



www.falmouthlandtrust.org

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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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## Top Five Ways to GET OUTSIDE WITH FLT THIS SUMMER AND FALL

By Mila Plavsic

What do trail running, landscape art, bats, storytelling, geocaching, and a great party have in common? They are all things you can enjoy with the Falmouth Land Trust this summer and autumn. Consider yourself invited to renew your connection with nature and unplug briefly from our increasing digital world – we hope to see you at one or more of these events! Check out our website ([www.falmouthlandtrust.org](http://www.falmouthlandtrust.org)) or like us on Facebook ([facebook.com/Falmouthlandtrust](https://facebook.com/Falmouthlandtrust)) for more details. Here are the top five ways to get outside soon with FLT:

### 1. Sunday June 29th - Falmouth 5 and Dime - 8am to Noon

Join FLT and Trail Monster Running as we host our second annual race on Falmouth's trails. Building on the great success of last year's five miler, this year we will host both five mile and ten mile trail races beginning at Falmouth Community Park. All ages are welcome to enter and race; prizes will be awarded in ten categories. Rain or shine.

### 2. June-August - Summer Ranger Program

Middle schoolers can learn geocaching and take nature hikes as part of an exciting collaboration between FLT's Summer Ranger Program and Falmouth Community Programs day camps. The Trust is proud to welcome two Summer Rangers for seven weeks this summer. These stipend positions are open to college students with backgrounds in biology, environmental science and/or education. In addition to their work with the day camps, Rangers help build and maintain FLT trails.

### 3. Saturday August 2nd - Art in Nature - 9am to 4pm

Watch professional artists create plein air masterpieces of the spectacular landscapes of Blackstrap, Suckfish, and Tidewater. If you are an amateur artist, bring your brushes along and join in the fun. The Creative Child Art Studio will be offering free landscape painting classes for kids and a drop-in art table in the morning at Tidewater Farm while teens and adults can take a free macrophotography workshop at Blackstrap Hill Preserve in the afternoon. Artwork will be available to purchase at a silent auction in October at the Elizabeth Moss Gallery. All ages welcome. Rain date: Sunday August 3rd

### 4. Thursday September 11th - Harvest Moon - 5pm to 7pm

Listen to live music by the Jason Spooner band, enjoy food truck fare and refreshments as we watch the full moon rise over Tidewater Farm at our second annual Harvest Moon event. Rain date: Thursday September 18th

### 5. Wednesday October 15th - Bats and Tales - 5pm to 7pm

Learn all about little brown bats as Chewonki's bat mobile comes to Falmouth along with an hour of spooky (not scary!) stories told by our friends from MOOSE (Maine Organization of Storyteller Enthusiasts). Crafts and refreshments provided. Free event. All ages welcome. Rain or shine.

## Letter from the President: *Jed Harris*



Beaver dams, geese, stewardship achievements, and the question of dogs... these were just some of the topics viewed and discussed on FLT's first ever mobile Board of Directors meeting a few weeks ago. Fourteen directors boarded a bus to do a quick evening tour of eight FLT properties.

Over 40% of our board members are new to the organization and this was an excellent opportunity for both veteran and new board members to witness firsthand some of the great properties that FLT owns and stewards. For several board members this was a first time visit to certain properties and they were impressed by the abundant natural resources and awe inspiring beauty of these jewel properties. I'd encourage everyone to make your own plans this summer to get out explore our extensive network of trails and enjoy these amazing properties.

It has been a very active spring at FLT headquarters; we're preparing for the arrival of our two summer rangers, finalizing details for our 2014 events, and managing stewardship issues on several of our properties.

Over the past five years, the Trust has placed increasing attention on stewarding the properties we have acquired. One of the Trust's most important functions is to act as the perpetual overseer to ensure

that protected properties retain their conservation value. Perpetuity means protecting land forever and as abutters or other users change, people may not be fully aware of the boundaries or restrictions. As Falmouth continues to grow and mature, the Trust will increasingly be called upon to uphold our legal duties to protect the conservation values of the properties we steward. In the past 9 months alone we've had several enforcement actions and two conservation easement modifications. Stewardship requires us to maintain an excellent filing system with well documented annual monitoring reports for every property and in some cases it means hiring an attorney to help the Trust navigate the enforcement process. While it may not be as exciting as giving money to acquire a new property, your financial support enables the Trust to fulfill this critical long term function. Please make sure that your name is on our list of annual supporters.

I'd like to make sure you are all aware that the Trust has received a \$1000 anonymous challenge grant to increase the number of people that follow us on Facebook. Please "like" the Trust on Facebook, we need to have 500 new "likes" before June 30 and we're well on our way.

We have an excellent slate of events scheduled for the next several months and I hope you'll join us!



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

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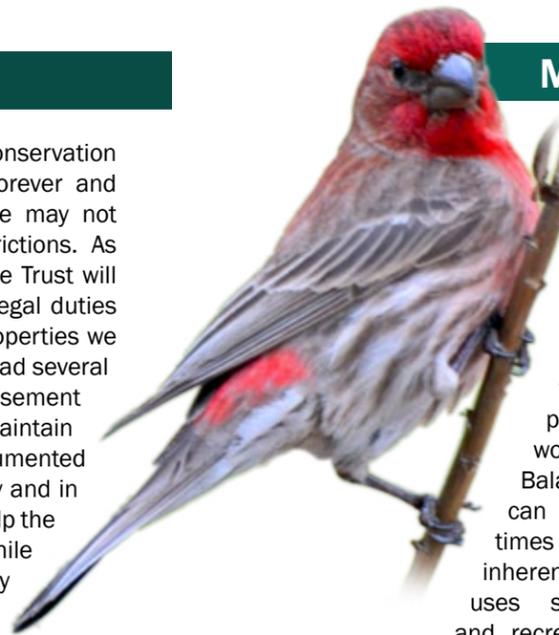
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## Managing Our Open Spaces *by Bob Shafto*



Ownership of conservation lands comes with an inherent responsibility to manage them wisely. This is particularly true for town open space parcels that must accommodate various public interests, including recreation, wildlife, education, water shed protection, and wood products. Balancing such things can be a challenge at times since there are inherent conflicts between uses such as hunting and recreational trails; dog walking and wildlife protection; and aesthetics and forest management.

Forest management is often the most misunderstood and controversial management practice, but is vital to achieving two of our management goals: improving forest health and providing diverse wildlife habitat.

Falmouth, like most of southern Maine was largely deforested by 1840. The forests we have now have grown back over the past 70-90 years as farms were abandoned and the accompanying land was allowed to revert to trees. Thus, most forests in Falmouth are even-aged and similar in species composition. Many are dominated by Eastern hemlock, which is particularly susceptible to Hemlock Woolly Adelgid infestation, insects already found in Falmouth that can decimate hemlock trees.

What is missing in our forested landscape are both old age forests, with trees over 150 years old, and young forests, with trees less than 15-20 years old. Both offer habitats necessary for a wide variety of species, including towhees, New England cottontail rabbits, and yellow billed cuckoos in young forests and scarlet tanagers, goshawks, and many woodland thrushes and warblers in old growth

forests. The absence of both kinds of forest types in New England has resulted in a steep population decline for many of these once common species.

Our goal is to foster biodiversity by having the spectrum of habitat types represented in our conservation inventory: wetlands, fields, and young, mature, and old age

forests. Almost half of our 1,500 acres of town-owned conservation land is being left "forever wild" and allowed to grow into old age forests, including over 120 acres of the 163-acre Woods Road Community Forest. Our other three community forests, Blackstrap Hill, Hadlock, and North Falmouth, and properties like River Point Conservation Area, are being managed to create more diverse habitats and to reduce the risk of invasive insect infestation. This is accomplished by thinning the forest to reduce tree density and opening up 2-4 acre patches where young forests can grow.

To human eyes, forestry operations don't look appealing in the short term, but new trees grow back quickly providing the kind of diversity in species, tree size and age, that attracts the wildlife habitat we seek. Better yet, the resulting forest, with its healthier more vigorous trees, is more resistant to disease and invasive insect attack.

In the coming year, the Land Management and Acquisition Committee will hold several informational meetings and forest walks to explain upcoming forest



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management plans for Woods Road and Blackstrap Hill Community Forests. We urge you to participate in these activities to learn first hand what they will entail. In the meantime, management plans for all town-owned conservation properties can be found on the town website: [www.falmouthme.org](http://www.falmouthme.org)

*Falmouth Land Trust would like to thank our corporate sponsors*

