

WE'VE MOVED

FLT has moved! Come visit us in our new office on the Oceanview campus at

74 Lunt Road, Suite 100.

Enter the double doors on the right-hand side of the building and go down the stairs. Our new office is on the left.



BREAKING NEWS!

FLT is now an Environmental Partner in the 1% for the Planet Network. If you own or work for a member business, please consider supporting FLT. Thanks!



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

Legacy Sponsors:



Conservationist Sponsors:



Stewardship Sponsors:



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.

PO Box 6172
Falmouth ME 04105
info@falmouthlandtrust.org
207-200-5488

CONSERVING LAND IN OUR COMMUNITY FROM 1981 'TIL FOREVER



NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, ME
PERMIT NO 658



BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2023

- John Adelman
- Eve Boyce Ratliff
- Marsha Clark
- Ronald Dovich
- Peter Farnum
- Casey Fournier
- Clifford Gilpin
- Savas Gunduz
- Dillon Hamill
- Matt Kearns
- Jason Raichle
- Kate Thomas
- Richard Scala
- Bruce Stillings
- Michael Vance

STAFF

- Rebekah Bucci
Administration
- Whitney Bushey
Stewardship
- Rebecca Dugan
Education & Outreach
- Mila Plavsic
Executive Director



A Falmouth Land Trust newsletter to the community Fall 2023

FLT LAUNCHES HABITAT HEROES PROGRAM TO HELP LOCAL WILDLIFE

What do barberry, knotweed, buckthorns, multiflora rose, Asiatic bittersweet, and hollow-stemmed honeysuckles have in common? None of them are good for local wildlife and yet they are spreading in southern Maine. All of these plants evolved elsewhere and were brought to Maine relatively recently by people, leaving their insect predators, diseases, and competitors behind. Local insects cannot eat them, which has knock-on effects such as fewer caterpillars for baby birds to eat. What looks like a lush green forest understory can actually be a food desert for local wildlife. To compound matters, local birds and mammals still try to eat the berries, which are not nutritious, and spread the seeds further. What a mess!

The good news is that it is possible to slow the spread of these invasive plants and restore habitat through sustained removal efforts and planting native species. Our summer intern Abby put together a great new page for our website full of helpful info: FalmouthLandTrust.org/invasive-and-native-plants. FLT also recently launched its Habitat Heroes Program and invites everyone to get involved:

- Remove invasive plants: 1) identify the invasives in your yard and work to remove them and/or 2) email info@FalmouthLandTrust.org to volunteer to remove invasive plants from public preserves
- Plant native plants: 1) Replace invasives with well-suited native plants for your yard and/or 2) email us to volunteer to plant native species with FLT
- Be a Habitat Hero by donating to FLT: Addressing invasive plants on all 2,700 acres under our care is not currently possible. However, we can do more with more support from the community! Please visit FalmouthLandTrust.org/donate if you would like to contribute.



SAVE THE BARN! FUNDRAISING AT HURRICANE VALLEY FARM ENTERS THE FINAL STRETCH

Cultivating Community is wrapping up its 6th growing season out at FLT's Hurricane Valley Farm. It was a challenging year to farm in southern Maine, with seemingly endless rain and mud. However, the New Mainers who garden and farm at this bucolic spot in West Falmouth still managed to produce a decent yield of nutritious vegetables for their families as well as for area schools, food pantries, and the broader community. The unique partnership between FLT and Cultivating Community has returned the land to food production while allowing the public to enjoy the trails around the farm in all seasons. The multi-purpose barn is integral to the work of the farm and supports Cultivating Community in its work with immigrant and refugee farmers. FLT recently learned that it is likely that the main structure of the barn dates back to 1840 and was moved to Falmouth in the 1900's. Once the roof has been replaced and needed repairs and upgrades have been made, Cultivating Community may contemplate modifying the barn's interior to over-winter goats in the future. Fresh Halal goat meat is difficult for New Mainers to source north of Boston.



Continued on page 3

REFLECTIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By now, everyone is so familiar with the phrase “think globally, act locally” that it has become a cliché. However, there is much that is packed into that phrase and it remains sound advice. For example, this summer saw the release of a major global report on the havoc that over 3,500 invasive species are wreaking on ecosystems worldwide. The facts are sobering - 60% of recent extinctions were caused in whole or in part by invasive species. So what are we to do? Ignore this information as just more doom and gloom? Or see if there is something we can do, literally in our own backyards? I vote for the latter and encourage you to do the same - the only antidote to “doomerism” is engagement. As you can see from this newsletter, FLT is taking action on invasives and there are many ways you can get involved!

Overall, the past year has been one of tremendous growth and maturation for FLT as an organization. We achieved national recognition as an accredited land trust, joining a network of over 450 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public’s trust. FLT also took on more stewardship responsibilities for Town-owned properties, hired its first full-time stewardship manager (welcome, Whitney!), hosted a Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Steward and a summer intern from Bates College (thanks, Sarah & Abby!), and moved into the Lunt Professional Building. In other news, this amazing community continues to come through for our partners at Hurricane Valley Farm, and we are closer to our goal of restoring the barn so that New Mainers can expand their efforts to feed communities in southern Maine. Last but not least, FLT continues to connect kids and adults to nature, and I encourage everyone to join us on a guided walk or visit a preserve on your own soon - maybe one you have not visited in a while. As Dianne Ackerman put it in her essay, *The Healing Power of Nature*, “The well of nature is full today. Time to go outside and take a drink.”

- MILA PLAVSIC, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

Upcoming Events!

Guided walks and family fun!

Wednesday, Nov. 15th 9:30-11:30am

Forest Playgroup at Community Park

Friday, Nov. 25th 10-11am

Guided walk at Falmouth Nature Preserve

Sunday, Dec. 10th 2-3pm

Guided walk at River Point Conservation Area

Visit FalmouthLandTrust.org/Events for more information



Ways of Giving to Falmouth Land Trust

Annual Gifts - Please consider a yearly gift by donating online at 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:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 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



SAVE THE BARN - Continued

September’s Barn Fest, co-hosted by FLT and Cultivating Community, was a smashing success! About 250 people gathered on a gorgeous Sunday afternoon to listen to live music, enjoy complimentary beverages from local producers, sample farm-grown foods, and tour the barn. Kids had a blast with rock-painting, face-painting, and s’mores! Our thanks to the band Back Woods Road, Kristi Wright and her goats, Skillins, Tricia Toms, Weeners on Wheels, Crêpe Elizabeth and all the staff and volunteers who made it possible. Big thanks to the event sponsors: Maine Beer Company, Gorham Savings Bank, and Envy Construction. Generous drink donations came from: Maine Beer Company, Vacationland Distributors, Après, Allagash Brewing, Anchor and Hope Winery, and Three of Strong Spirits. The community rallied with a record 38 host committee families, and attendees stepped up to meet the fundraising goal for the event. FLT is now in the final stretch with the last \$50,000 to raise. Please contribute today to save the barn that supports New Mainers and expands access to healthy, local food in southern Maine - visit FalmouthLandTrust.org/donate. Thank you!

FLT CHOSEN FOR THE 2023 JOHN RUSSELL AWARD

FLT is the proud recipient of the Falmouth Memorial Library’s John Russell Award in recognition of “community leadership that fosters civic education and participation.” This award is given in memory of Mr. Russell, a WWII veteran who served on the Falmouth Town Council for multiple terms and volunteered for many years in the community. In remarks about the Trust during the award ceremony, Library Board President Vanessa Record noted that “The Land Trust is seemingly everywhere in Falmouth. It is more than the land they protect and maintain. It is in our schools; it is in the library. It makes a point of engaging and cooperating with other nonprofits. It educates us with newsletters and guided walks. It challenges us to think of what our land means to us and it leads us to come up with answers to complex questions. It educates us about who has come before us on this land and encourages us to leave the land in better shape for those who come after us. It reminds us that acting locally really can make a difference, whether it is being mindful to plant native species or refilling water bottles. In short, it fosters civic engagement and education.” FLT is honored to receive this award and commits to many more years of community engagement, collaboration, and educational opportunities.



NATURE BACKPACKS PACKED AND READY FOR CHECK OUT



This summer FLT and Falmouth Memorial Library unveiled three new nature backpacks that are available for check out from the children’s section. Each backpack has a different theme (wildlife, plants and bugs, and aquatic life) and is chock full of guides, activities, and tools to use while exploring outside. Kids can examine animal tracks in the mud or snow using the track guide and magnifying glass and compare them to the provided track stamps. Families can read a story about vernal pools before using the dip net to catch, investigate, and release tadpoles or other pond critters. Backpacks are available for check out for one week at a time. Please share any photos or stories about how you use the backpacks with info@FalmouthLandTrust.org. This project was made possible by a grant from Casco Bay Estuary Partnership and design support from Falmouth Memorial librarians and Falmouth Schools teachers.

TRAILS, MAPS, AND ACCESSIBILITY: FLT’S FIRST ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD HAS BEEN BUSY

This June, Sarah Payne, Maine Conservation Corps (AmeriCorps) member, joined FLT as an Environmental Steward. Sarah has focused her time this summer on trail maintenance and updating property maps. She created a trail inventory database to track trail conditions: marking wet and flooding sections, down trees, and slope. Additionally, Sarah collected field data from all current trails and uploaded it all into ArcGIS Pro. Sarah documented the location of trailhead kiosks, way-finding maps, benches, bridges, and other on-trail items. Get ready for better maps on our website and at the trailheads! Some of the larger properties will also feature several way-finding maps at major intersections with a scannable QR code for access to the Google map view of each trail system. This work is the first step in planning to improve trail accessibility for all. Community members will now have updated, easy-to-use maps available to them across all the major conservation properties in Falmouth thanks to Sarah!

