

Nancy Sferra

the pitch pines that live near killick pond

the pitch pines that live near Killick Pond were once part of a great forest that covered large parts of the northeastern seaboard, forests far more familiar to our forefathers than to us. That was when fire was still the reigning architect of our landscapes. The pine barrens blanketed deep deposits of glacial outwash. And while these sandy soils were acidic and droughty and forbidding to many plants and animals, others thrived and formed special fire-adapted communities. Whip-poor-wills nested on the open ground and rare moths, like the Barrens buck moth, fluttered among sinuous branches above. Today these habitats are mostly in tatters - and sizeable, viable remnants call out for protection.

Where have the pine barrens gone? One answer is that society's success in suppressing fire has made them less resilient. The force of fire no longer shapes these plant communities and the animals that depend upon them as it did for thousands of years.

But bulldozers are likely more to blame. The very fact that pine barrens thrive on sandy soils has played no small part in their decline. Merely scrape away the vegetation and few other locations offer a more amenable site for development. Consider that the city of Albany, New York sits in

the middle of what was once 150,000 acres of pine barren; today 6,000 acres remain with less than half in conservation. In Maine, no one knows how many square miles of pine barrens have been lost. As recently as the early 1990s, several thousand acres at Waterboro Barrens were just months away from becoming a huge subdivision. That was before Conservancy donors saved that globally rare habitat.

The decline in pine barrens drew the Conservancy to the Killick Pond area near Hollis some years ago. Several steps have been taken to pull together contiguous parcels for

continued on page two

first thoughts

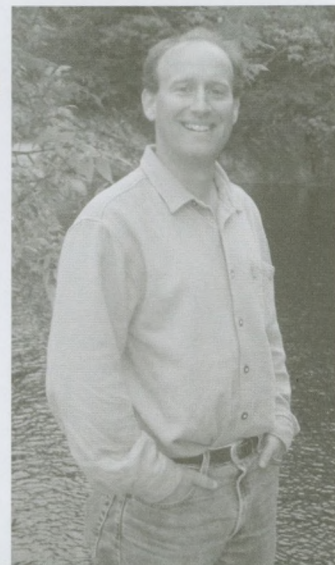
this is a busy time of year - and few places are any busier than the Maine Legislature where a new session is just underway. Legislators are taking up over 2,000 bills and they are facing tough decisions on a myriad of issues. One issue left over from last year is of tremendous importance to the Conservancy and to anyone who cares about the protection of wildlife habitats in Maine. That is the task of placing a bond on the next statewide ballot that allows Maine voters to refinance the Land For Maine's Future Program.

Executive Director
Mike Tetreault

Since the Conservancy and a handful of partners helped birth this program back in 1987, people and wildlife all over the state have benefitted. The program has met public needs ranging from habitat protection to farmland preservation to water and recreational access. Land trusts, towns and state agencies alike have brought their proposals before the Land for Maine's Future Board. From north to south and east to west, over 120 sites have been protected.

The Conservancy is among the leaders of a coalition of over 270 organizations, businesses, and associations now working with government leaders and legislators to place a significant land bond before Maine voters. The last bond in 1999 garnered nearly 70 percent support, passing in every county in the state. Support remains high and we have been encouraged by an outpouring of initial support from people and legislators of every stripe.

Why is this critical now? The program has helped protect Conservancy priorities from the Machias River, Mount Agamenticus, the Saco River, the Katahdin Forest to several parcels at Killick Pond - and much more. Today, LMF is flat out of funds and opportunities for conservation are being lost all over Maine - that should concern everyone.



killick pond

continued from page one

conservation. The latest came in mid-December when the Conservancy brokered a deal and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife became the proud new owner of a 93-acre parcel in this York County town. The parcel instantly became part of a matrix of over 2,700 acres of conservation lands, owned and managed by different organizations but all stitched together by a commitment to preserving this naturally occurring - but currently struggling - forest (see map next page).

Because they wanted this land protected, Stuart B. Gannett, Sr. and Geraldine F. Gannett sold this parcel to the Department for \$80,000 less than the appraised value. After negotiating the acquisition on behalf of the State, the Conservancy completed the fund-raising, gaining a \$50,000 grant from North American Wetlands Conservation Act and up to \$214,000 from the Land for Maine's Future Program. The State will manage the land, which fronts both Killick Pond and Killick Brook, as a part of its Killick Pond Wildlife Management Area.

Would you like to learn more about the Land for Maine's Future Program or efforts to place a land bond on the statewide ballot? Try www.mainelandbond.org or travel the state one project at a time at www.state.me.us/spo/lmf.



Pitch pine barrens in Maine are often called pitch pine/scrub oak barrens in recognition of the stunted-looking oaks that are also characteristic

of this fire-adapted community. Here needles and leaves of each mix beneath a new-fallen snow. Above on opposite page, a scrub oak retains its faded leaves late into the fall while pitch pine rise up behind it.

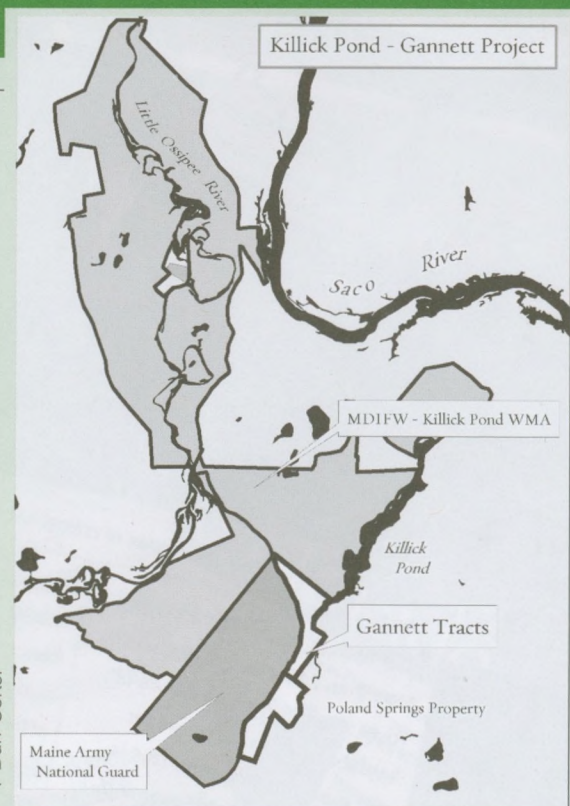
Would you like to visit a pine barren in Maine?

Let us suggest the Conservancy's Waterboro Barrens Preserve in western York County. Directions on page six.



Bruce Kidman

The graceful limbs of the pitch pine above seem to dance in the sunlight. The Killick Pond Gannett tract contains portions of a pitch pine-scrub oak barren, a natural community near its northern most location here. While this is one of the largest conservation areas in the greater Portland region, its close proximity to the city (13 miles) means unprotected parcels nearby face increasing pressures.



Protection of the Gannett tract increases the amount of contiguous conserved land at Killick Pond to 2,733 acres (left). Conservation biologists believe the sheer size and natural

diversity contained within this conservation area make it a prime candidate for the state's ecological reserve system. The Gannett tract links a 420-acre Maine Army National Guard property, also managed for wildlife, and land owned by Poland Spring Bottling Company that is being restored to foster grassland and pine barren growth. Above David Burns of Poland Spring Bottling Company visits Killick Stream with Rod Vogel and Parker Schuerman of the Conservancy.



Bruce Kidman

How To Grow A Conservation Area

more ways to be in touch

As we move into a busy new year, we want to be sure you have the information you need on The Nature Conservancy right at your fingertips. Keeping you up-to-date on our work is a high priority and we hope to do a better job by harnessing the power of email and internet resources.

www.nature.org

To the right, you see The Nature Conservancy's home page on the worldwide web. Easily accessible at www.nature.org, it can take you where ever you want to go - from Maine to Colorado to China - whenever you want to go! It's easy and fascinating.

www.nature.org/maine

And you'll see we are putting more energy, more features and more information into the Maine Nature Conservancy web site shown below. You'll find ways to get in touch and get your questions answered. We hope you'll tell us what you think so that we can make this all the more useful to you and other web visitors.

meeting the conservancy online

Great Places

This year we would also like to invite you to be part of a global community of friends and neighbors committed to working together to ensure the diversity of life on Earth for generations to come. The cornerstone of this new initiative is Great Places, the Conservancy's new e-newsletter. Filled with the latest conservation news, recent success stories and information about places you care about, including Nature Conservancy preserves across the country and around the world. To



subscribe to the Great Places Network, simply send an email to newsletter@tnc.org and say sign me up!

Maine eNews

As a complement to our increased presence on the web, we will soon launch a monthly e-newsletter - along with occasional news updates and action alerts - for our members. The good news, of course, is you get to choose whether to hear from us by email and what kind of contacts you'd welcome. **By simply sending us your email address you will be signed up to receive this new online publication - and be the first to know about breaking conservation news here in Maine.**

As with all of our online communications we respect your privacy and time and you may unsubscribe at any point. And The Nature Conservancy will not sell, rent or exchange your email address.

sign up today

Send your email address to:
Communications Coordinator
Louis Torrieri at
ltorrieri@tnc.org.

The Nature Conservancy
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH

great places NETWORK

January

NATURE.ORG

TELL A FRIEND

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Dear Conservationist,

Here is your first issue of *Great Places*. It's full of news about the precious areas Nature Conservancy is working to protect. You'll receive an update each month. We hope you enjoy it!

Maine

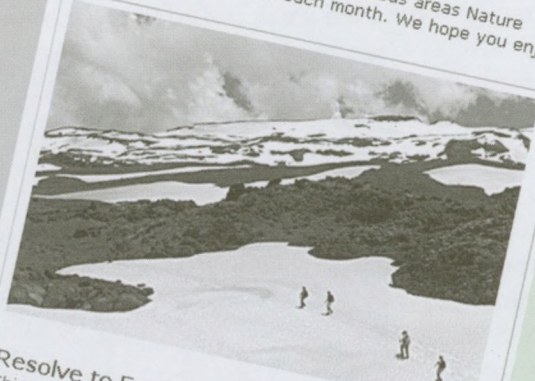


@Photos.com

Explore Your State

If you resolved to learn more this year, perhaps you'd like to begin exploring the natural world in Maine? The Conservancy is working to protect the last great places on Earth. You might be surprised to learn some of these rare habitats are near you. Visit a Conservancy preserve and learn more about our work there.

[Learn More >>](#)



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Resolve to Explore Our World

This year, resolve to learn more about the natural world around us. Did you know that China contains 10% of the world's total species? That Guatemala is home to almost 734 species of orchids - 200 of which aren't found anywhere else? That you can find the world's highest waterfall in Venezuela? Visit the Where We Work section of nature.org to discover the fascinating world around us and learn what the Conservancy is doing to protect it.

[Learn More >>](#)

Postcards from the Field - Borneo

Hidden deep in the uncharted rain forest, a month-long biological expedition in Indonesia has discovered new species of plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.



The mission of The Nature Conservancy is to preserve the plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

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Fire to the Rescue

The Conservancy has owned portions of the Waterboro Barrens Preserve for a dozen years and we always knew that introducing fire back into this landscape would be the key to sustaining it. But it was only this past year, after a decade of preparing the ground, literally and figuratively, that Southern Maine Preserves Manager Parker Schuerman (below) could lower a drip torch and set a prescribed fire to the first 65 acres.

The intervening years held meetings with area fire chiefs and other town officials, onsite workshops with the Conservancy's national fire experts and state and federal partners, meetings with neighbors, mapping and posting signs on access roads for emergency vehicles, drafting of wildfire response plans, plant and animal inventories, and research into fire history and the ways in which fires impact pine barrens.

In Maine, we have been conducting prescribed burns on the grasslands of Kennebunk Plains for longer than we've owned Waterboro Barrens. That experience is useful, but grasslands and pitch pine-scrub oak barrens have their own dynamics. For one thing, vegetation at Waterboro Barrens is highly combustible. That's important because safety is our highest concern when performing a prescribed burn. Site preparation, forest

thinning and detailed planning are all completed in advance. Weather conditions are monitored and must meet exact parameters. The burn will not take place if all conditions are not suitable.

So years of preparation and the assemblage of an impressive fire team set the scene. The 40-member team included Conservancy staff from Maine, Massachusetts and New York and partners from the Maine Forest Service and Natural Areas Program, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Albany Pine Bush Commission, Universities of New Hampshire and Massachusetts among others. Add Parker's own experience - well over 150 prescribed burns - and a safe and effective burn was only to be expected.



Ginger Hagan

How to get to Waterboro Barrens Preserve

Waterboro Barrens:

Experience a pitch pine barrens. From the western York County town of Waterboro, take West Road 6 miles north to Ross Corner. Turn right onto Newfield Road and continue 1 mile to Round Pond Road. Turn right and continue 0.8 miles to Buff Brook Road. Turn left. The trail head and parking lot (not plowed in winter) is on the left at end of road.



Parker Schuerman

diversity is the key to a healthy planet ...

biological diversity results in a healthier, more productive, more resilient planet. Diversity may do the same for your portfolio. Diversification generally results in a portfolio that is less susceptible to market volatility and, moreover, produces a greater return over time.

Unfortunately, many people have portfolios that contain only a few individual securities: for example, the stock of the company they work for, or a handful of "blue chips" inherited from a relative. Stocks in such a portfolio may be paying a dividend of only one or two percent. These folks probably know they should diversify their portfolios - but who wants to pay the capital gains tax due on the sale of securities that have appreciated significantly in value since originally acquired?

A **Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT)** with The Nature Conservancy may be the answer. Donors contribute one or more securities to the Trust, qualifying for a charitable deduction based on their full fair market value.



maine legacy: Published quarterly by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, Fort Andross, 14 Maine Street, Suite 401, Brunswick, Maine 04011 (207) 729-5181. Subscriptions to this newsletter are available to members. Over 11,000 households support the Conservancy's work in Maine.

stewardship is forever - but you can play a part now

Volunteer monitors help our science and stewardship team care for preserves and make sure other protected lands are managed appropriately. If you'd be interested in helping at any of these sites, please call Nancy Sferra at 207-729-5181 x212 or email at nsferra@tnc.org. Thanks!

Preserves

(lands owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy)

Berry Woods (Georgetown)
Brothers and Hay Ledge (St George)
Great Duck Island (Frenchboro)
Great Wass Island (Beals)
Alley Island (Trenton)
Bufflehead Cove Preserve (Arrowsic)
Mark Island (W. Penobscot Bay)
Morse Mountain Preserve (Phippsburg)
Placentia Island (Frenchboro)
Mt. Tom (Fryeburg)
Bull Ring (Denmark)
Trout Mountain (T2 R9 WELS)

Easements and Restricted Tradelands

(lands on which management restrictions have been placed)

Coombs Neck (Vinalhaven)
Deep Cove Forest (Cooper)

Dyer Farm (New Sharon)
Falls Island (Trescott)
Halifax Island (Jonesport)
Little Eaton Island (Deer Isle)
Mt. Abraham (Salem)
Outer Scott Island (Deer Isle)
Welch's Island (Sorrento)
Lane's Island (Vinalhaven)
Stave Island (Gouldsboro)

Transfers

(lands once owned by the Conservancy but now transferred to conservation partners)

Sebois River (T5 R7, T6 R7)
Forbes Pond (Gouldsboro)
Helliwell Preserve (Beals)
Mill Cove (South Portland)

... and a healthy portfolio

The Trust then sells the securities, *paying no capital gains tax*, and reinvests the full proceeds in a broadly diversified and professionally managed portfolio.

The Trust then pays the donor **income for life**, generally at a significantly higher payout rate than the dividend yield on stocks or the current interest yield on bonds. (Charitable Remainder Trusts can also be established to provide lifetime income for a donor's spouse, parents, adult children and combinations thereof.) *Unitrusts* provide variable, potentially growing income; *Annuity Trusts* provide fixed income.

At the end of the donor's life, the assets remaining in the Trust come to The Nature Conservancy to protect the diversity of Life on Earth, **a truly living legacy.**

If you believe portfolio diversity might be an alternative to financial adversity, please contact Mason Morfit at (207) 729-5181, ext. 227.

Please consult your financial advisor about such a gift

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We received some very good news in early December: The Conservancy in Maine received the largest Forest Legacy award in the nation this year - a \$4.5 million grant for the Katahdin Forest Project. The grant came thanks to the hard work of our Congressional delegation. And we are grateful to Senator Snowe, Senator Collins, Congressman Allen and Congressman Michaud for their tireless support. The announcement came slightly over six months after completion of a whirlwind \$18 million private fund-raising campaign to support the Katahdin Forest Project.

This infusion of federal funds, along with \$2 million previously approved by the State's Land for Maine's Future Board, will be added to \$18 million in private contributions. Importantly, it will allow the Conservancy to transfer the sustainable forestry easement on 200,000 acres west and south of Baxter State Park along with a stewardship endowment to our partners at the Maine Department of Conservation sometime next spring. This, in turn, will allow the Conservancy to focus its attention on managing the 46,000-acre Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area.

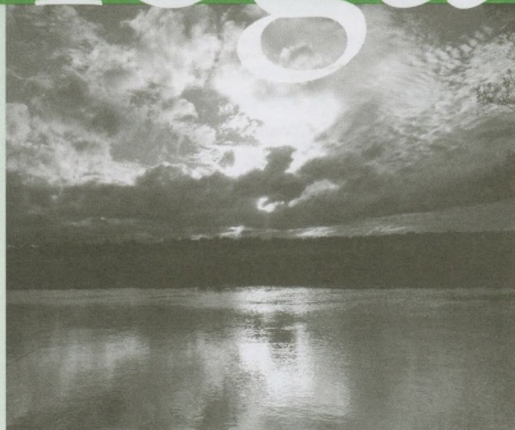
Public funds are integral to conservation everywhere. In York County, for example, a recent \$1 million federal Coastal and Estuarine Land Protection Program grant will match private contributions and past State LMF grants in protecting lands around Mount Agamenticus. From the Machias River to the Camden Hills to the Kennebec Estuary, public dollars help private dollars do more.



Kyle Stockwell

1 maine legacy

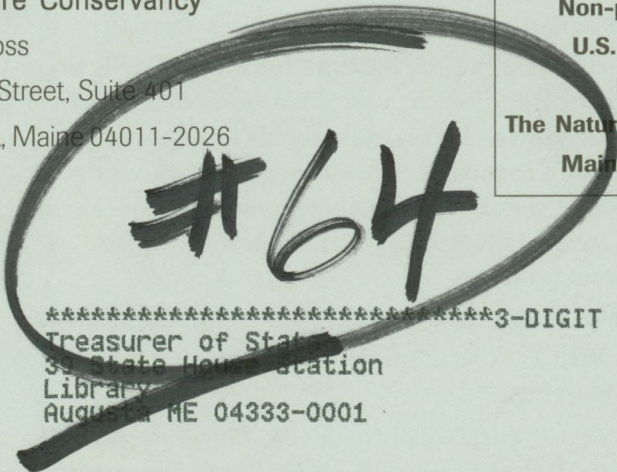
Thanks for your support!



Putting The Nature Conservancy in your Will?
The Nature Conservancy should be named as: "The Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, with a principal business address of 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203." If you'd like the bequest to be used in Maine, please add this language: "...to be used to further the purposes of The Nature Conservancy in the state of Maine."

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