

# Maine Legacy

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THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

Spring 1994

*Peretz Gift Triples  
Appleton Bog Preserve*

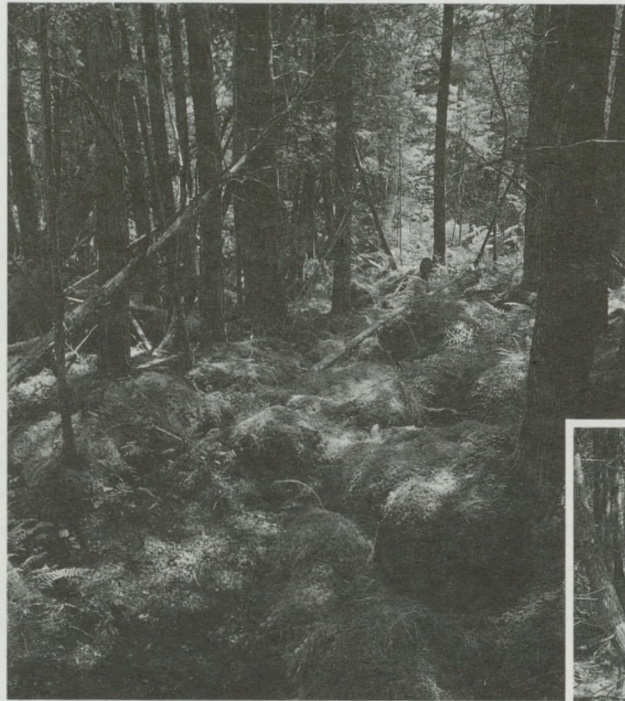
## Bog Country

Amid low hills and long ridges sits the town of Appleton, some 15 miles west of Camden. There, between Coon Mountain and Guinea Ridge, is a National Natural Landmark, 640-acre Appleton Bog.

In the past 18 months, the Conservancy's holdings here have doubled from 85 acres to 181 acres, thanks to a gift and a purchase in 1992, and then *tripled* to 565 acres, thanks to two more gifts just this winter. The centerpiece of this sudden growth is the recent donation of 364 acres by Dr. and Mrs. Martin Peretz of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Peretz tract, which includes 32-acre Newbert Pond, is also the heart of Appleton Bog.

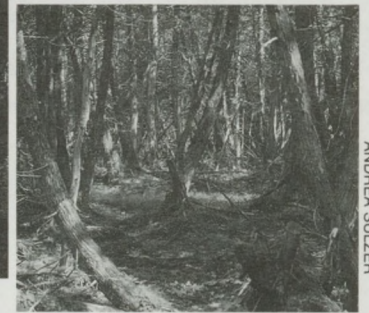
At Appleton Bog is found the continent's northernmost stand of Atlantic white cedar, the largest and least disturbed in Maine. The cedar forest is remarkably dense with up to 4,300 trees per acre, some nearly three feet across and 60 feet tall. The terrain is hummocky in the extreme as sphagnum moss and royal ferns carpet a water-laden forest floor, making progress both difficult and wet.

The Peretzes had made their intentions known to The Nature Conservancy in 1986, noting that the timing of their gift depended on tax considerations (see box on page



THOMAS H. ARTER

*A dense canopy of Atlantic white cedar filters sunlight as it falls upon the hummock and hollow peatland floor of Appleton Bog.*



ANDREA SULZER

three). Having purchased the land with an old farm house 15 years ago, they concluded that holding onto the house and donating the greater portion of the land to the Conservancy would assure them good neighbors during their lifetimes and the satisfaction of passing something of importance on to future generations.

"We feel our property is actually enriched and enhanced by the fact that the Conservancy now protects so much of the Heath," said Martin Peretz. "It seems to me that the way land is gobbled up in America these days, the more we place in trust for future generations, the more grateful (and the less resentful) they will feel towards all of us."

### Vision

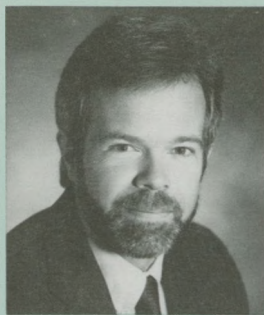
The protection of Appleton Bog began with Dorothea Marston, one of the Maine Chapter's distinguished founders. Flinty and farsighted, Miss Marston saw Appleton Bog in the late 1960s and set about protecting it. She purchased the initial 85-acre tract soon after and donated it to the Conservancy. As she wrote an Appleton selectman:

"My interest in buying the lot is to keep it in its natural condition. So many swamps are being drained today for roads and other uses that there seems to be a need to keep some wet areas in their natural state - and

*Continued on page two*



## The Director's Column



by  
Kent  
Wommack

As the article on Appleton Bog illustrates, vision, risk and long-term

relationships are all integral to accomplishing the often ambitious goals the Conservancy pursues. Dorothea Marston knew that 85 acres would never be enough to ensure the protection of Appleton Bog. She also understood that every journey begins with a single step.

In the case of Appleton Bog, the journey has taken longer than she foresaw, but it has proven successful precisely because she was willing to take a calculated risk on behalf of conservation. To the end of her

lifetime, Miss Marston continued to explore opportunities to build on her initial purchase, reaching out to neighboring Bog landowners to explain just why its conservation was so important and to solicit their help. Her diligence has been our legacy.

Our first contact with Dr. and Mrs. Peretz came in the early 1980's. A cordial trail of notes and letters over the next decade lead to their recent gift of 364 acres, directly abutting our holdings - and directly fulfilling Miss Marston's vision for this preserve.

The dramatic expansion of our Appleton Bog Preserve has been enthusiastically welcomed by the town as well. Appleton's comprehensive plan called for the protection of this exceptional natural area.

Appleton Bog is just one example of how a consistent vision and effort has paid off for Maine's protected lands. In the last year alone, we have reached agreements with interested landowners

to double our ownership in three other Chapter preserves - Saco Heath, Waterboro Barrens and Shipstern Island. In addition, the State recently announced a 7,300-acre addition to the Donnell Pond/Tunk Lake land we helped secure in 1988, doubling the protected acreage of this spectacular complex of mountains, lakes and streams east of Ellsworth.

Like the industrious tortoise who outpaced that hapless hare, we continue to make steady progress each year. We think Dorothea Marston would be proud.



Aster at  
Appleton  
Bog

## Appleton Bog

*continued from page one*

Appleton is a good example of bog country."

She saw the 85-acre parcel as only the first step in protecting the Bog. Tirelessly, she tracked down leads for other lots and encouraged visits by scientists and like-minded friends, although she warned them that the site was "wet, dense, and easy to get lost in." In a letter in Conservancy files, she tells of one woman who sank up to her hips in the Bog. "She couldn't move for some time," recalled Miss Marston, "and no one seemed able to reach her." We are left to deduce a happy resolution to the woman's plight because Miss Marston's account of the adventure ended there.

But the story of Appleton Bog Preserve has continued, albeit after a hiatus of 20 years. In the summer of 1992, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dillon of Anson donated 66 acres of land



THOMAS H. ARTER

*Dominated by thick groves of cedar, Appleton Bog also hosts black spruce, larch, red maple, rhodora, alder and 15-foot-high blueberry bushes.*

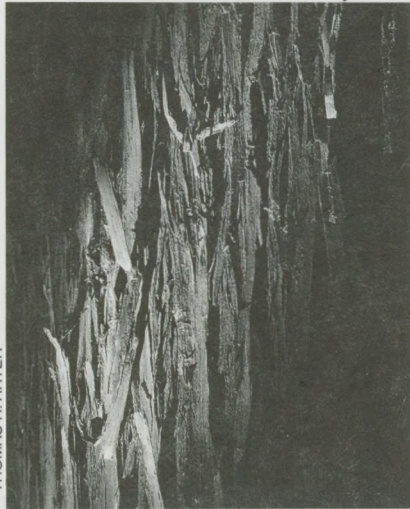
abutting the Preserve. In addition to providing buffer for the Bog itself, the property gave access to Conservancy holdings from a town-maintained road. Four months later, the Conservancy purchased a 30-acre parcel of the important cedar swamp from Stanley and Deborah Millay of Liberty.

This sudden flurry of activity, and the Conservancy's willingness to invest additional funds at Appleton Bog, was a direct response to the Peretz's assurance that they planned to contribute the 364-acre core tract. The Peretz tract hosts the largest, densest stand of cedar at Appleton. Untouched,

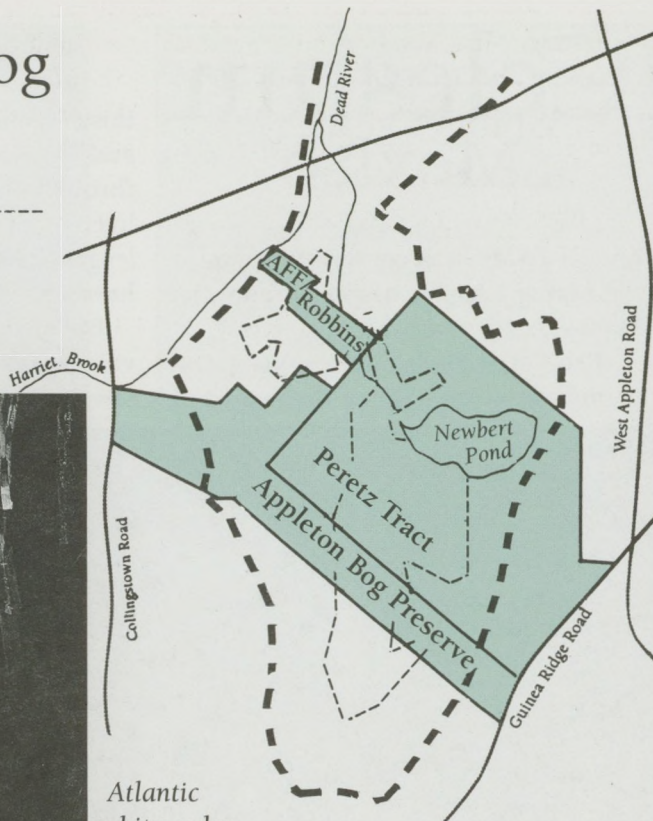


# Appleton Bog

**Key**  
 Wetland - - - - -  
 Atlantic white cedar swamp - - - - -  
 Scale: 1:24,000



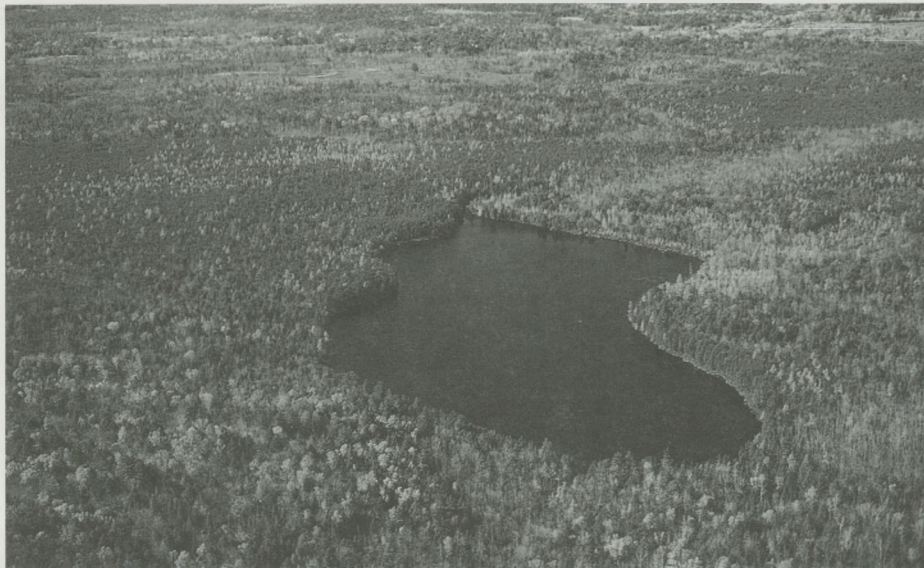
Atlantic white cedar close up.



## American Forest Foundation Donation

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) has donated a 20-acre parcel on Appleton Bog. The property had been given to the conservation and environmental education foundation in 1988 by the Robbins family of Searsmont in order to protect the property's Atlantic white cedar. With the expansion of the Conservancy's Appleton Bog Preserve, the AFF board voted recently to consolidate conservation properties.

"The Foundation is delighted to play an integral part in this conservation effort," said AFF President Lawrence Wiseman. "We take great satisfaction in knowing that the Robbins/AFF tract will add significantly to the protection of this important natural area."



JANET MCMAHON

The Peretz tract includes 32-acre Newbert Pond, surrounded, as one botanist discovered, by nearly impenetrable thickets and guarded by "some of the biggest snapping turtles you'll ever see, the size that could bite through an arm!"

Newbert Pond is also the home of a rare alga-like pond weed (*Potamogeton confervoides*).

The most recent result of the Peretz gift has been the commitment by the American Forest Foundation to donate a key 20-acre parcel of prime cedar swamp (see box above).

The story of Appleton Bog is a good reminder of the debt we owe to the vision of those who founded the Maine Chapter in 1956 and to individuals like the Peretzes whose generosity continues to carry their vision forward.

## 1993 Tax Law Made Appleton Gift Possible

For some years, Dr. and Mrs. Peretz were ready, willing, but unable to donate their valuable Appleton Bog land - because of an obscure federal tax provision called the alternative minimum tax (AMT). Fortunately for both donors and the Conservancy, Congress has repealed the AMT as it applies to gifts of appreciated real property.

Under the new law, most gifts of appreciated real property will earn an income tax deduction equal to the property's full fair market value. The donor may use the deduction equal to 30% of that year's adjusted gross income. Any remainder can be carried forward over the next five years. In many cases, the revised law allows as much as twice the amount of deduction as under the old law.

We are deeply grateful to Dr. and Mrs. Peretz for their generosity - and to the U.S. Congress for the assist.



# Celestun Mexico

On the horizon an intense pink line ripples between blue sky and azure sea. As the boatman maneuvers his narrow craft through the tangle of mangrove swamp that defines the shoreline of the Yucatan peninsula, the pink line thickens, wavers and then breaks into a thousand pieces.

"Alli estan!" he shouts. "There they are!" Pink flamingos stretch to the borders of vision.

The scene is not without its irony. The boatman is one of 40 who taxi tourists from the village of Celestun to the feeding grounds of these picturesque birds. Only a few years ago, they would come not as guides but as foragers in search of food, the flamingos' eggs. Today, the eggs are safe. The transformation has come with the assistance of ProNatura de Yucatan,

one of two Mexican conservation groups the Maine Chapter assists through its Maine Legacy campaign.

ProNatura saw that saving the flamingos meant helping the people of

this desperately poor village. The boats and much of the equipment came through ProNatura. Now that their livelihoods depend on these long-legged, long-necked birds, the villagers have a stake in the flamingos' survival.

But there are other problems. The village, set on porous limestone, has sewage disposal problems that threaten

the ground water and the estuary and the birds. While there is a safer dump several miles inland, there are no trucks to carry the refuse.

Here, stripped to bare essentials, is a casebook study of the relationship between conservation and sustainable development. In a bioserve that stretches the length of the Yucatan Peninsula - as long as the east coast of Florida - the conservation goals include jobs for the people, plumbing for their houses and a garbage truck.



The marketplace in Celestun.

## Maine Teenagers Learn Lessons Of A Lifetime in Celestun

I figured everyone had pretty much what we have here," recalls Windham teenager Dave Allen. That's not how he sees it now.

Dave was one of eight Maine teenagers traveling to Celestun this winter as part of a Portland Ministry at Large program called Teen Adventure. This was not your typical group of teenagers off for fun and sun. Each teenager is in foster care and the trip was a rich concoction of learning, working and making friends.

Alongside Celestun teenagers, they cleaned beaches, counted birds, sought crocodiles to tag, created preserve signs (above) and saw a side of Mexico tourists typically ignore.

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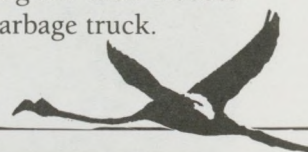


"People want to think it is all like Cancun," says David. "It's not. Celestun is a very poor fishing town. There is trash everywhere and very little plumbing. They don't have the money to fix things and it's difficult for them to see why they should protect birds."

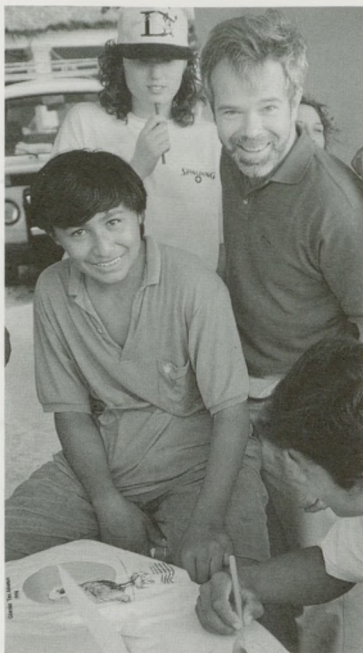


Maine and Celestun teenagers pile on board. Forty families make their living guiding tourists to see pelicans, flamingos, boat-billed herons, ibis and other birds.

The birds in question flock in the hundreds of thousands: shorebirds like black-bellied plovers, ruddy turnstones, sanderlings, spotted sandpipers, short-billed dowitchers, lesser yellowlegs, killdeer and willet; waterfowl such as blue-winged teal and







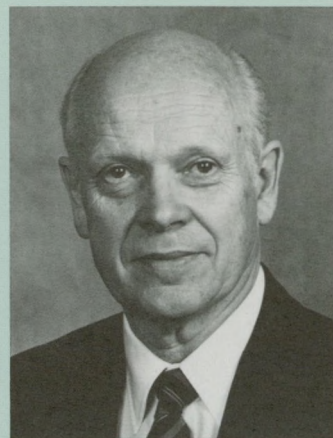
Maine Chapter Executive Director Kent Wommack was in Mexico at the same time as the Teen Adventure delegation (see below). Kent had made stops in Mexico City to attend an environmental award presentation to President Salinas and in Merida for meetings with ProNatura de Yucatan's board and staff, but the highlight of his trip was catching up with the teenagers in Celestun.

## Maine Chapter Cosponsors Speech By Founder of the "Green Nobels"

Maine Chapter members and their guests are invited to hear Claes Nobel speak in Portland on Friday, May 6. Nobel founded United Earth in 1987 as a means of calling worldwide attention to critical environmental issues.

United Earth presents annual awards recognizing contributions to earth/humanity/environment. The media has taken to dubbing the awards the *Green Nobels* as a way of noting Nobel's lineage to the man who established the Nobel Prizes in 1895.

Claes Nobel has presented his Green Nobels to a distinguished and diverse set of individuals, including Mexican president Carlos Salinas de Gotari, broadcasting czar Ted Turner, the Prime minister of Norway, and the Dali Lama. The prizes include large cash awards that are contributed to the environmental program or initiative for which the award is granted.



Claes Nobel

The Conservancy has joined with L.L. Bean and The Maine Alliance in sponsoring Mr. Nobel's talk on the economic opportunities of environmentally sustainable business practices. The talk will be given in conjunction with The Maine Alliance's annual meeting at the grandly renovated State Theater in Portland.

The Conservancy has arranged for a special ticket price of \$15 per person. For time and ticket information, please call Bruce Kidman: 729-5181.



The iguana at left hasn't written, but Dave Allen(center) has gotten letters from six of his amigos. That's good because, as Heather Gurney of Casco found out, saying goodbye wasn't easy.

The Teen Adventure trip was made possible by grants from The Maine Alliance and from the Maine Chapter. Conservancy member George Campbell, who heads The Maine Alliance, suggested Celestun as a destination.

pintail ducks; and songbirds (many that will be perched on your birdfeeder soon). The airplane David and his companions took from Maine to Mexico followed a flightplan well known to many of these birds. He says the rubythroated hummingbirds they

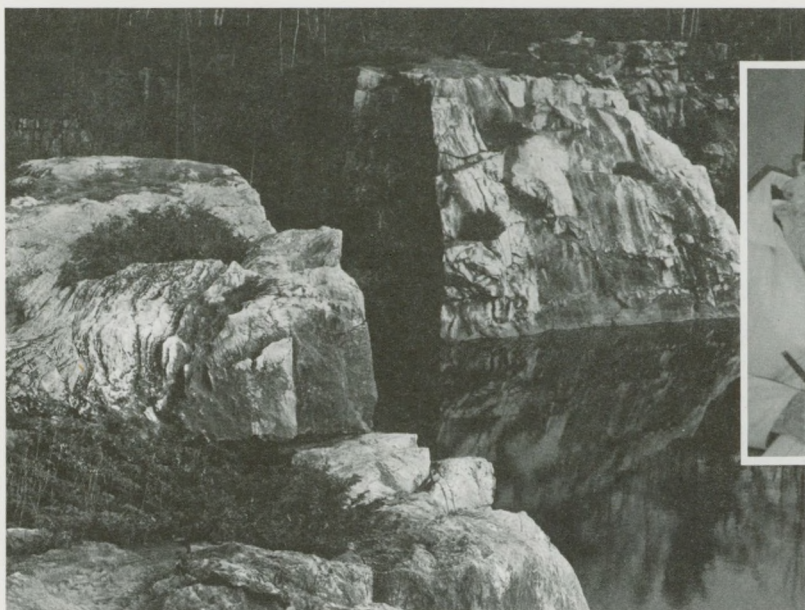
spotted in Celestun were probably getting ready to fly back to Maine.

Sharing an awareness of the Yucatan's environmental values was an important goal of this trip. Back home that sharing continues. The teenagers are speaking to school and church

groups. For his part, David passes on two lessons in particular.

"Teenagers in Celestun are a lot like us. They are eager to learn, and language didn't stop us from making friends. And I tell people here to take care of what we have. We need to care about the birds or they won't go to Mexico and they won't come here. There is so much diversity out there and it's all important."





## Simonton Corner Quarry

Waterfowl and wading bird habitat is included in a gift by Lillian Simonton of Rockport to the Conservancy's Simonton Corner Quarry Preserve.

The preserve is three miles west of Rockport Harbor and features the water-filled remains of three old limestone quarries. At the turn of the century, the limestone mined here was transported to the harbor via rail, burned in seven kilns at dockside, and then loaded into ocean-going vessels.

The preserve was created in 1972 when the Maine Chapter purchased four tracts of land containing two of the three quarries (and part of the third) from the Rockland-Rockport Lime Company.\* This spring, with the assistance of the Coastal Mountains Land Trust (CMLT), Lillian Simonton contributed two acres of wetland and frontage on the Goose River. Martin

\*Acquisition of the original tracts was made possible through grants from the Aldermere Foundation (founded in 1977 by Albert H. Chatfield, Jr. and Marion W. Chatfield of Rockport, Maine).



ROBERTA JORDAN

Simonton Quarry Preserve grew to 14 acres thanks to the generosity of Lillian Simonton, left.

Womer, the Administrative Director of CMLT, was the first to approach Mrs. Simonton about the possibility of adding her land to the preserve.

CMLT has been the local manager of the Simonton Corner Quarry Preserve since 1992 when it entered into a formal management agreement with the Conservancy. The land trust's active oversight (which has included trash cleanup, brush clearing, and the installation of a gate) has clearly curtailed past misuses of this local landmark and demonstrated the trust's commitment to protecting the preserve's historic, scenic and natural values.

We are grateful to both Mrs. Simonton and CMLT for their contributions.

## Maine Naturalist

From tips on studying beetles in a backyard compost heap to reflections on puffins and parochialism, the new *Maine Naturalist* is full of pleasant surprises. The quarterly, just past its first birthday, focuses on Maine and the surrounding bioregion. Tough to characterize, this compendium of abstracts, observations, essays, book reviews and more is a meeting ground for scientist and amateur naturalist. Recent issues have in-



cluded the life history of an endangered Mayfly, an article about the much-maligned but misunderstood bat, another on slime molds for the classroom, a study of bird responses to habitat

*Recommended field equipment now includes a copy of the Maine Naturalist.*

changes in Baxter State Park, an examination of kin recognition in tadpoles, and a checklist of tidepool fishes of Maine (Mummichog, seasnail, eel, Lump-fish, Shorthorn sculpin, hake, Ninespine stickleback and the like). To order (\$30 for four issues), write or call: *Maine Naturalist*, Eagle Hill Wildlife Research Station, PO Box 99, Steuben, Maine 04680. 207-546-2821 (FAX 207-546-3042).



# The Sea And All Things In It

If we're tempted to think of the sea as inexhaustible or invulnerable, it is useful to remember that we once regarded the land in just that way.

Over 70% of the earth is covered by oceans, coastal waters and estuaries, and their realms are likely richer in genetic, species and ecosystem diversity than the land. Still, we know relatively little of the sea as a dynamic system of interrelated environments, fluid of border, rich in life and vulnerable to forces and intrusions.

By any measure, the land has been better studied than the sea - and that is a growing problem for those seeking to manage marine resources or to harvest them, to develop coastal properties, to devise oil spill response plans, or to protect the diversity of plants, animals and natural

communities within the ocean realm.

This past year Maine's State Planning Office took a significant step toward meeting that problem by teaming up with the Maine Natural Areas Program (see below) to create the Marine Conservation Project. Dr. Betsy Brown was hired to develop a classification of marine and estuarine habitats in Maine and to use the classification to identify major marine habitat conservation issues and needs.

"Good information is the key to all effective conservation planning," says Maine Chapter Director of Conservation Planning Barbara Vickery, an advisor to the project. "This project will pull together what is known and point the way for future research. This is the primary reason the Conservancy has provided financial support as well as advice."

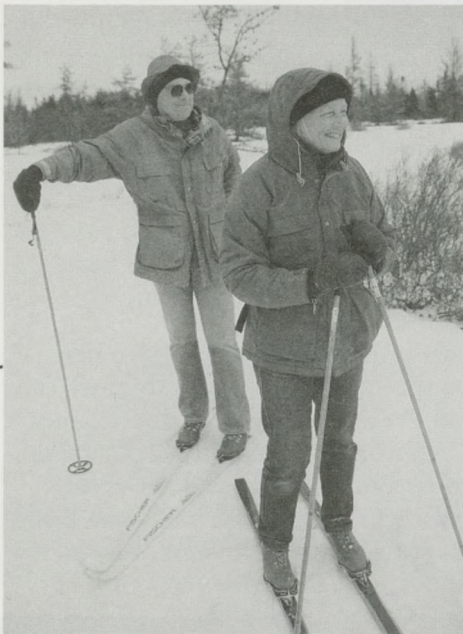
An interim report released this winter identified 56 marine habitats. These were defined by such factors as substrate (mud, bedrock, cobble, sand, etc.), exposure to waves and currents,

and salinity, depth, and temperature.

The classification system in its present form is only a beginning. While it benefits from current research, data bases and expertise within the scientific community, the report also exposes gaps in current knowledge: much more is known about intertidal areas (those exposed at low tide) than about open water habitats; species associated with a given ecosystem during the summer have been studied far more extensively than winter communities; and, predictably, more is known about common species than rare ones.

Gail Whippelhauser, Ph.D. Zoology, has been hired recently as marine ecologist to continue Dr. Brown's work: updating information, conducting field surveys and developing conservation guidelines which consider biological significance and vulnerability in relation to economic and recreational values.

Copies of the interim report are available from the Maine Natural Areas Program, Department of Economic and Community Development. The price is \$3.50.



BRUCE KIDMAN

**Volunteers In Action:** Thanks to our many volunteers. Among them: Anna Marie Thron of South Portland (shown with husband John during February's cross-country ski field trip at Saco Heath) has been organizing and cataloging the Chapter's growing slide library; Paul and Julia Byam of York Beach have sent news clippings from York County; and Denley Reynolds of Durham has provided much-needed office help.

## Natural Areas Program Emerges From Merger

Two state programs with which the Conservancy works closely have merged. The Maine Natural Heritage Program and the Maine Critical Areas Program have become the Maine Natural Areas Program. The Maine Legislature passed legislation in 1993 placing the complementary state services together within the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

Under the merger, the Natural Areas Program will continue to inventory, classify and rank the State's rarest ecological features, from plant and animal species to exemplary natural communities.\* The purpose is to

provide landowners, developers, planners and appropriate public agencies the most objective, up-to-date scientific information to help them undertake and guide sound land use in Maine. Over half of the information requests received each year are from landowners or their consultants.

Unfortunately, the consolidation of these two important programs did not provide new funding, so program staff will continue to be funded exclusively through grants and contracts. The Conservancy and DECD are working together to build a stable funding base and to hire a new Program Coordinator for the Natural Areas Program.

\*Animal data are maintained by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and provided to the Natural Areas Program. *Maine Legacy, Spring 1994-7*



The Maine Chapter is pleased to offer summer field trips to some of the important landscapes Conservancy members have helped protect over the years. (*Special thanks* to volunteer Clare Ruthenburg for coordinating our field trip arrangements.)

Trips 1-3 were listed in our winter newsletter and we will list fall trips for you in the summer newsletter. Enjoy.

## Summer 1994 Field Trips

### 4. Ecology of an Old-Growth Forest

Saturday, June 4 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

From dainty Calypso orchids to massive cedars, the Conservancy's **Big Reed Forest Reserve** provides an unforgettable introduction to the tangled and trackless world of an old-growth forest. Here is a rare opportunity to learn first-hand about its biological diversity and complex interrelationships as Seven Islands Land Company forester Linda Alverson and biological consultant Sally Rooney lead this *very strenuous* hike.

### 5. Rise and Fall of Life in a Vernal Pool

Sunday, June 12 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

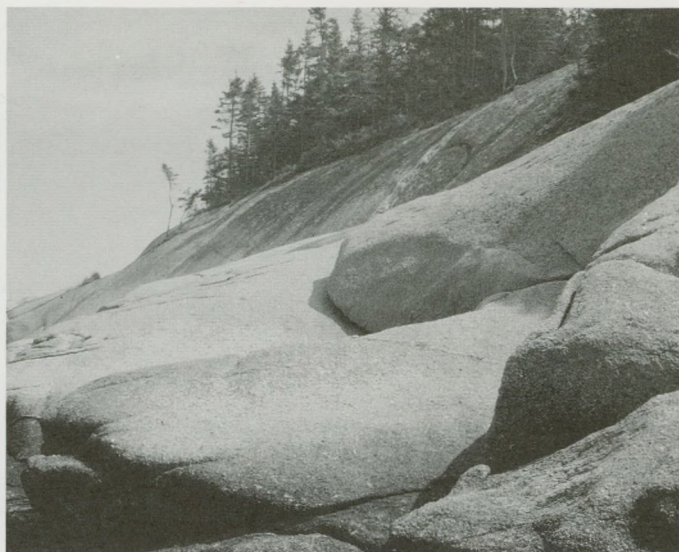
Seasonal pools teem with life in Spring. Turtles come to meet and mate, as do salamanders, frogs and other amphibians. Here is a rich, if seasonally transitory, community of animal and plant life. Join vernal pool researcher Ann Perillo as she surveys for turtles, inventories emerging plantlife and dips tadpoles, eggs and invertebrates from the pools in her York County research area near North Berwick.

### 6. Birds and Bugs of a Grassland Plain

Saturday, June 18 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The rustling grasses of the **Kennebunk Plains** provide habitat for one of the largest known grasshopper sparrow breeding populations in New England. Vesper sparrows, upland sandpipers, horned larks and wild turkeys are among the 50 different bird species breeding in this area. And where there are birds, there are hundreds of fascinating insects to study. Join entomologist (and Maine Chapter trustee) Don Mairs and Southern Maine Preserves Manager Nancy Sferra on this sandplain grassland, itself a threatened natural community.

Lichen at Big  
Reed Forest Reserve



BRUCE KIDMAN



BRUCE KIDMAN

Great Wass Island

### 7. Orchids of Salmon Brook Lake Bog

Saturday, July 9

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Salmon Brook Lake Bog in Perham has been called orchid heaven, and for

good reason: some 20 species have been identified on its glacial knolls alone. But, as its name suggests, this diverse landscape offers an unusual variety of habitats and plants as well. Artist/botanist and Bog protector Richard Clark will share his years of experience in these environs as he leads us from brook to lake to bog - and back.

### 8. Drawing from Nature

Saturday, July 23 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

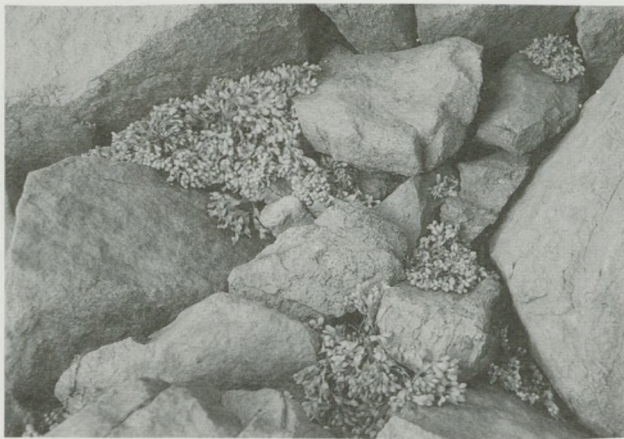
Nature is the ultimate artist. We invite you into her studio, or at least into the spectacular corner of it we call the **Great Wass Island Preserve** in Washington County. Artist and naturalist Peter Blanchard will lead our group, providing insight and encouragement from his experience. All levels of drawing experience are welcome. Bring materials; Great Wass provides all the inspiration you'll need.

### 9. Busy World of a Tidal Pool

Saturday July 30 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Prepare to get your feet wet and your appreciation for the variety and ingenuity of nature engaged. That's what Rachel Carson did here when researching *The Edge of the Sea*. We hope you will bring your curiosity (and especially your children or grandchildren) to **Rachel Carson Salt Pond Preserve** in New Harbor. Marine biologist Mary Agnes Wine will introduce you to full-time residents and sometime visitors at this quarter-acre intertidal pool: from green crabs and periwinkles to rock algae, starfish and predatory dogwinkles.





## 10. *The Shores of Cobscook Bay*

*Saturday, August 6 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Join Maine's acknowledged eagle expert, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife endangered species biologist Charlie Todd, on an exploration of strikingly beautiful **Race Point**. This wildlife management site in the heart of Cobscook Bay offers the proximity of two eagle nests, forest rambles, sweeping mudflats and coursing tidewaters.

## 11. *Nature Photography*

*Saturday, August 13 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.*

Natural history photographer and lecturer Tom Arter has chosen our **Fernald's Neck Preserve** as his classroom. From 60-foot shoreline cliffs on Lake Megunticook to dense forests and interior wetlands, this preserve will provide you plenty of reason to trip your shutter. Whatever your comfort with the camera, you will gain a new confidence and appreciation for the camera's ability not only to capture nature, but to bring you closer to it.

## 12. *Shorebirds on the Move*

*Friday, August 26 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.*

Late August is the time migratory shorebirds flock south from Canada on their way to winter homes in Central and South America. Join our Plover/ Tern Warden at Seawall Beach for an introduction to piping plovers, least terns, sanderlings and other seaside visitors.

### Field Trip Reservation Guidelines

**Reservations:** A must. PLEASE CALL the Maine Chapter at (207) 729-5181 during business hours. Space is limited to 15 persons per trip and phone reservations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis. If space is available when you call, you will be asked to send in the fee.

**Fee:** Non-refundable \$15 per person, adult or child.

**Weather:** Trips will be held rain, shine or snow - so please dress appropriately (ask if you are not sure). Bring a beverage, lunch or snacks depending on the time.

## Work Parties

Work parties offer rewards for the Conservancy and for those who participate. They are *work and learn* opportunities, and unfailingly good fun. For information on any of these work parties, please contact Kyle Stockwell or Nancy Sferra at 729-5181.

### Douglas Mountain Preserve

*Saturday, May 21 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Maine winters have a way of rearranging the landscape. Help get the trails and mountain back in shape for the summer rush at one of the Maine Chapter's most popular preserves.

### Waterboro Barrens Preserve

*Saturday, June 4 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Celebrate National Trails Day by helping us create a trail system at our newest preserve. You'll have a chance to experience the unusual beauty of Waterboro Barrens as we clear a trail and build a foot bridge over a small stream.

### Great Duck Island Preserve

*Friday, June 3 - Tuesday, June 7*

Experience island life for four days and four nights on this 245-acre island located seven miles southeast of Mount Desert. The Conservancy will provide boat transportation, food and lodging in a large log cabin and mini-field trips to explore the preserve's natural history. We are looking for 10 energetic, hard-working adults to scrape and paint the lighthouse keeper's house and perform minor preserve maintenance. House painting experience is a plus. Work party is weather dependent.

### Musquash Pond Preserve

*Saturday, July 23 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

Spend a day clearing trails at our 205-acre preserve. The ponds, freshwater wetlands and forested uplands provide ample opportunities to observe native Maine waterfowl and songbirds. A pair of gloves, lopping shears, lunch and energy are all that is required to help the Conservancy and to enjoy Musquash Pond Preserve.



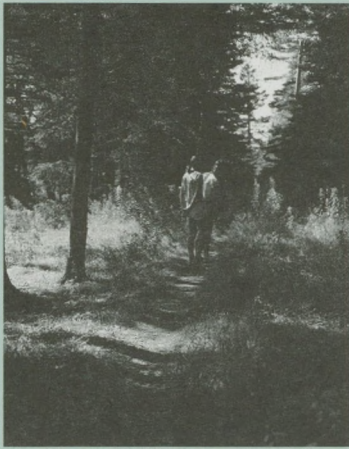
P.S. Thanks to Charlie Graffam, Ed Robeau, Bill Karl, Faith Thibideau and Nate Greene for making our March Saco Heath boardwalk construction work party a success.

A special thank you goes to Wood Structures, Inc. for allowing us to use its Saco facilities that day.



## Guided Nature Walks

We are grateful for the continuing generosity of our preserve stewards who share their expertise and enthusiasm by taking members on free nature walks.



Peter Blanchard, naturalist and longtime Conservancy steward, will once again lead natural history rambles at **Indian Point-Blagden Preserve** on Mt. Desert Island on Friday mornings **July 15, 22, 29**. Please call Peter the week before at 207-244-5063 to let him know you are planning to attend and to find out where and when to meet.

## Friends Indeed!

Thanks to those who have generously responded to our wish lists. Our thanks to: **Jon Henderson** of San Jose, California for a Hewlett Packard 4M laserjet printer and an expanded memory board for another HP printer; **Fred Beck** of F. M. Beck in Yarmouth for an NEC-Spinwriter 7730 printer and accessories; **Dr. John Murane** of Sorrento for a dissecting microscope; **Paul and Mary Rogers** of Portland for an electric space heater and anchor; **Carl Graffam** of Saco for plowing the Saco Heath Preserve parking lot this winter; **Roger Ridley** of Shapleigh for donating and delivering gravel for the Shapleigh Woods Preserve; **Ed Meadows** of Winthrop for two electric space heaters; **Roderic Scott** of Northeast Harbor for a heavy folding table.

## Setting Environmental Priorities

The Maine Chapter is taking an active hand in a collaborative effort to identify and rank environmental threats to ecological systems, human health and quality of life in the state. The program has environmentalists and businesspeople working side by side.

The goal of the Maine Environmental Priorities Program (MEPP) is to provide guidance to public and private efforts in environmental protection and economic development,



guidance based on mutually agreed-upon priorities. These in turn are to reflect both sound science and respect for public concerns.

While the Conservancy is the only environmental organization providing financial support for the program, staff and trustees have made an even larger contribution in volunteer hours. Serving on the 37-member gubernatorially appointed Steering Committee are national Board of Governors member Sherry Huber and Conservancy vice president Mason Morfit. Chapter trustee Don Mairs serves on the Environmental Technical Working Committee, as do Conservation Planner Janet McMahon,

and Director of Conservation Planning Barbara Vickery.

The priorities program is the offspring of Eco-Eco (Economy/Ecology), a group of Maine business and environmental leaders, originally convened by the College of the Atlantic, who have been meeting over the past two years in search of consensus on contentious issues.

The MEPP project is being funded in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which developed the methodology. In a 1990 study by EPA's Science Advisory Board, two of the four relatively-highest-ranked environmental problems were of critical concern to The Nature Conservancy: habitat alteration and destruction; and species extinction and overall loss of biological diversity.

Seven months into its two-year agenda, MEPP has recently completed a statewide public outreach program to determine citizen perceptions of environmental threats. These will be subjected to analysis by volunteer scientific panels.

A first-phase report is planned for early 1995.

## Wish List

We are looking for the following items in good condition. Can you help?

**Hand Tools:** Lopping shears, bow saws, shovels, weed whackers, soil auger, wheelbarrows, chainsaw with accessories, legging chaps, hardhat with face and ear protection.

**Field Equipment:** Portable stereoscope for use in aerial photo interpretation, bike rack for the Saco Heath parking lot, boat trailer for 14' skiff, 20 or 25 HP outboard motor, Havahart traps large enough for

skunks and raccoons, 4-wheel drive recent-model pickup truck, current model cellular phone; 35mm camera.

**Office Equipment:** Office furniture (desk, chairs, tables, filing cabinets, shelves, etc.) for new satellite office, VCR, 386 lap top or desktop computer, phone-answering machine, Banyon-Vines computer network software and hardware.

**Office/HousingSpace:** Waterboro/Shapleigh/Sanford/Saco area: 6 to 12 mos. donated office space; Brunswick area: housing for summer staff assistant, 8-12 weeks.



## One Family's Legacy To The Maine Chapter

Thanks to the generosity of the late Adele Earnest, a founder of the American Museum of Folk Art, and her son Gene, a former Maine Chapter volunteer, the Chapter will eventually receive a gift conservatively estimated to be worth over \$450,000.

We are deeply grateful to the Earnests for this extraordinary gift, made through the donation of Mrs. Earnest's former home in Stony Point, New York, to a planned giving instrument known as a Charitable Remainder Unitrust.

The Earnests' decision shows how a gift of real property can handsomely benefit the property owner, his or her family and, over time, the Conservancy.

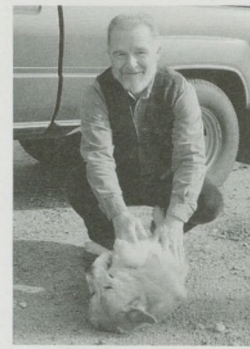
The story begins in 1991 when Gene Earnest, a Maine native living in Washington state, decided to spend the summer touring his native state. Gene wrote us that while economics had led him to leave Maine, "my heart has always stayed." As an experienced surveyor and forester, Gene volunteered to do some work on Chapter preserves during his trip.

The happy result was that Gene spent that summer energetically relocating marking boundary lines on several preserves. As he did that badly needed work, a mutual affection grew between Gene and the Chapter.

In 1992, Gene realized that he needed to plan for the future of his mother's former home in Stony Point, New York. The house, a substantial property in a prosperous exurb of New York City, was vacant and believed to be worth over \$450,000. Adele Earnest was then 90 and living near her son in Washington.

Gene called us to see if there was a way that the property could be used to cost-effectively benefit both his mother and the Conservancy, and perhaps minimize taxes to boot. Indeed there was! The gift of the property to a charitable remainder unitrust would enable Gene's mother to:

- a) avoid the sizeable capital gains tax she would owe were she to sell the property;
- b) derive a substantial annual



Gene Earnest  
in 1991.

income from the proceeds of the unitrust's sale of the property for herself and her son;

c) earn a large tax deduction for the gift of the property to the unitrust; and

d) upon the termination of the trust - at the end of the income beneficiaries' lives - make a very substantial gift to the Maine Chapter.

Gene and his mother consulted with their own advisors, who agreed that giving the Stony Point property to a charitable remainder unitrust made good sense for the Earnests. The gift was made in July of 1993, and we could not be more grateful to the Earnests.

*Mrs. Earnest died, at age 92, in November 1993; we offer our sincere condolences to Gene and his family.*

### Memorial Gifts

Barbara Atwood

Mrs. Florence M. Caskey

Diane Brinkman

Dr. and Mrs. Roland G. Ware

Eugene St. Clair

Mr. and Mrs. Willis J. Spear

Laura Ware Vachon

Mildred Cole

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Mr. and Mrs. Harvey C. Tull

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. Yahres

### Corporate Support

Acorn Products, Inc.

Cole-Haan Footwear

L.L. Bean, Inc.

Eastern Bay Gallery

Fleet Bank of Maine

The Iron Horse Bookstore, Inc.

John Hancock Mutual Life Ins.

Key Bank of Southern Maine

Meiser & Earl, Inc.

### Foundation Support

Birch Cove Foundation, Inc.

A. Kaplan Charitable

Foundation

Indian Point Foundation

Maine Community

Foundation, Inc.

Grace R. & Alan D. Marcus

Foundation

O'Donnell Iselin Foundation

Rosamond Thaxter

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### Matching Gift

Organizations.

Digital Equipment

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E.H.R. Investments

The Kresge Foundation

Waste Management, Inc.

### New Life Members

Alison Lurie

Shon Myers

Dr. and Mrs. Martin Peretz

Barbara Sharp

Mrs. Lillian Simonton

## We are grateful for...





## Maine Legacy

Published quarterly by the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, 14 Maine Street, Fort Andross, Suite 401, Brunswick, Maine 04011; (207) 729-5181 Subscriptions to this newsletter are available to members. Membership dues are as follows: Life, \$1000 (one-time); Conservator, \$100; Supporting, \$50; Contributor, \$35; Donor, \$25. More than 11,500 households currently support the Conservancy's work in Maine.

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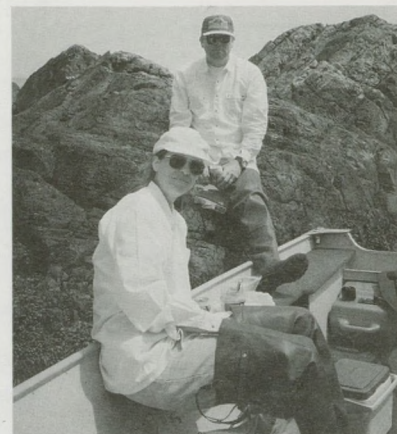
## Volunteer Classifieds

**Field assistants** are needed at several preserves, including Kennebunk Plains, Waterboro Barrens and Great Duck Island. Time commitments vary from several days to several weeks.

**Carpentry volunteers** in the Saco area with their own work space and power tools are needed to build footers for the Saco Heath boardwalk project. Conservancy staff could deliver materials and pick up completed work.

**Office assistants** are needed to work a regular schedule of 4 hours a week to answer phones, respond to inquiries, provide administrative support to staff, and learn about the Conservancy.

*In addition, we continue to compile a list of volunteers interested in weekend field projects and other short-term volunteer opportunities. If you would like to be added to our mailing list or would like additional information on any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Suzanne Drew: 729-5181.*



ANDREA SULZER

Tom and Ginny Chrisenton of Lyndeborough, New Hampshire monitor Nature Conservancy conservation easements on Steels Harbor, Cow's Yard, Head Harbor and Sequin Islands.

## Annual Meeting September 24, 1994

The Village of Castine with its magnificent views of East Penobscot Bay will be the setting for the Maine Chapter's Annual Meeting this year. We plan an exceptional array of field trips, a reception in the gardens of the Castine Inn and a hearty coast-of-Maine dinner at Castine's Emerson Hall. Details and reservation forms will be carried in the summer newsletter. In the meantime, we suggest booking a room early.



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