms. Both of these impacts have been felt close to home in York County, along with a rise in invasive species, droughts (three in the last five years). And now, because warmer air holds more moisture, when it rains, it pours.

*– Joe Hardy*

# Kids' Corner: **What is a Land Trust?**



## A land trust is like a superhero for nature!

Its job is to help protect special places like forests, fields, rivers, and trails so people, plants, and animals can enjoy them forever.

### When a land trust takes care of land, it means:

- \* Wild animals have safe homes.
- \* Plants and trees can grow without being built over.
- \* People can walk, hike, and explore nature without hurting it.

Sometimes a land trust buys land. Sometimes people give their land to the land trust because they want to keep it safe. Then, the land trust takes care of it, making sure it stays wild and healthy.

Think of a land trust as a nature guardian watching over the land so that kids like you (and kids in the future) can see colorful leaves in fall, hear birds singing in spring, and splash in clean streams all summer long.

A great way to explore your favorite land trust conservation area is with a scavenger hunt!

- Susan H. Pike,

Biology teacher and Expedition Naturalist

## SCAVENGER HUNT

The leaves are turning, the air is crisp, and the woods are full of treasures just waiting to be discovered. Grab this list and see how many you can find during your next walk at a GWRLT Conservation Area!



- ☐ **An acorn or pine cone**  
watch for squirrels collecting them!
- ☐ **A brightly colored leaf**  
red, orange, or yellow
- ☐ **A patch of moss**  
soft and green, even in the fall
- ☐ **A mushroom or fungus**  
look on logs and near tree roots
- ☐ **Animal tracks**  
in mud, sand, or on a dusty trail
- ☐ **A bird's call**  
can you hear chickadees or woodpeckers?
- ☐ **A spider web**  
look for it sparkling with morning dew
- ☐ **Tree bark with a cool pattern**  
rough, smooth, or peeling
- ☐ **Something that smells like fall**  
pine needles, leaves, or fresh earth
- ☐ **A snag**  
a standing dead tree with lots of holes for wildlife to live in

**Extra Challenge:** Draw your favorite finds in a small notebook or on a scrap of paper. Or, photodocument your scavenger hunt; this means take pictures of what you find.

**Nature Tip:** Remember, we only look and take pictures – leave nature's treasures where they are so animals can still use them.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Conservation Area:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Once you have checked everything off the list, come visit our office at Beach Plum Farm in Ogunquit. Show us what you found (the checklist and/or drawings and/or photos) and we will give you a sticker!



# Zoe Foster: Land Protection Coordinator

*Note: The Land Protection Coordinator position supports the Projects committee with background work on new inquiries and supports grant proposals for project funding. This entails working with landowners, conservation partners, conservation funding partners, community partners, volunteers, and other collaborators in ongoing land and water conservation efforts across the GWRLT region. Zoe Foster filled the position of Land Protection Coordinator upon the departure of Dylan Hertzberg, who left early this summer to pursue graduate studies.*

**Z**oe Foster, at two months into the job, says it's a steep learning curve but, "I love the earth and I love humans. I'm so excited to work in that intersection so people can continue to have a good relationship with the land." Land conservation is a slow process and Zoe is well aware that it takes time to build relationships with landowners, and to maintain those relationships until the pieces fall in place. And there are many pieces: family wishes, goals and needs; land trust requirements; funding avenues and requirements. "It's our job to make sure landowners have the information they need," as the conservation discussions proceed. "For me, it's so refreshing to be doing this work, from the ground up, literally, as opposed to my previous work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), often working with government agencies."

Zoe has broad experience in environmental issues. Her undergraduate degree is from the University of British Columbia, where she received a degree in



Global Perspectives in Natural Resource Conservation. She has worked for a variety of NGOs in the Boston area, including biodiversity research and education at Harvard University, and multi-organization citizen science projects. Her experience with local land conservation comes from a job with the State of Massachusetts managing conservation easements. She spent six years doing international work, including South America, Melanesia

and East Africa, with a focus on cultural anthropology as it relates to the environment. "I've connected with really great people around the world," she says. "People who've learned by living it, by ecosystem dynamics on the front lines of climate change and territory loss."

A New England native, Zoe and her partner, a history teacher, recently moved to this area from Massachusetts. "I wanted to return to New England, settle down. I'm appreciating the levels of experience and knowledge I encounter right here at home." Zoe has a myriad of interests – she loves to travel and anything outdoors: mountain biking, backpacking, highlining, etc. She is a musician, playing saxophone and percussion. She reads, writes, draws, and carves rocks, minerals and wood. Rockhounding is a particular interest, as is pyrocalligraphy.

If you'd like to get acquainted with this active, dedicated young woman, Zoe's response to a question about having pets was, "I wish! I'm happy to go on dog walks with anyone!"

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## Create Your Conservation Legacy Planned Giving with GWRLT

Have you considered an estate plan that benefits you and your loved ones while providing a lasting gift to conservation?

Reach out to a member of our Development team at (207) 646-3604 or [info@gwrlt.org](mailto:info@gwrlt.org) to discuss your legacy.

# You can help by joining Great Works Regional Land Trust today.



**Yes, I/we wish to join/renew.**

## Membership Levels:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student/Senior \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$35     | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainer \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$50         | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$500   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visionary \$1000    |  |

## Become a Pledge Partner!

Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly  
☐ I understand this charge will be ongoing until I notify GWRLT otherwise.

☐ Check enclosed (payable to GWRLT) for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Credit/Debit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ Discover

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☐ I'd like to receive emails about Great Works Regional Land Trust news and events

## Want to volunteer?

### Office help:

☐ Mailings

☐ Research

### Committee Work:

☐ Development

☐ Membership

☐ Stewardship

### Stewardship:

☐ Property maintenance

☐ Invasives removal

☐ Trail work

☐ Building maintenance

### Special Events:

☐ Spring Auction (held in March)

☐ Cooking/baking for an event

☐ Annual Meeting

☐ Special Events

### Outreach:

☐ Distribute newsletters, posters

☐ Give a talk to an organization

☐ Booth help at local festivals

☐ Write an article

☐ Photography

☐ Lead a hike

☐ I'd like to receive emails about volunteer opportunities.

☐ Please call me to discuss volunteering with GWRLT.

Great Works Regional Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Donate online at:  
[gwrlt.org/donate](https://gwrlt.org/donate)



## HUNTING SEASON REMINDERS

**W**e are proud of the work we do to protect land for wildlife habitat that can support the tradition of hunting in our community for generations to come.

Each season, we simply request that everyone familiarizes themselves with the following:

- Hunting is prohibited at Beach Plum Farm and the Savage Wildlife Preserve.
- Temporary tree stands are allowed, but must bear the owner's identification and be removed after each hunting season.
- Permanently bolted tree stands are prohibited.
- Trapping, baiting, and target practice are prohibited on GWRLT properties.
- Remember! Hunting is not allowed on Sundays in Maine.
- In addition to our specific limitations, please follow all state and local laws and regulations for the health and safety of our community and our natural resources.
- Hikers and pets should take the precaution of wearing blaze orange, and hunters need to be ever mindful of the presence of hikers on GWRLT properties.

## STEWARDSHIP

## FALL WORKSHOPS

All dates and expected work tasks are subject to change.

- 9/3 Rocky Hills, Removing Invasive species and trimming the trail
- Tuesday 9/9 Tidal Waters Conservation Area, Remove Gazebo
- 9/17 Bauneg Beg South, Bench-cut trail with Maine Conservation Corps crew
- Tuesday 9/23 Douglas Memorial Woods, Install boardwalk
- 9/24 Douglas Memorial Woods, install boardwalk
- 10/1 Old Boston, Remove invasive species
- 10/8 Kenyon Hill, Install posts and trail signs
- 10/15 Beach Plum Farm, Remove invasive species
- 10/22 Bauneg Beg South, Spread woodchips and other trail work
- Tuesday 10/28 Douglas Memorial Woods, Install boardwalk
- 10/29 Douglas Memorial Woods, Install boardwalk
- 11/5 Newichawannock, Trim and blaze trail
- 11/12 Payeur, Remove invasive species



# GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST

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## In this issue:

*Conservation Easements in Tatnic*

*Climate Update*

*Kids' Corner: Scavenger Hunt*

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code to sign  
up for hikes.

## Calendar

gwrlt.org

- Sept 10 **Wednesday Wandering at the Perkinstown Wildlife Commons** | 10am to 12pm
- Sept 19 **2nd Annual Wild & Scenic Film Festival** | 4 to 8pm | Wells High School
- Sept 20 **Photo & Naturalist Walk at Keay Brook Preserve w/ Kate Wilcox** | 10am to 12pm
- Sept 20 **Negutaquet Cons. Area History Walk w/Brad Fletcher** | 10am to 12pm
- Sept 27 **Eliot Festival Days**
- Sept 28 **Lobster Dinner for 10**
  - Oct 1 **Wednesday Wandering: Goodwin Forest** | 10am to 12pm
  - Oct 6 **Moonrise Hike/Picnic: Bauneg Beg Mountain Conservation Area North w/Sue Pike** | 5:30pm to 7:30pm
  - Oct 11 **Mushroom ID Walk w/North Spore at Old Boston Preserve** | 10am to 12pm\*
  - Oct 11 **Corner Point Brewing Company Meetup w/GWRLT** | 3pm to 5pm
  - Oct 18 **Walking Tour in the Tatnic Hills w/The Historical Society of Wells & Ogunquit** | 10am-12pm\*
  - Oct 24 **Beach Plum Pursuit** | Fri Oct 24 - Sun Oct 26
  - Oct 25 **Walk into Punkintown History w/Brad Fletcher** | Rocky Hills Cons. Area | 10am to 1pm
  - Nov 2 **How Trees Prepare for Winter w/Eileen Willard** | Orris Falls Cons. Area | 10am to 12pm
  - Nov 9 **Explore Beaver Activity at Orris Falls Conservation Area w/Paul Dest** | 10am to 12pm
  - Nov 16 **Tails on the Trails: Pup Walk Fundraiser at Negutaquet Cons. Area**
  - Nov 16 **Kenyon Hill 'Berwick Branch' History Walk w/Brad Fletcher** | 10am to 12pm
  - Dec 6 **Orris Falls History Hike w/Brad Fletcher** | 10am to 12pm

\* Registration fee



**OCT 24-26, 2025**

## BEACH PLUM PURSUIT (open to ALL)

**A SCAVENGER HUNT  
ON ALL GWRLT TRAILS  
IN OGUNQUIT**

All outdoor hikes and adventures are open and free to all. However, we suggest a \$5 donation per person or \$10 donation per family for non-members. Registration required. Register at [gwrlt.org/event](http://gwrlt.org/event) today!