



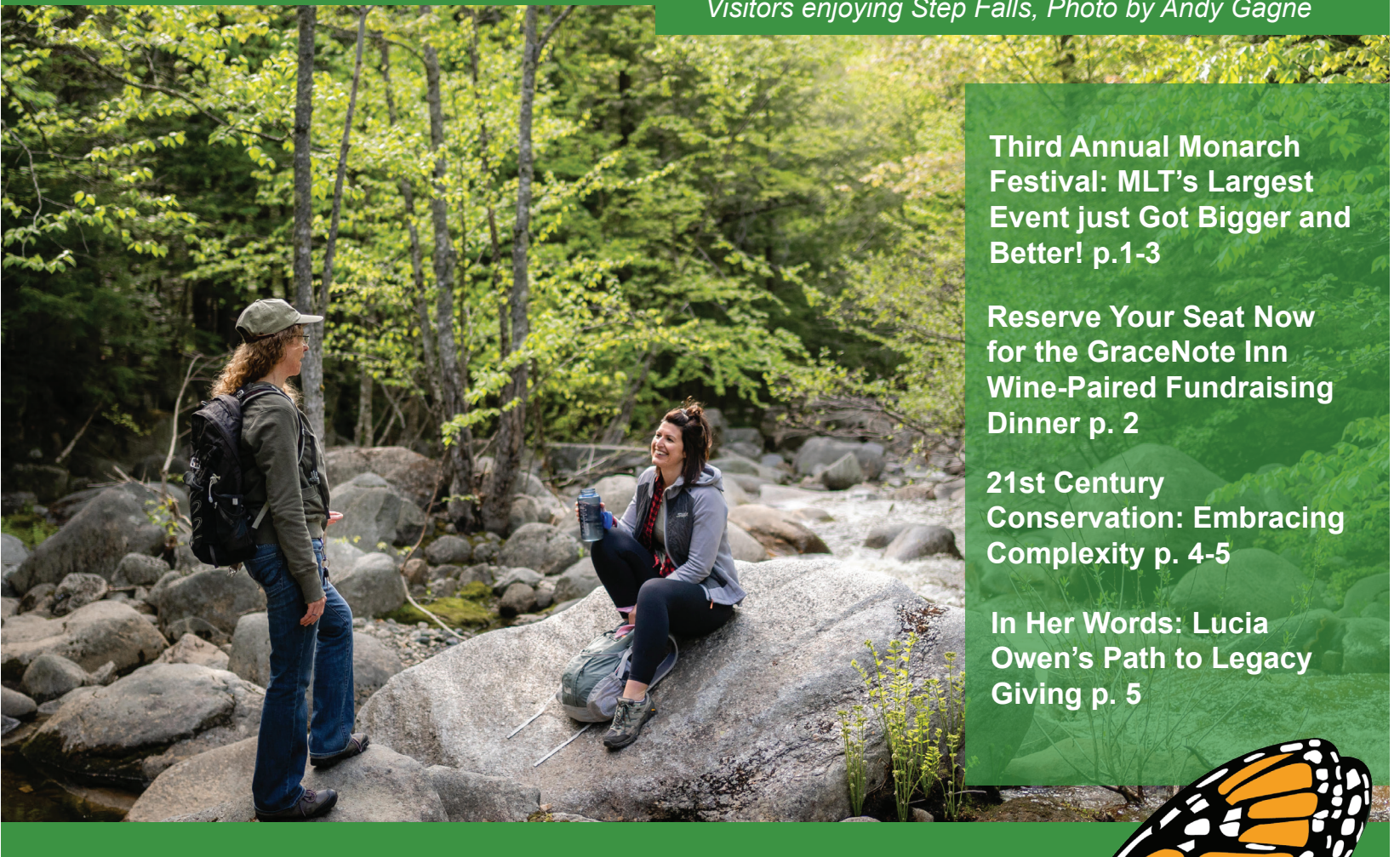
Mahoosuc Land Trust

Summer 2023 Newsletter

Conserving the Mahoosuc Region since 1989



Visitors enjoying Step Falls, Photo by Andy Gagne



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Third Annual Monarch Festival

MLT's Largest Event Just Got Bigger and Better!

The third annual Monarch Festival will begin with an evening talk from Homegrown National Park founder, Doug Tallamy, at the Gem Theater on **Saturday, August 12 at 6pm.**

The Annual Meeting will be kicked off by a poetry reading by Presidential Inaugural Poet Richard Blanco on **Sunday, August 13 at 11am.**

Following the Annual Meeting, join us for a variety of signature Monarch Festival activities and offerings PLUS new activities for all ages.

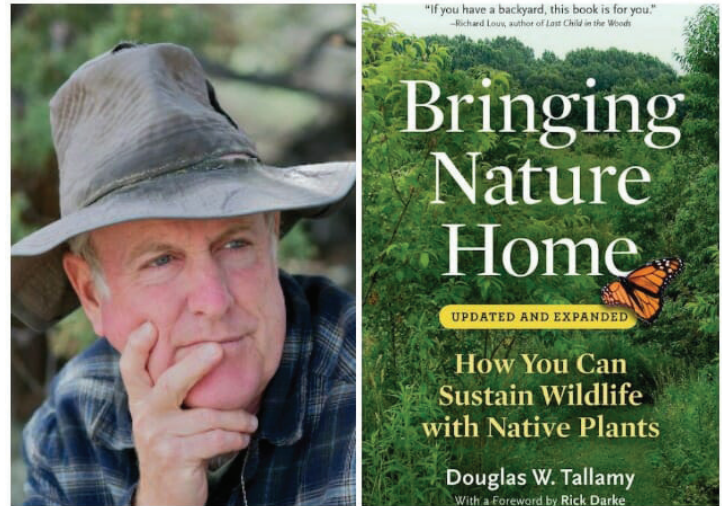
Read on for more details!



Third Annual Monarch Festival Event Schedule

Saturday, August 12

Author and co-founder of The Homegrown National Park Initiative, Doug Tallamy, will give a live remote talk at the Gem Theater about the power of backyard habitats. Doug Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware and an advocate for the idea that how we manage our private lands and spaces can change the world. Doors open at 6:00 pm for drinks and food, followed by opening remarks at 6:45 and the talk at 7:00. The event is free, but reservations are required. **Seating is limited, so reserve your seats at www.thegemtheater.com today.**



Sunday, August 13

The Annual Meeting and special recognitions will begin at 11am with special guest and Bethel resident, Richard Blanco, who will share some poetry to inspire the occasion. Selected by President Obama as the fifth Presidential Inaugural Poet in U.S. history, Richard Blanco was the youngest, the first Latinx, immigrant, and gay person to serve in such a role. More recently, Blanco was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Biden. Richard was born in Madrid to Cuban exile parents and raised in Miami, and cultural identity characterizes his many collections of award-winning poetry, including his most recent, *How to Love a Country*, and his memoir *The Prince of Los Cucuyos: A Miami Childhood*. Blanco is a Woodrow Wilson Fellow, has received numerous honorary doctorates, serves as Education Ambassador for The Academy of American Poets, and is an Associate Professor at Florida International University. In April 2022, Blanco was appointed the first-ever Poet Laureate of Miami Dade County.



Reminder: Don't miss our second annual Wine Paired Dinner at the GraceNote Inn on Saturday, July 8th at 5:30

Come enjoy a first-class five course meal, each course expertly paired with wines from all over the world.

The proprietors of The GraceNote Inn are generously donating 100% of the ticket price to Mahoosuc Land Trust, which will provide important funding for our conservation efforts. The dinner is limited to 70 guests, and some tickets have already sold.

Tickets can be purchased online at <https://gracenoteinn.com/product-category/dining/>

If you have food allergies or sensitivities, please call the proprietor, Brenda Blond at 207-530-4365, so that she can plan any necessary substitutions with the chef.

The Monarch Festival signature events continue from 12-4pm

Free Lunch 12-3pm

Hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, cookies and drinks

The Raffle

Local businesses and individuals have once again generously donated handmade items for you to win.

Local Artisan Vendors

11 local craftspeople will be there to help you get a jump on holiday season shopping.

Children's Activities

Storybook reading, games and art projects, gnome home building and, of course, the storybook trail

Monarch Tagging

Let's hope the monarchs arrive on time this year.

Garden Tours

Get your garden questions answered by some of our Habitat For All Garden volunteers.

Bird Walks

It just wouldn't be a festival without an enthusiastic bird walk with James.

A New T-shirt Design

Featuring art from local artist Mattie Rose Templeton

New Activities Include:

Indigo Dyeing Workshop

Indigo enthusiast, Rebecca Zicarelli, will demonstrate indigo dyeing and have an activity or two for participants to try.

Informational Talks

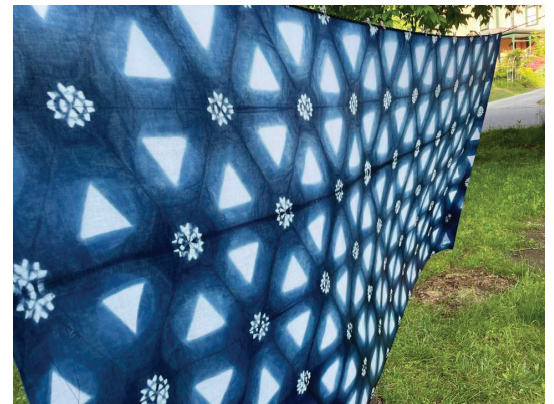
Barbara Murphy will give a short talk on the Habitat For All program.

Meg Kuker will talk about the monarch butterfly lifecycle and the challenges of making it from egg to adult.

A Scavenger Hunt for Adults

Scavenger hunts: Not just for kids anymore!

We hope you can join us for two days of fun, community, and monarchs, made possible by the following sponsors:



Thank you for making your 2023 donation to Mahoosuc Land Trust today!

We rely on your generous support to offer community programs and maintain many miles of trails in the Mahoosuc region in addition to conserving critical habitats. Use the enclosed envelope, or donate online at mahoosuc.org/donate.



21st Century Conservation: Embracing Complexity, Seeking Simplicity

Given the environmental and social fallout of industrial mining in some eras of our history, “progressive” was not a word I had attached to my great grandfather, Donald Gillies. Born in Bruce Mines, Ontario in 1872, he started a career in mining by “pushing slag” at a smelter in Butte, Montana. He became a renowned mining engineer with a knack for locating and extracting huge mineral deposits in Montana, Idaho, and Utah—and later in Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, and Liberia.

Admitting a bias toward preservation over extraction, my admiration for his life’s work has been reserved. Others looked at him through a different lens. His early successes in Butte merited inclusion of his biography in a circa 1900 volume entitled *Progressive Men of Montana*, lauding his contributions: “The finding of these large veins in this district means many years of additional life to the city of Butte.” The notion of “adding life” to his city re-framed for me the many ways to look at public benefit when it comes to how we use land.

Humans are part of nature and our needs must be part of land conservation efforts. We cannot turn a blind eye to affordable housing, renewable energy, food insecurity, or resources like trees and minerals. Nor can we ignore the natural values of the majority of our landscape that will never become a park or a land trust preserve. At a minimum, we must work with partners to advance societal needs—while holding true to our commitments to protect key values like biological diversity, habitat connectivity, and recreational access.

By traditional measures, MLT’s “vital signs” are strong: 40 conservation projects and 22,000+ acres of mountaintops, waterfalls, farms, trail systems, and critical habitat in both wild and managed forest. This important work continues and is now bolstered

by Habitat for All—our initiative to restore and magnify the connection between people, nature, and their backyards and public spaces. But how can we contribute more to the region’s communities?

Renewable energy

For example, the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy requires significant land area. How can conservation play a role? In Maine the total area required for enough solar to completely power the state would be about 150,000 acres. MLT can seek conservation opportunities that allow for solar on appropriate land areas. Specifically, MLT can promote strategies such as “agrivoltaics” or “dual-use” that allow farming in concert with solar energy production on marginal and developed land, while productive farmland and sensitive habitat are protected.

“How can we become wise agents of change to help make lasting change in our complex world so that life on Earth can flourish? How can we design social systems that have the welfare of the whole system in mind, and how can we do this before it’s too late?”

–Protopia Lab global forum

Workforce housing

Acute housing shortages and unaffordability threaten the well being of our Mahoosuc Region communities. Yet scientifically-based conservation policies call for increasing the pace of land conservation in the face of a biological diversity crisis. MLT is gaining insights on ways we can advance both. In June, Northern Forest Center’s president, Rob Riley, briefed the MLT board on the Center’s purchase of the Gehring House in Bethel and its plan to create 8 housing units designed to be financially in reach for local workers. Further inspiration comes from MLT’s longtime colleagues at Maine Coast Heritage Trust. In February, MCHT

acquired 60 acres on Mount Desert Island, where MCHT conserved 30 acres of Jones Marsh wetlands while its project partner is building a new workforce neighborhood which will provide 10 energy-efficient, year-round homes. And, nationally, there are efforts looking at integrating solar, conservation, and affordable housing into a single project.

Forest Use

The world is complex and our responses to complexity must be thoughtful and innovative. Simplistic questions such as whether old forests or young forests are more important for sequestering and storing carbon don't help. Sound science substantiates the vast amounts of carbon stored in old forests (not to mention biological diversity and other benefits), lending strong support for minimally or non-managed forests. Yet wood products are indispensable, and trees will be cut elsewhere if not here. One answer: a 2023 New England Forestry Foundation study shows that Maine's commercial harvest could increase annual carbon storage by at least 20% over the next 60 years while maintaining timber harvest levels by using

strategies such as increased planting, thinning and selective harvesting.

As you celebrate the Monarch Festival with us August 12th and 13th, we think you, too, will see your role in conservation in new ways. "Conservation is everywhere," writes Emma Harris in *Rambunctious Garden* with story after story of "squeezing conservation value" out of the human-dominated landscape. "[P]rivate citizens do not have to wait and hope that their government or some large conservation organization will carry them out. Every owner and renter can make any space work for nearly any conservation goal, whether they have a tiny balcony, a slot in a community garden, or a ranch in Texas."

Let us embrace complexity but not overlook simple solutions that work!



Kirk Siegel, Executive Director

Editor's note: MLT continues to follow proposed changes to the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act, and will advocate for biological diversity, habitat connectivity, and recreational access, while being mindful of other public benefits in the equation.



In
Her
Own
Words

“

When I retired (long ago), I was invited to be on the board of the almost-brand-new Mahoosuc Land Trust. I accepted with alacrity because back then I thought that a land trust simply protected land from people and development. My education was rapid as I came to understand that the way land trusts preserve lands is to preserve them for public use and access. As I saw the growth and evolution of MLT, I came to value this approach and still support it fully. However, I was delighted to read about the Ken Hotopp Wildlands project, a fund to acquire land to keep forever wild. This idea is so in tune with my original one about land trusts that I am very pleased to leave a bequest specifically for this project.

”

Lucia Owen, Legacy Circle

CGA's: Donate to MLT Today and Receive Payments for Life

Supporting Mahoosuc Land Trust with a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA) is a special type of gift you can make today or in the future, where your contribution is tax deductible and provides you or others with fixed income for life. The age of the beneficiary at the date of the gift determines the annual lifetime income, while the remainder value will support the Mahoosuc Land Trust.

In short, you can receive secure payments for life, knowing that you are providing a healthier Mahoosuc Region for future generations. Please contact us if you would like to learn more about CGAs. We can provide you with income scenarios to help you determine if a CGA may be right for you.

If you would like to have a confidential conversation about ways for you to leave a lasting impact on the Mahoosuc Region through your will or other planned gift, please contact Barbara Murphy, Director of Development (barbara@mahoosuc.org) or Kirk Siegel, Executive Director (Kirk@mahoosuc.org). Both can be reached by phone at (207)824-3806.

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