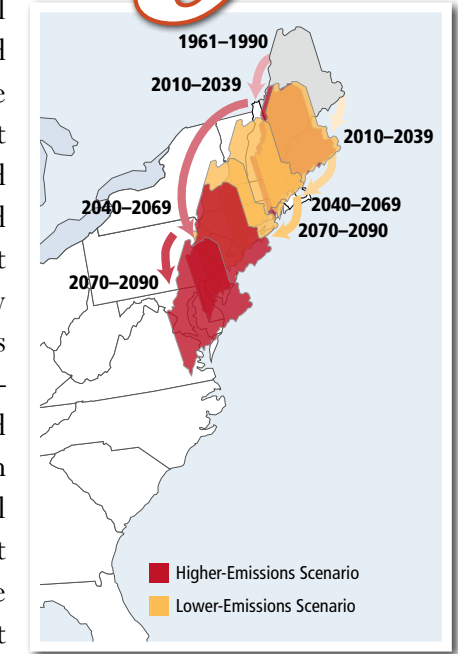


# fall

**BUILDING RESILIENCE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE:**  
**A new role for FLT**  
*by Mila Plavsic*

Have you noticed that, on average, our first frost of the fall is getting later and our last frost of the spring earlier? What about the Northward march of pests and diseases once held at bay by consistently harsh winters? Maine's climate is changing – we are moving toward warmer conditions with more precipitation in all four seasons. This past May, members of the Falmouth Land Trust board were invited to attend an event hosted by the Natural Resources Council of Maine and Maine Audubon. A panel of Maine scientists presented on the topic of climate change impacts on Maine wildlife and lands. It has become clear that, as society continues to grapple with ways to mitigate climate change through reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, we will also need to adapt to the changes in climate that are already happening.



disturbances while retaining the same basic structure and ways of functioning, the capacity for self-organization, and the capacity to adapt to stress and change. The CLSN program is led by the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and provides information and advice to help landowners and managers of working forests, agriculture, and conservation lands (public and private) prepare for climate change.

In the coming months, FLT will explore how climate change resilience can be increased through “no-regrets actions,” identifying new adaptation actions that are consistent with our mission and priorities. Implementing no regrets actions -with multiple benefits today and in the future, with or without climate change- can reduce vulnerabilities and increase the resilience of ecosystems to cope with current environmental pressures and climate variability. A number of the potential actions are extensions of the work already performed by the Trust, including

~ Continued on page 4 ~

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*The purpose of the Falmouth Land Trust is to permanently protect field, forest, shoreline, and wildlife lands; to maintain the historical character and natural beauty of Falmouth; and to educate its citizens regarding the values of donation, stewardship, and enjoyment of protected lands.*



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Tidewater Farm site of Art in Nature and Harvest Moon events.



Over 150 kids and parents attended our Bats and Tales event on October 15th.

Some of the above is adapted from: Rubino, R. C., Rubin, D., Robadue, J., Riccitelli, C., Collins, D., Robadue, C., Damon, K., Ruddock, P., August, C., Chaffee, E., Horton-Hall, and A. Ryan. 2013. Building Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change through Local Conservation Efforts: A South Kingstown Land Trust Pilot Project. Technical Report. Rhode Island Sea Grant, Narragansett, RI.

Building Resilience in a Changing Climate: *Continued from page 1.*

acquisition (in fee or easement) of priority sites, property stewardship to promote forest health, and the control of invasive plant species. Reducing non-climate stressors can increase the intrinsic resilience of ecosystems, providing greater resistance to future climate change impacts. In other words, the time to start planning for climate change is now!

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This summer the Trust hosted "Art in Nature," a great day of plein air painting by local artists, kids' art classes, and a photography workshop. This fall the local artists' landscape art was auctioned at the Elizabeth Moss Gallery as a fundraiser for FLT. The kids' art now adorns notecard sets that make great all occasion cards and would be great stocking stuffers. To order notecards, go to [falmouthlandtrust.org](http://falmouthlandtrust.org)

## Letter from the President: Jed Harris



**A**tunnel under the railroad tracks connecting Community Park and the School complex, an active organic farm, a bike path linking several neighboring towns... what role could Falmouth Land Trust play in making all of these grand ideas a reality in the coming years? You may

think these are wild fantasies but how many of you would have said just ten years ago that Falmouth would have thousands of acres of conserved open space in 2014 and an unrivaled 40 mile recreational trail system?

As I step aside from the presidency, the Trust has never been stronger and better equipped to be a key player that could help drive a community changing project forward. The Trust's strength is not my doing, I owe a large debt of gratitude to my fellow enthusiastic board members, Analiese Larson our incomparable executive director, our generous individual and corporate sponsors, and the countless volunteers who work to maintain and improve the Trust's properties. A special thank you is owed to the Town of Falmouth. Conservation efforts in Falmouth and the Trust would not be where they are today without the Town's considerable support. The Trust-Town relationship is truly a remarkable and unique public-private partnership that will serve both entities well for years to come.



I will remain on the Board and actively involved in the Trust but I'm thrilled to hand the Presidency over to Caleb Hemphill. Caleb will bring new energy and excitement to the leadership role and I can't wait to see where he takes the Trust. Little does he know it but he is now going to have a third full time job!

The Trust has a long list of recent accomplishments but I'm proud of the miles of trails that have been added (and the maps to find them!), our slate of annual events, the exciting summer ranger program, and this past Summer's citizen-led and Trust-backed initiative to purchase a portion of Clapboard Island. Looking forward, I see a strong Trust that has found its rhythm and is supported with excellent Board and community involvement. I challenge all of

you to become involved with the Trust and help us come up with and deliver on that next wild and crazy idea.

*Jed Harris*

**FALMOUTH LAND TRUST P.O.Box 6172 Falmouth, ME 04105**

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- I would like to learn more about planned giving program.

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Please make checks payable to Falmouth Land Trust. The Trust is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Your contributions are tax deductible. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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Donate Online at  
[www.falmouthlandtrust.org](http://www.falmouthlandtrust.org)

## Update from Bob Shafto, North Falmouth Community Forest

**O**ne of the town's largest and most remote conservation areas is North Falmouth Community Forest, a 275-acre tract in the northwest corner of town. This parcel has been assembled over the past seven years through several strategic purchases. It abuts Windham's 307-acre Lowell Preserve to the west and the 234-acre Blackstrap Hill Community Forest to the east.

Entirely forested, it provides excellent wildlife habitat for the full range of woodland species found in Maine, including black bear, moose, bobcat and a wide variety of woodland birds.

This summer, the town received two grants to add an additional ±100-acres to the parcel. A \$231,800 US Forest Service Grant and a \$243,750 Land for Maine's Future grant will pay nearly all the acquisition costs to obtain five privately owned lots. Conservation easements granted to the Falmouth Land Trust will permanently protect the remaining acreage.

This summer, almost three miles of new trails were built on the property with help from Eagle Scout candidate Aaron Thomas and friends, a team of IDEXX volunteers,



Falmouth Middle School students, New England Mountain Bike Association volunteers, and the Falmouth Conservation Corps. These trails can be accessed from Blackstrap Road, about 0.7 miles from the intersection of Babbidge Road. Follow the blue blazes marking the Cross Falmouth Trail west into Windham, or east all the way to Falmouth Community Park.



Bowdoin students spent an afternoon in September rebuilding trails and bridges at BHP during Bowdoin's Common Good Day.



Falmouth Land Trust would like to thank our corporate sponsors



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