

**LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL GIFT?**

FLT's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee determined that some trail users need places to rest along the way. As a start, we have four new trail benches, kindly made by teens in Studio Artisan's workshop. They are made from Maine-sourced cedar and should last for about ten years, if not more. If you would like to bid on a personalized plaque to be added to one of these benches, we are taking bids by email (info@falmouthlandtrust.org) until the end of November (minimum bid: \$500). We will inform the top four bidders in early December and work with them on plaque wording and bench placement. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Check out the newly installed bench at Morrill-Stillings!



Falmouth Land Trust is grateful to local businesses for lending their support to keep Falmouth green and healthy!

LEGACY SPONSOR: **diversified** COMMUNICATIONS

CONSERVATIONIST SPONSORS:



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*The mission of the Falmouth Land Trust is to preserve and care for natural and agricultural lands in perpetuity, to enhance habitat for plants and wildlife, to advance the quality of life for all in our community, and to educate the public on the history and stewardship of protected lands.*

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Falmouth ME 04105  
info@falmouthlandtrust.org  
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CONSERVING LAND IN OUR COMMUNITY FROM 1981 'TIL FOREVER



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A Falmouth Land Trust newsletter to the community Fall 2022

**JUST PLANTED! NEW NATIVE PLANTS AT MORRILL STILLINGS BIRD SANCTUARY**



This summer, staff and interns began removing invasive plants such as bittersweet, honeysuckle, and barberry from a section of FLT's Morrill-Stillings Bird Sanctuary, a 27-acre preserve in West Falmouth. These invasive species often outcompete native plants and do not provide adequate food and habitat to native birds and insects. Removing these plants was part of a habitat restoration project that also included planting 90 native trees, shrubs, and flowers, which were purchased with a grant from the Hollis Declan Leverett Memorial Fund. Bird-friendly plants such as serviceberry, viburnum, witch hazel, and chokeberry were planted in the meadow and along the wooded trail - the birds have been loving them already!

This project will also be monitored thanks to the installation of a photo post, which allows visitors to take photos of a designated area and upload them to a website that creates a time-lapse photo record over the years. See the article on these photo posts for more details. Many thanks to Bruce and Susan Stillings, who donated the land in 2018 and supported this bird habitat enhancement project, and to the volunteers who helped plant in some very rocky soil! If you would like to grab your binoculars and visit the property, there is a small parking area at 18 Babbidge Road.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022**

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**HELP US RESTORE THE BARN AT HURRICANE VALLEY FARM**

Efforts continue to save the barn at FLT's Hurricane Valley Farm! Once a horse farm slated to be turned into a 17-unit housing subdivision, Hurricane Valley Farm was purchased and conserved by FLT in 2015. Since its purchase the farm has returned to agricultural production, with nonprofit partner Cultivating Community leasing the land to provide growing space and training to 50+ New American families. Restoring the 100+ year old barn will allow Cultivating Community to expand its programming, provide additional culturally relevant crops, and offer space to eventually house goats in the winter.



Fundraising efforts have been successful so far, but we still have a long way to go. Norway Saving Bank, Bath Savings Institution, Gorham Savings Bank and Maine Beer Company have contributed \$25,000 each, and our fall Barn Fest raised an additional \$25,000 from the community. With the amazing support of community members and businesses, we have raised \$241,000 of our \$350,000 goal. If you would like to support sustainable agriculture in Falmouth, please visit FalmouthLandTrust.org/donate. Thank you!

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Falmouth Land Trust has had a productive year, including: celebrating our 40th anniversary, kicking off a capital campaign to restore the barn at Hurricane Valley Farm, and improving trails with the help of two college interns this summer. We have also increased our efforts to combat invasive plants, working to better manage the land in our care to provide vital habitat for wildlife and pollinators. With the easing of pandemic restrictions, FLT has hired a new Education & Outreach Coordinator to get back into the schools and community, working to connect children and adults to nature. As summer turned to autumn, we were pleased to partner with the Falmouth Community Wellness Committee to host well-attended walks at a number of preserves. In honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day, the walk at Tidewater Preserve focused on the history of Skitterygusset Creek and the Abenaki who have relied on the area for millennia.

At Barn Fest, as we came together to support New Americans, I read aloud a quote from Robin Wall Kimmerer, a member of the Potawatomi Nation and an author/botanist. In her book, *Braiding Sweetgrass*, she extended an invitation: "for all of us, becoming Indigenous to a place means living as if your children's future mattered, to take care of the land as if our lives, both material and spiritual, depended on it." I am grateful to live and work in a community which treasures its children and recognizes the importance of caring for the land. Thank you to the volunteers, board members, supporters and staff of the Falmouth Land Trust - you make the magic happen. We have projects in the works for the next year which will bring more acreage, more trails, and more access for all. Stay tuned!

- MILA PLAVSIC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

## Ways of Giving to Falmouth Land Trust

**Annual Gifts** - Please consider a yearly gift by donating online at [www.falmouthlandtrust.org](http://www.falmouthlandtrust.org) or by mailing your check to Falmouth Land Trust, Attn: Development, P.O. Box 6172, Falmouth, Maine 04105.

**Monthly Giving** - Please consider making a monthly gift, which allows for the convenience of being a monthly donor while providing ongoing support and stability for the work of FLT. Your gift will automatically be charged monthly to your credit card. You are able to adjust your giving level or cancel your commitment at any time.

**Gifts of Securities** - You may wish to consider the benefits of making a gift of securities. Some donors find that a gift of this type can provide significant advantages.

**Matching Gifts** - Many local corporations sponsor matching-gift programs by which an employee's charitable donation is matched with a contribution by the corporation. In this way, donors can easily leverage the value of their contribution.

**Donor Advised Funds (DAF):** We are listed as the Falmouth Conservation Trust in charitable giving databases. Our Tax ID is 01-0372429.

**YES! I/we wish to support land preservation in Falmouth and would like to give a tax deductible gift of:**

Conservationist:  \$1,000  (1,000 Plus) Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Supporter:  \$50  \$250  \$100  \$50  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Payment (Please circle one) Visa / MasterCard

Card-holder's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Card# \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

My check, payable to Falmouth Land Trust, is enclosed.

I wish to provide a recurring gift to the Falmouth Land Trust.

Please charge my credit card in the following amount with the following frequency:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Amount of recurring charge (please provide credit card info above)

Monthly  Quarterly  Semiannually  Annually

You may also contribute online at [www.falmouthlandtrust.org](http://www.falmouthlandtrust.org)

### Upcoming Events!

Join a Maine Master Naturalist for a guided hike!

Friday, Nov. 25th 1-2pm

at McCrann Preserve

Saturday, Dec. 11th at 1-2pm

at River Point Conservation Area

To sign up email  
rdugan@falmouthlandtrust.org



## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: FLT IS CONNECTING STUDENTS TO NATURE AGAIN



After a long hiatus due to the pandemic, 2022 saw the return of field trips and outings for school kids led by FLT. This spring, every Kindergartner at Falmouth Elementary School had a chance to catch tadpoles and learn about pond ecology, while every 1st grader went on recess walks and explored nature with FLT. This fall, our new Education and Outreach Coordinator, Rebecca, has been working with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Falmouth Middle School students to remove invasive plants at FLT's McCrann Preserve as part of their Civic Engagement classes. It has been wonderful to revive our educational programming and re-engage with curious kids!

## PHOTO POINTS GIVE COMMUNITY A WAY TO DOCUMENT CHANGE



This summer FLT joined the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative's Climate Change Observatory Network, "a photo monitoring program...to assist with the observation, measurement and documentation of long-term climate change trends and climate adaptation projects." This program supports the installation of observatory posts where visitors place their phone on the stand, take a photo, and upload it to an online database specific to that site. The resulting time-lapse video documents habitat restoration projects over time as well as long-term climate change impacts. A summer intern helped install a post at Morrill-Stillings Bird Sanctuary to monitor habitat restoration after the removal of invasive species and addition of native plants, and a volunteer group from Cheverus High School installed one at Blackstrap Hill Preserve to monitor the change in water



flows at a waterfall. Plans are also in the works for the addition of a post at Maine Audubon's Gilsland Farm (where FLT holds the conservation easement). Be sure to visit these observatory posts and upload a photo of your own!

## GIRL SCOUT PROJECT ENCOURAGES USE OF NATIVE PLANTS

Molly Gerding, a Falmouth High School student and Girl Scout in troop 2331, focused her Silver Award Project on native plants and created a Girl Scouts of Maine Native Plants Patch. Molly describes her project saying, "Native plants, plants that spent hundreds of thousands of years evolving in a specific region, are necessary to support the birds, butterflies, moths, and many other animals that live in Maine. Most plants used for landscaping and sold by nurseries are non-native. This is bad for the environment because they aren't as good at supporting native wildlife. In this patch, you will learn about why native plants are important, explore native and non-native plants in your area, plant native plants, and educate others about why native plants are important." FLT staff advised Molly on this project and are proud to see the results!

