



mwwt
Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

Winter 2018 newsletter—volume 7



Looking northwest over Middle Pond from cliff along proposed Otter Pond Mountain Trail.

Permanently protecting the Pierce Pond watershed from development since 1989

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MWWT Develops Watershed Trails Plan

Jerry Bley

When one thinks of the long and storied history of outdoor recreation in the Pierce Pond watershed, fishing is what first comes to mind, with hunting very likely a distant second. These were the pursuits of those who came to the sporting camps that had sprung up in the area over the past century. Hiking only enters the conversation when discussing the Appalachian Trail (AT), which cuts through a small corner of the watershed near the outlet to Pierce Pond Stream. Those seeking hiking adventures typically head a bit west to the High Peaks region that includes ten of Maine’s 4,000-foot mountain peaks, such as the Bigelow Range, Mount Abram, Sugarloaf, and Saddleback.

Interest in Hiking Evident

But trends in outdoor recreation in Maine and nationally are evolving. While the number of fishing licenses sold in Maine has essentially remained the same over the past twenty years, the number of people involved in hiking and wildlife-watching activities has

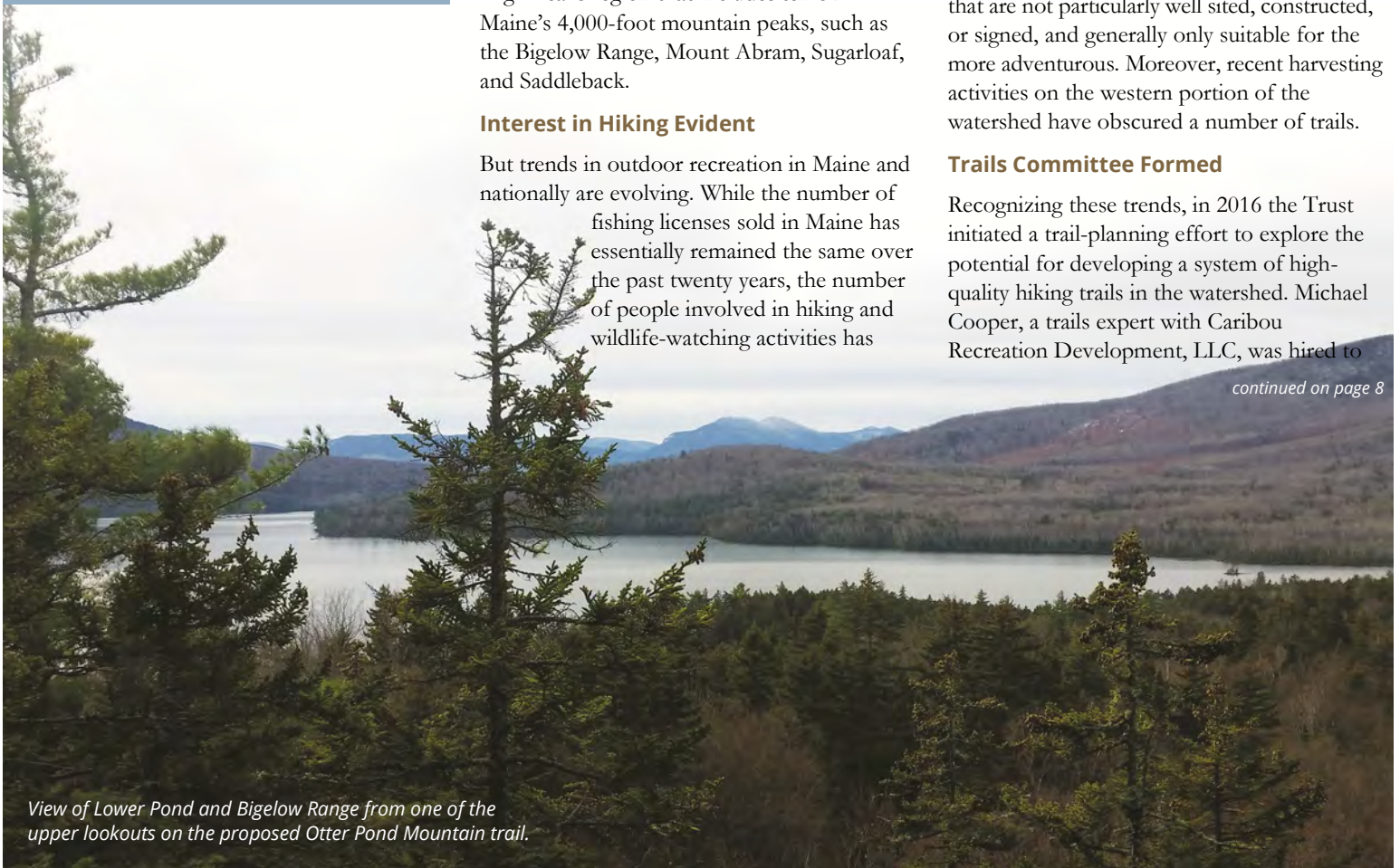
been steadily growing, between 25 and 45 percent over the past decade (depending upon the study that you look at). And those trends are evident at Pierce Pond, where we see a new generation of visitors who are interested in a diversity of outdoor pursuits that include fishing, but also kayaking, paddle-boarding, bird-watching, and hiking.

While there are currently a variety of places to hike within the watershed, for the most part (except around Cobb’s Camps) these are unmarked old logging roads or rough-cut paths that are not particularly well sited, constructed, or signed, and generally only suitable for the more adventurous. Moreover, recent harvesting activities on the western portion of the watershed have obscured a number of trails.

Trails Committee Formed

Recognizing these trends, in 2016 the Trust initiated a trail-planning effort to explore the potential for developing a system of high-quality hiking trails in the watershed. Michael Cooper, a trails expert with Caribou Recreation Development, LLC, was hired to

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View of Lower Pond and Bigelow Range from one of the upper lookouts on the proposed Otter Pond Mountain trail.

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Message from the President

Carl Freeman

In 1989, sensitive to the winds of change, a group of Pierce-Ponders formed the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust (MWWT), in order to preserve their cherished watershed. The leadership of the Trust then became instrumental in acquiring the initial easement preventing development along Pierce Pond's eastern shore and islands, which was a giant step toward the desired protection. Over the subsequent years, MWWT has steadily improved the protection scenario with additional easements and acquisitions, including

- our acquisition of five additional conservation easements, and partnership on two more, safeguarding more than 7,200 acres;
- our purchase of nearly 2,000 acres of shoreland and forest; and
- our agreements with Cobb's Camps and Harrison's Camps to ensure that these traditional Maine sporting camps remain open to the public.

Still, throughout the years there have been continuing indications of change that have forced us to ask whether we have done enough. This concern has evolved into the realization that the only way to keep the watershed the way we want it is to own it.

In 2015, the MWWT Board of Directors adopted ownership of the entire Pierce Pond watershed as the primary goal of future activities. As most of you are aware, that goal carries with it several challenges, such as cultivating a willing seller, and figuring out how to pay for the land! For many years these topics have dominated trust-related conversations among Pierce-Ponders.

I believe we can finally address both of these challenges successfully. We have developed a comfortable rapport with the watershed's largest landowner, Weyerhaeuser, and anticipate that—with continued efforts—we can eventually settle upon a deal that will benefit both parties. This may require the Trust to secure a suitable parcel of forest land to swap with Weyerhaeuser, providing them with a new source of timber in exchange for conveying its Pierce Pond watershed lands to MWWT.

You may ask, "How will we pay for it?"

The last President's E-Mail Update discussed the Planning Study being conducted by Demont & Associates to assess the viability of owning and stewarding the watershed. That study explored the likelihood that sufficient financial resources would be available to MWWT to acquire the watershed lands. After receiving the Demont team's final Planning Study Report at a special

Ice-cutting at Cobb's Camps, 2017



December 12 meeting, MWWT's Board voted to initiate a Capital Campaign, with a goal of raising sufficient funding for both the acquisition of watershed lands and their long-term stewardship. We have signed a Letter of Agreement with the Demont team to "provide to MWWT a professional staff for the purposes of assisting MWWT's Board, staff, and volunteers with the implementation of a comprehensive campaign while also helping to build an institutional culture of philanthropy."

This will be a formidable task. It will require a lot of work by members of the Board and the general membership to be successful—and that's before we even start requesting donations. All information regarding plans, schedules and events, etc., will be shared with the membership as they are defined. Stay tuned—there's going to be a great deal of activity in the coming years, and we're all in this together!!!

On lighter note, Cobb's ice cutting was on February 3. Reports from the crew are that conditions were difficult. Owing to unplowed roads and a collapsed bridge, access to the pond was limited to snowmobile over the old gate road. Nevertheless, despite bitterly cold weather, the ice house was filled with a total of 165 blocks of ice, each weighing approximately 160 lb. That should be sufficient ice for our drinks and enjoyment this coming season at Pierce Pond.

Carl Freeman

Returning Home to Pierce Pond

Yasmin Fahr

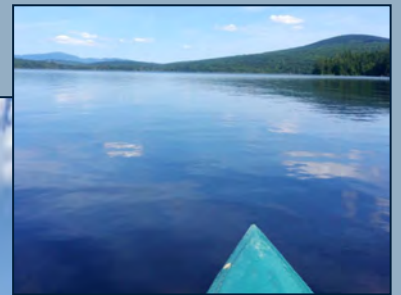
"Is it time to ring the bell yet?" my sister and I would ask Betty Cobb before dinner every night when we were kids. Spinning on our heels on the wooden porch, we would peer through the screen door, waiting for her to give us the okay. The scent of that afternoon's freshly baked cookies wafted our way as we played rocks-paper-scissors for who got to push it first. "Okay, go ahead!" she would call out, and we would race to the end of the porch, throw our body weight onto the giant bell, and then smile in satisfaction as the loud ringing began.

My family has been going to Pierce Pond since I was four and my sister was one. While most people go there for fishing, we go to put a pause on the rest of our lives, spend time in nature, and create memories with new and old friends. Our memory banks are full of building fires on Fox Island, struggling to make it over the thoroughfare on the way to Upper Pond, and swinging from the rope swing once there. We've grown up with the Pikaarts, another Pierce Pond family. Together we'd often trek to the Kennebec River, following the Appalachian Trail along Pierce Pond Stream and handing out cookies to hikers.

Now that we're adults, meal times are still a favorite part of our day, though we leave the bell-ringing to the new generation of kids (with some remorse). We've graduated from the small cranberry and orange juice glasses to wine and beer with our parents and friends. Finding out who we get paired up with for meals is always a fun adventure. Whether we're hearing about Gracie's travels and college selection, or Alice's girlhood experience of a 3 a.m. steak dinner with a shot of whiskey before traveling by horse and carriage to Pierce Pond, it feels a bit like returning home.

The funny thing is that while our appearances inevitably change, it feels like nothing else has changed at all. We come back to this wonderful place as if no time has passed. Walking barefoot on the dock, diving into the cool, clear water, and waiting for my dad to come back (hopefully) with a fish, still makes me feel like that little girl who jumped in the water over 30 years ago, worried that fish would bite her toes.

It feels like there is an unspoken sense of honor amongst fellow Pierce Ponders—you know that they are good people, no matter where they are from or what they do. Pierce Pond is more than just a place to go fishing and hiking; it's a community of incredible people in a beautiful place.



“They started with six boys, some old canoes and a dump truck. . . . Gary wanted to give his young charges the rigorous discipline of Outward Bound with an opportunity to learn about the Maine woods. . . . In short, Gary was passing along to his young guests—from 30–36 each summer—the experience he had accumulated in the woods. . . . Just how successful the program was can be seen in the number of former campers who stay in touch with the Cobbs.”

—Alfred H. Fenton and Gary Cobb,
The History of Pierce Pond

“The Wilderness Bound camp proved to be a special part of our lives, as well as the lives of close to 350 boys. . . . Many we have stayed in touch with. Some will surely credit their achievements to the time spent coping with the Maine woods.

The activities were challenging and often difficult. The Maine woods can be unkind at times. We traveled with an old school bus, and with trucks hauling heavy trailers all over the northern Maine woods and into Canada.

It was a special association, the boys, the counselors, and the leaders, and my family.”

—Gary Cobb, *Dock Talk*, 2006

Remembering

1969–1986

WILDERNESS BOUND

Forty years later, my memories of Wilderness Bound are a source of continuity and peace. In my mind's eye, I can see the docks, hear the loons, and see Gary's prideful and suspicious grin as we returned with a night's "catch."

As a camper and later counselor, I recall the rush of adrenaline as we ran for the canoes after a glorious Betty Cobb low-cal dinner . . . to beat each other to the prime fishing spots for the evening hatch . . . Doc's Rocks, Gull Rock, Lindsey Cove, or the Brook. We would fish till we could see no more as twilight engulfed the clear, cold water.

The view of Pierce Pond mountain after a long trek was always such a welcome site. The cabins with smoke, the warmth of "home." The sense of achievement and fatigue after rain-soaked days on Lake Chamberlin, or capsized canoes on Allagash Stream, where we lost food and a bit of pride. Hoarding fires under the tarp, drying out and having Musty's "Nectar of the Gods." Or late one night, on the West Branch of the Penobscot, when I looked up and saw the most glorious meteor shower I'd ever witnessed.

The mystery, the beauty, the majesty. This was my Wilderness Bound experience. I would not trade it for anything. It molded me. It brought me joy and pain; it gave me perspective and resilience to face the challenges that come in life.

Thank you, Gary and Betty. Thank you!
—Jeff Vogt

Gary never preached; he led by example. He taught me the importance of doing the right thing; the importance of family.

My fondest Wilderness Bound memory is of Gary doing Maine Trivia around the campfire, sitting with his pipe, and one of the camp leaders beside him with a bag of marshmallows. When someone gave the right answer, Gary would say, "Giiiiive that man a marshmallow!", and the leader would throw the marshmallow at the camper. (Gary made sure that everyone got some marshmallows!)

There were challenges. I suffered a horsefly attack—hundreds of bites. The blister on my foot got infected. I got wet; I got cold. But it was always beautiful.

—Kevin Sheridan



Here is the board fish I caught during a fly-fishing contest while at Wilderness Bound. In 8th grade I wrote a story about it for my school magazine, which ended with, "this was one of the most exciting days in my life so far." Both the regular trips to Cobb's Camp and the summer at Wilderness Bound played an important role in developing my love for the outdoors.

—Blake Stuart

My experiences at Wilderness Bound had a profound effect on me and the course of my life. My love of the outdoors and commitment to conserving it all stem from the Huck Finn/Tom Sawyer-like adventures we had as teenaged boys in the backwoods of Maine.

What Betty and Gary Cobb were able to provide was unmatched not only in the access to beautiful Pierce Pond, but also in the lessons we learned about working together and what we were capable of. Those lessons, and the confidence I gained in myself and my ability to operate in the outdoors, are carried with me to this day. The sense of pride we all felt, whether from completing the Allagash Waterway, summiting Katahdin, or hooking into a 2 lb brook trout, was palpable. I hope in this day and age of smart phones and video games that young men and women still have access to such amazing experiences as we had in Maine.

—Sam Meachum

I spent two magical summers as a Wilderness Bound camper. Many happy memories and thoughts come to mind:

- A two+ week canoe trip over windy, never-ending lakes like Chamberlain and Eagle, through the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, ending on the banks of Canada.
- Spending a slow afternoon blueberry picking with Betty.
- Chas Gill and Igor Sikorsky, our counselors, whose names roll off the tip of my tongue after 37 years.
- Watching Andy Cobb blossom from a 9-year-old little kid to today . . . a capable and caring steward, much like Gary and Floyd before him.

How Gary and Betty Cobb kept their sanity during those years is beyond me! Can you imagine being directly responsible for a dozen teenaged campers supervised by several guys in their late teens?

Wilderness Bound cemented my love of Pierce Pond, as it did for my 2 older brothers. Our entire family will be forever grateful to Gary and Betty for the once-in-a-lifetime experience called Wilderness Bound.

—Bruce Whiting



One lesson out of many that I learned is what you might call "creative determination." So many times we were stymied by some random, sometimes colossal problem. Remarkably these were solved on our own (okay, mostly Gary solved them!) with intuition, creativity, and a reassuring slather of humor.

Some examples: foot-long holes in wooden canoes from old dam spikes on the Allagash, a van stuck in high water crossing Spencer Stream with a bent steering rod, a canoe trailer that caught on fire on the highway, forgotten tent poles for a two-week trip, a bridge washed out, an outboard engine submerged while heading upstream, stubborn small engines reverently coaxed to action, improvised camp furniture, a huge rock moved by hand with cut poles, raising the water level of a stream for canoeing by opening up a beaver dam . . . It sometimes was a joy, a sort of gleeful rubbing of the hands when surprises came up.

There was always laughter. We felt undaunted, mainly because out there in the woods, wherever we were, we learned to create the solution. It helped me grow up, realizing that I could handle it.

—Igor Sikorsky



Attempting to fly fish the mayfly hatch in the cove and hooking our ears / canoe more than fish! Plus the annual bean hole dinner at Upper Pond that was a really great time. We were all very lucky to experience Wilderness Bound and the Cobbs' kids experiment!

—Eric Hurtig



What was so special about the WB experience was the lack of structure and the surplus of outdoor activities. Every day we did some sort of instruction followed by an adventure, whether it was climbing Pierce Pond mountain to fish the ponds, or canoeing the rapids on the Dead River. Annual trips to the Allagash and Katahdin comprised the majority of the time away from the Pond. There is no doubt that my life was forever shaped by this experience. Both Gary and Betty taught so much to us all. I am so thankful.

—Chas Gill

I found myself in the back of a station wagon with my outdoor gear and two other boys who would become fast friends, heading to Wilderness Bound from the designated drop-off spot in Waterville.

- A few Wilderness Bound experiences that come to mind:
- Camping in the Upper Pond (my first-ever camping experience) and being inspired by its beauty and solitude at night. Being scared by nearby lightning strikes during a storm.
 - The Wilderness Bound fishing contest which, unlike the sporting camp's "board," awarded partial credit for pickerel (which we chased with enthusiasm and delight).
 - Being caught in the middle of the Kennebec during an upstream dam release. Having to pluck some of the smaller boys out of the river and lend them my dry clothes.
 - Visiting Allagash Lake twice, once via a 3-mile portage and once via a long slog up Allagash Stream. Climbing down into the claustrophobia-inducing ice caves to harvest blocks of ice in the middle of summer. Enjoying a feast of fresh frogs' legs (and being amazed at how they really did taste like chicken).
 - An August sleet storm at the top of Mt. Katahdin.
 - The disappointment of coming in second place for the "best fly fisherman" award—and the indignity of winning first place for "neatest camper."

Wilderness Bound instilled in me the confidence to take on any challenge, the grit to see it through to completion, and the leadership skills to bring others along willingly. It inspired me to love the outdoors and fostered my love for the watershed and my enthusiasm for the efforts of the Trust.

—Rick Wallace, Jr.

MWWT Member List

INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY MEMBERS

- Abbe, Chris & Kathy
 Abbe, Dudley & Elisabeth
 Abbe, Jeffrey
 Abbe, John
 Abbe, Stephen
 Abbe, Susan
 Allen, Andrew & Mary
 Allen, Douglas Jr.
 Allen, Louise
 Allen, Richardson
 Ames, Calvin & Cathy
 Anderson, Eric, & Geraldine Schneider
 Anderson, Robert & Dorothy
 Anderson, Ronald
 Anderson, Tom & Peggy
 Arsenault, Don
 Astbury, Art
 Aten, Joseph
 Averill, Andrew & Catherine
 Bahl, Matt, & Maggie Drummond-Bahl
 Baker, Dale & Patricia
 Baker, Robert Jr.
 Barriault, Ronald
 Barter, Albert
 Bartlett, William & Julianne
 Bastien, Margaret
 Bates, Linda, & Jeffrey Leo
 Bean, Christopher & Claudette
 Beck, Kate, & James Whittemore
 Belfiore, James
 Bell, Daniel
 Bell, Gordon
 Berry, Irene & Bill
 Betts, Cameron & Heather
 Bickford, Jeff & Julia
 Bien, Stephen
 Blake, Alfred & Elaine
 Blake, Kate & Family
 Blasenak, Ron & Sally
 Bley, Jerry
 Bormann, Kelly & Darrell
 Bousquet, Paul Jr.
 Brasslett, Gordon & Clement, Patty
 Brown, Gary
 Buchanan, Donald III & Johnnie
 Burke, Gary & Deborah
 Burnham, Charles & Ann
 Burnham, Frederick
 Burns, James & Gloria
 Burns, Louis, & Elijah
 Burns, Robert, & Elizabeth Spaulding
 Calder, Thomas & W&A
 Campbell, Colin & Regina
 Canada, Jeanne
 Cardozo, John
 Carlson, John & Jane
 Carver, Chris & Mary
 Case, Alan & Patricia
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 Childs, Richard & Linda
 Chipman, David & Kathe
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 Cobb, Gary A. & Patricia
 Cobb, Ruth
 Cockburn, Robert & Jessica
 Cole, Russell
 Collette, Rod & Judy
 Cook, Floyd
 Corbett, John & Katherine
 Corbett-Paterniti, Sara & Mike
 Cournoyer, Edmond, & Cheri Patterson
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 Cozine, James & Betsy
 Cronin, Mervell & Anne
 Curci, Michael & Christine
 Daboll, Roger & Barbara
 Danker, Paul & Christine
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 DeSisto, Richard
 Dickinson, Gregory
 Dillon-Jones, Carla
 Diprizio, Prisco & Phyllis
 Dornish, Karl & Jane
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 Gale, Tyler
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 McCollor, Reginald & Erdine
 McCormick, Kyle & Diane
 McKenna, Gene & Jane
 McLaughlin, Robert & Kristen
 McPhee, Neal & Valerie
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 Mehaffey, William & Margaret
 Meisner, Stephen & Marcia
 Messinger, Ann
 Messinger, Corrine
 Messinger, Margaret
 Michaud, Gary & Carolyn
 Miles, Keith
 Miles, Paul & Nancy
 Miller, Buell
 Mitchell, Henry & Joan
 Molloy, Brian
 Molloy, Frederick
 Molloy, Kevin & Erica
 Molloy, Peter
 Molloy, Todd & Merridith
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 Morrell, Doug & Georgette
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 Morton, Gerald & Jean
 Moses, Bradley & Nancy
 Mosher, David
 Murphy, Patricia
 Murray, Charles & Am&a
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 Neudel, Eric, & Alison Gilkey
 Neudel, Peter
 Nichols, Don
 Nichols, Shane
 Norris, James
 O'Brien, Frederic & Patricia
 Oehmig
 Oliver, Richard
 Olson, Gunnar Sr.
 Olson, Jr. Gunnar
 Orcutt, Amos & Lola
 Park, Roger & Elizabeth
 Parsons, III Marcus
 Patterson, William
 Pauwels, Stanislas
 Payson, III Stanley
 Payson, Stanley
 Peacock, Carlton
 Pechnik, Frank
 Peppard, Isaiah & Stephanie
 Percival, David & Bonnie
 Perkins, Payson & Toni
 Peron, Violet
 Peterman, Robert & Debra
 Pfirman, Richard & Martha
 Pierce, David
 Pierce, Derek, & Hanson, Anja
 Pikaart, Edward Jr. & Margie
 Plante, Bill
 Planting, Charles Scott
 PLOURDE, Ken
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 Reneson, Chet & Paulita
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 Sawyer, Peter
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 Schenkel, Andrew & Randy
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 Schofield, Carl Jr. & Linda
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 Ware, Roland Jr.
 Warner, Seth
 Waterman, Erik
 Wellenbach, Patricia
 Westphal, Christian
 Westphal, Robert & Leslie
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 Whiting, Bruce
 Whiting, Tim & Anne
 Whitney, Doreen
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 Wright, James & Georgiana
 Yeaton, Christopher
 Young, Ron

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 Foss, Patricia

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 Gallant, Gerard & Anna
 Gibbs, Robert & Thirza
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 Grigerek, Linda & Glen
 Hagan, Walter & Gracemary
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 Leigner, Frank Jr.
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 Lyttle, Peter
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 Pikaart, Christine
 Podkaminer, Jane & Nate
 Powell, Sam
 Rand, Alice & Peter
 Reynolds, Steve & Kathy
 Ross, John
 Saunders, Eric
 Schmidle, Paul & Wendy
 Shuter, Elizabeth
 Siscoe, Nancy
 Soley, Judy & Family
 Soley, Tim, David, & Jack
 Soule, David Jr., & Patricia O'Reilly
 Stallman, Alexander & Jutta
 Steinhacker, Robert & Marianne
 Stuart, Ralph & Carol
 Tolley, George & Naomi
 Wallace, David & Linda
 Whitney, Winston

A Time to Give Back

A Legacy for Wilderness Bound and Pierce Pond

Pierce Pond and Wilderness Bound roots run deeply through people's lives. For some, like Kevin Sheridan, his years at Wilderness Bound were transformative—instilling the passions and values that would serve him well throughout life.

“My first year at Wilderness Bound came upon the heels of a family tragedy,” said Kevin in a recent interview. “Gary Cobb became my second father and a mentor, and I forged a lot of good friendships. It was a really healing time for me, a time in which I grew up a lot.”

“Wilderness Bound wasn't the kind of camp where you have archery at 9:00, swimming at 11:00, etc. It was a family that invited boys in. Gary would gather us on the porch and say, “Okay guys, what do you want to do?”, and lay out a variety of possible adventures.

“My Wilderness Bound experiences taught me a work ethic: *there is no easy thing*. They gave me opportunities to teach, to become a role model for younger campers. They tested my mettle, and taught me to dig deep to face my fears. I was afraid of heights; I remember *crawling* up Knife Edge on Katahdin. Now as an adult I pursue my passion for mountain climbing, which started right there, with Bigelow and Katahdin.”

Now, decades later, Kevin returns to Pierce Pond to rekindle memories and savor the natural beauty, which has changed little since his Wilderness Bound days owing to the conservation efforts of the Trust. “Pierce Pond is where I learned to care about the environment, which is why I have always supported MWWT,” said Kevin.

“The first time my brothers and I went back to the Pond as adults, and Gary was standing there on the dock with his thumbs in his pockets . . . I looked around, and we were all crying. So I thought it was time to give back to Gary, and help protect his legacy at Pierce Pond.”

And with that inspiration, Kevin has stepped forward and made a major bequest to MWWT as part of his estate plan. His planned gift will provide the Trust with critical resources to be a true steward of the watershed, so that future kids will be able to create their own lifelong memories along the shores of Pierce Pond.

The MWWT Board of Directors is profoundly grateful to Kevin for his generous bequest and hopes that it will be an inspiration to others who share his love for the watershed.



Kevin Sheridan has been consulting and presenting on issues that affect Human Resources and employee engagement for nearly 30 years. He is an internationally recognized Keynote Speaker, a New York Times Best-Selling Author, and has been honored as one of Inc. Magazine's top 101 Leadership Speakers in the world, as well as Inc.'s top 101 experts on Employee Engagement (www.kevinsheridanllc.com).

Make Pierce Pond a Part of Your Legacy

You can help protect the Pierce Pond watershed for generations to come by remembering the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust in your will or other estate plans. Bequests and planned gifts will allow MWWT to protect critical natural areas and ensure that Pierce Pond will be enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts for generations to come. Planned gifts can provide:

- ◆ Income for the rest of your life
- ◆ Immediate income tax deductions
- ◆ Favorable capital gains treatment of appreciated securities
- ◆ Estate tax savings

To find out more about planned giving opportunities, please contact MWWT Coordinator Jerry Bley at (207) 685-3872.

Your MWWT membership matters! Have you renewed for 2018?

Choose your membership level:

Individual: \$35–\$99

Family: \$100–\$249

Sponsor: \$250–\$499

Benefactor: \$500–\$999

Sustaining: \$1000 or more

Send your membership donation to MWWT, PO Box 5660, Augusta, ME 04332, or **RENEW ONLINE** at www.mwwt.org.



Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

PO Box 5660
Augusta, Maine 04332-5660

A not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization



Please join us for MWWT's 29th Annual

MEMBERSHIP MEETING & Banquet

Saturday, March 3, 2018, Harraseeket Inn, Freeport, Maine
<http://mwwt.org/2018banquet/>



IMPORTANT:

Please arrive in time to attend the Annual Members Business Meeting at 5 PM!



MWWT Trails Plan *continued from page 1*

lead the year-long effort, working closely with a committee of MWWT directors, members, and outside interests. The end result is that a trails plan was completed last fall that looks at both near-term and long-range possibilities.

The Trails Committee established an overall objective of creating new and improved hiking opportunities in the watershed, while protecting natural resources and the traditional values of the current visitors. They began the planning process by developing the following principles:

- ◆ Create public recreation opportunities in the watershed that are safe and available to a range of abilities.
- ◆ Complement other trails systems in the region, such as the AT, Maine Huts and Trails, the Arnold Trail, and the Old Canada Road.
- ◆ Create trails with access to ponds and views of the ponds.
- ◆ Create trails that predominantly support foot traffic.
- ◆ Avoid facilitating unauthorized uses, such as motorized access.
- ◆ Adhere to a design standard of a primitive

footpath that is safe and environmentally sound, with good signage and blazing.

- ◆ Create a quality trails map.

Additionally, it is recognized that the Trust's first and foremost responsibility is to ensure that the natural resources and wilderness character of the area are protected from overuse and abuse. Some of the trail opportunities identified in the plan include:

- mountain trails up Otter Pond Mountain and Pierce Pond Mountain,
- an around-the-pond trail,
- a ridgeline trail,
- spur trails off of the AT, and
- connecting area sporting camps by trail, allowing hikers to do multiple-day trips.

Otter Pond Mountain Trail Designed

As an inaugural trail project, the Plan proposes a trail up Otter Pond Mountain, with a trailhead along the Otter Pond Cove Road as well as a water access trailhead for those staying on the pond. The premier attraction of this trail is a series of cliff bands that offer spectacular views to the west over Pierce Pond to the Bigelow Range. Mike Cooper has

flagged a proposed route and designed a trail that is sustainable, won't cause erosion, and will require minimal maintenance. The Trust has received some initial funding for the project through a grant from Bangor Savings Bank, but additional funds will need to be found to complete the construction.

Careful Approach Planned

Creating well designed and marked public trails suitable for a wide range of hikers, including families, will be a change for the watershed and the Trust and for that reason, MWWT's Board of Directors is taking a very careful approach. Before trails are built, the Board wants to ensure that they will not negatively affect the natural features or traditional uses of the watershed. They also want to ensure that the Trust has the necessary resources and programs in place to manage hikers and maintain the trails to a high standard. Importantly, many of the trail opportunities identified in the Plan are dependent upon the success of the Trust's efforts to acquire major tracts of land within the watershed, and its ability to raise a substantial stewardship endowment to take care of these lands.