



Vinalhaven Land Trust

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ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Reaching Our Stewards of the Future

One of VLT's core goals is to help encourage a love and appreciation for the outdoors and for the lands that VLT has protected over the past twenty-nine years. Through our environmental education programs and partnerships, we especially hope to reach the younger members of our community: the students at Vinalhaven School.

Our longest ongoing program is sponsoring the annual spring and fall field trips to one of VLT's preserves. Since 1996 outdoor educators from Tanglewood Learning Center have been coming out to Vinalhaven to work with K-1-2 students. Traditionally, the fall trip is to North Perry Creek Preserve and the spring trip is to Eleanor L. Campbell Preserve (Polly Cove). This fall students explored Granite Island Preserve, a mostly level, mossy trail that is more accessible for students of all abilities.

What a treat it was to tag along on their recent outing! Students, teachers, and many parent chaperones joined Tanglewood educators on a bright, cool morning. Several of the teachers and parents remember going on the trip when they were students. I, myself, fondly recall chaperoning when my own kids went to Perry Creek.

The hope is that, after these fun outings on the land and continued experience of these special places, the kids will want to return to the trails again and again: with their families, as teenagers with their friends, and perhaps, in time, even with their own children. Indeed, we see this with the numbers of parents and teachers along on this field trip that did it as students years ago.

These kinds of programs are where learning and play blend. For that day, the woods and tide pools are the classroom. Tanglewood

educators gently encourage respect for the land, the moss, and the creatures they might encounter. Equipped with hand lenses, students examine lichens or decomposition on logs. They sort woodland finds into categories,



K-1-2 on Granite Island Preserve with Tanglewood instructors for their annual fall outing. Photo by Susan Raven.

ries, they play games where they learn about predators and prey, and they play "camouflage," a hiding game that is a big favorite.

What has made this program work for so long is teachers who truly want to get their students outdoors, and who find ways to work it into their curricula. It can sometimes be hard to justify the "takeaway" of outdoor learning with federal and state standards teachers are forced to comply with. To facilitate that, VLT's environmental edu-

cation committee has welcomed two new members: Meagan Miller (also new to the board), who is on leave from her third grade classroom, and Emma Baker, the high school science teacher. With middle school science teacher Emily Cohn already on the committee, we are thrilled to have all grades represented. We'll have more opportunities to share ideas that can serve their environmental learning needs. This will help us to expand to grades 3, 4, and 5 on-island outings on the preserves, perhaps exploring the vernal pools on Tip Toe Mountain Preserve.

And it's not just the younger students who benefit. Emily has recently started an after-school hiking club for 6th-12th graders, exploring the various trail systems, and Emma has some ideas about having her students do community service work out on the trails.

We are seeing the long reach and happy outcome of these early outdoor experiences in how those young learners from years past are taking part now, like those parents and teachers out on Granite Island. Even more exciting is how some of the now-grown students are getting involved more directly with VLT. Meagan is serving on our board of directors, and is monitoring properties. Niall Conlan, a classmate of Meagan's, has also joined our team of volunteer monitors, and is on the various trails on an almost daily basis.

Our mission seeks to foster this kind of appreciation "for generations to come." Whether they are picking up trash along the shorelines, monitoring a conservation easement property, or serving on our board, it's heartening to see our young people taking on the stewardship of their island home.

*-Colleen Conlan
Programs Coordinator*



Left: Diana Cherbuliez shows the children her bee hives. Center: The annual salamander hunt is always successful, and always fun! Right: Building a bat house with VLT board member Bob Candage. All photos by Susan Raven.

Are you social? Like us on Facebook, and follow us on Instagram @vinalhaven_land_trust. Use #vinalhavenlandtrust to share your adventures out on the trails!




Learning about painting from artist Esther Eder. Photo: Susan Raven

New Partnership, New Perspectives

Painting sunflowers with artist Esther Eder, learning about bees and pollinators with sculptor Diana Cherbuliez, building bat houses with local carpenters—what are these students up to?

It's Perspectives After School, the very successful after school program started by the ARC (Arts and Recreation Center), and now being offered by VLT and Partners in Island Education (PIE). In its third year, this program reaches students in grades Pre K-5 with quality activities and experiences. Under the competent leadership of Susan Raven, who draws on members of our community to share their skills and knowledge, these eager learners are given opportunities to connect with new people and gain new "perspectives."

Each age group (grades Pre K-2 and 3-5) meets weekly after school to share a healthy snack followed by an activity, which range from gardening, bird watching, fun with math, and harvest collages to honoring our veterans, winter tracking, and fitness fun—and that's just the very short list. With a mix of arts and environmental programs, students' horizons are

broadened as they learn new skills, meet people with whom their paths might not have crossed, and explore new terrain.

This year, participation has been very high, with 15-20 excited students attending each session. Alice Bissell, Executive Director of PIE, and I, and our boards are very excited about this collaboration, as it allows our two organizations, both very active in the school, to share resources in providing exciting weekly after school programming for this often underserved age group.

Says Alice, "The partnership between PIE and VLT to support Perspectives After School is very encouraging, as we look to the future sustainability of our island community, both natural and human!"

We are already thinking of how this program might be expanded as the older students age out of the program. But for now, we're reveling in watching a small person touch a bee, or learn to mix colors to create their own masterpiece.

-Linnell Mather, Executive Director

THIRD THURSDAY

Volunteers Keep the Trails Clear

You might have noticed that the trails on VLT's preserves are a bit wider. We are responding to hikers' concerns about ticks in the woods. We heard your feedback, so we made a major push this year to widen all of the trails on VLT preserves, and volunteers were a big part of that effort.

On the "Third Thursday" of each month, we solicited volunteers to join us for a couple of hours of hacking and whacking at the plants encroaching on our trails. It doesn't take any special tools or talent to do this; just a willingness to lug some brush and break a sweat.



You might also meet some interesting people—these two young people didn't know each other when the day's work began, but were working together and chatting like best friends an hour later.

The toughest section of trail to keep clear is probably the Ridge Trail at Perry Creek, where

the huckleberry, bayberry, sweetfern, and juniper all grow vigorously on the sunny ledges—left alone, these species would quickly choke out the trail. We began work on the Perry Creek trails in June, and our July gang of ten hardy souls—the biggest volunteer force of the whole season—finished the job. Other preserves that benefited from Third Thursday volunteers this year were Granite Island, Fox Rocks, and Tip Toe Mountain.

In late August we had additional help from a group of incoming Bowdoin College freshmen, on island for a service learning trip, who worked with me at Tip Toe Mountain. They also worked under the watchful eyes of Bodine Ames on the trails at Lane's Island, with VLT board member Chuck Gadzik setting a blistering pace with his gas-powered brush saw.

September 17th was our final Third Thursday, and volunteer Stan Nantais showed up with a mighty arsenal of tools to help us reclaim some overgrown trails at Middle Mountain Town Park.

Like so many land trusts, VLT began its life thanks to volunteers, and they are still a big part of what keeps us ticking. From trail work to mailings; document scanning to monitoring easements; environmental education to shoreline trash pickup—name the task, and you'll find some of our crackerjack volunteers hard at work.

If you're already a VLT volunteer, we thank you; and if you're not, we hope you'll consider giving it a try. Just stop by the office, give us a call, or drop us a line or an email and we'll tell you more about the diverse volunteer opportunities here at VLT. Lastly, be sure to check our website and newsletter next spring; we'll be posting the summer 2016 list of Third Thursday events. We will hope to meet you at one of them!



WE COUNT ON YOUR
GENEROUS YEAR-END
SUPPORT

The Season of Giving

Through our expanding environmental education program, VLT inspires the next generation to become better stewards of the island you love. Our Walks and Talks program provides opportunities for all to learn more about the nature of Vinalhaven. Our conservation efforts focus on protecting those significant plant and wildlife habitats, water resources, and traditionally valued spaces that nourish our lives and our souls.

To sustain these efforts, we depend on steadfast support from our members. Please give as generously as you can to VLT's year end appeal; take a moment today to send in your contribution. You can also donate securely on line at vinalhavenlandtrust.org or on the phone at 207.863.2543. Thank you!

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Volunteer Recognition

We'd like to thank the following people who have helped VLT through a very busy spring and summer. If we have inadvertently left off your name, please accept our apologies. We truly value your support!

Annual Meeting: We thank Sue L'Africain for organizing this event and making the process go so smoothly; Addison Ames for setting up the tent; Mark Anderson, our guest speaker; Lev Byrd for transporting our guest speaker when traffic caused him to miss the ferry; Josef L'Africain for bartending and other help; Jan Lichtenwalter for the delicious brownies; Penelope Lord, for her lovely wildflower illustration for our announcement; Mike Mesko for ice; Charlie Pardoe for the use of his fish house; Kelly Richards for signage and heavy lifting; the fire department for use of their chairs; the Lion's Club for use and setup of their tent, and town office for use of their projector screen,

Committee Members: Many community members, both year-round and seasonal, serve on committees. We are grateful to Sue

Below: Rick Morgan and Arlene Rodenbeck have been weekly volunteers through the summer for the past couple years. Rick helps maintain trails on VLT's preserves, and Arlene works in the office digitizing critical land records. Bravo! Photo by Colleen Conlan.

L'Africain and Kelly Richards (Annual Meeting); Sarah Forbes, Cay Kendrick, and Pat Lundholm (Communications); Lucy McCarthy and Lucy Quimby (Easements and Acquisitions); Emma Baker and Emily Cohn (Environmental Education); Ed Hoyt, Louisa Ives, Charles Lowrey, and Hugh Martin (Investment); Penelope Lord and Javier Peñalosa (Management Plan); Jonathan Labaree (Personnel and Development); Merry Boone, Beth Gilford, Janet Gohres, Pam Johnson, Lucy McCarthy, Gabe McPhail, Rick Morgan, Arlene Rodenbeck, Sally Wylie, Christine Yannielli, and Len Yannielli (Walks and Talks).

Database assistance: Thank you to Gabe Harp.

Donation of goods: Many thanks to Lee Campbell for an LCD projector, David and Sarah Hyde for an iPhone for VLT social media, Susie and David Lawrence for a bench, and Gabe McPhail for binoculars.

Donation of services: We are grateful to Jim Conlan for installing a brochure rack, Niall Conlan for loaning a canoe for the Basin Management Plan meeting, Eric Davis for spraying encroaching poison ivy on Starboard Rock Preserve, and the Island Benefit Challenge walkers for donating their proceeds to VLT.

Graphic Design: Huge thanks to Cay Kendrick, for creating the posters and Wind ads for

all our Walks and Talks, and to Taina Litwak, for redesigning several of our trail brochures.

Mailings of invitations, appeals, and newsletters: We're always so thankful for those who heed the call, like Dory Bayer, Isabel Bonner, Amy Calkins, Dave Calkins, Jennifer Clements, Marianne Gassner, Carly Giffin, Kay Giffin, Pam Grumbach, Suzanne Heller, Sally Leser, Mia Mather, Kelly Richards, Arlene Rodenbeck, Dot Webster, and David Wylie.

Newsletter help: A big thank-you to Kelly Richards for writing; to Kirk Gentalen, Norbert Leser, Banner Moffat, Rick Morgan, Amy Palmer, and Susan Raven for photos; and to Alison Angel and Carol Thompson for proof-reading.

Trip to Hurricane Island: Thanks to Norbert Leser, Hugh and Sue Martin, and David Swain for using their boats to transport people, and to Jeff Kilbreth and Don and Valerie McQuillan for help on the dock.

Weekly office help: For their professional help and cheerful company, we thank Penelope Lord, for helping to create a digital file for each of our properties, and Arlene Rodenbeck, for digitizing CE and fee monitoring reports for the last five years.

Trail help: We thank Merry Boone, Pete Jaques, Rick Morgan, Stan Nantais, and Peter Richards, who cut, trimmed, and burned to help keep our trails cleared and ready for use.

Finally, we thank our board of directors. We are fortunate to have such an active and committed group of people working on behalf of VLT!



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEA



Lucy McCarthy shares the history of Granite Island Preserve. Photo by Colleen Conlan



Jim Boone shared a vintage photo of a trip to Hurricane Island. Photo by Colleen Conlan

We Welcome New Board Members



Meagan Miller has lived on Vinalhaven her whole life (of 26 years!). She is on leave from her third grade teaching position after having her son, Logan. She loves the island community, whether hiking the trails, being out on the water with her lobsterman husband, Josh, or spending time with her large extended family (including board member Pam Alley, her grandmother) who have been on the island for generations.



Carol Baker moved to Vinalhaven in 2002, in order to be closer to nature and community. She now works as a Shiatsu and Asian bodywork therapist. In her leisure time, she is an avid permaculture gardener and fiddler, and enjoys time out on the trails. She lives in the village with her husband, Mark Jackson.

Please go to our website to learn more about our board.



Susie Lawrence is a familiar face to VLT. She returns to the board after a year off, and will serve as president, having filled that role so ably for six years. A summer resident for over twenty years, she spends lots of time on the Eleanor L. Campbell Preserve and around Perry Creek with her husband, David, and dog, Baxter, and appreciates these spaces being protected for future generations.

For Future Generations

By thinking ahead now, you can help Vinalhaven Land Trust in the future. We invite you to be a part of that future by including VLT in your estate planning. A planned gift of almost any size will help ensure the protection of the habitats and scenic views we all love.

Such a gift could be accomplished by simply adding a codicil (amendment) to your will, or by naming VLT as the beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan. Please contact Linnell at 207.863.2543 for more information on planned giving options.

In planning your gift, you should consult with a financial advisor or attorney to discuss your particular situation. Vinalhaven Land Trust can provide you with a list of potential advisors for you to contact.

REASON FOR WALKS AND TALKS



Photo of quarrying days on a photo by Norbert Leser

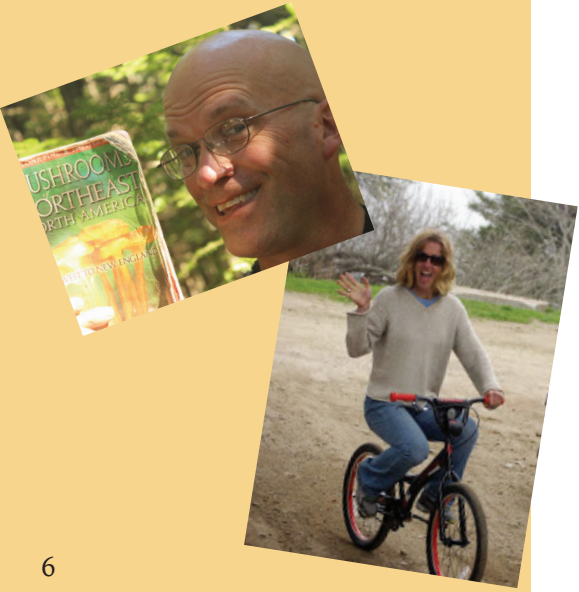


Above: Brian Beal led a popular walk at Lane's Island. Photo by Norbert Leser. Right: Gathering mushrooms at Granite Island Preserve. Photo by Colleen Conlan.



Thank You, Kirk & Amy!

We bid a fond farewell to Kirk Gentalen and Amy Palmer, who have moved to Tenants Harbor after living on Vinalhaven for eleven years. Amy served as our Environmental Education Coordinator, and started the Vital Signs Club for middle school. The students studied the invasive winter moth, collecting field data that led to the release of parasitic flies to combat their spread. She also created and ran Island Explorers, our summer camp for year-round and summer children. Kirk was the Stewardship Coordinator for VLT, and has led numerous bird walks through many summers, as well as other walks and talks on tracking, snowshoeing, owls and otters, and—of course—mushrooms. He also created and led the Outdoor Explorers program for middle school students. Kirk serves as Steward for Maine Coast Heritage Trust, so we hope to continue to see him out on the roads and trails. And we're thrilled that he is back at the helm creating the Vinalhaven Sightings Report, after a summer hiatus (find it under the News tab on our website, and be sure to subscribe). VLT sends Amy and Kirk our heartfelt thanks for helping to shape our Environmental Education programming!



NOTES FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What a busy six months it's been since our last newsletter! Here are a few of the highlights:

- VLT sponsored over 40 walks and talks this season, with over 1,300 attendees. Topics ranged from a walk on Ames Knob to wildflowers, with birds, geology, and tides (and lots more of the alphabet) in between. We're always on the lookout for suggestions as to topics or possible leaders, so please share your ideas.
- Granite Island Preserve was our focus preserve this year. Steward Kerry Hardy started the season off with a fascinating article in our spring newsletter about the history of this preserve; we followed that with a guided walk there each month, May-October. This gave people a wonderful opportunity to watch the landscape change through the seasons from the expectant greens and thin canopy of early spring to the rich colors and golden light of autumn, as well as learn more about its trees, fungi, and history.
- Our third season of summer camp was a success. Under the capable guidance of Amy Palmer, students had fun while learning about habitats and natural systems. Excursions were taken to Lanes Island, Creelman Farm, Long Cove Farm, and the Basin.
- Third Thursday Volunteer days gave old friends and new an opportunity to help with trail maintenance under the guidance of steward Kerry Hardy. You can read more about that in this newsletter.
- The end of July brought us Annual Meeting, where over 100 VLT members gathered under the tent at Skoog Park to hear Mark Anderson of The Nature Conservancy talk about climate resiliency. We said thank you to outgoing directors, president Jonathan Labaree and Pat Lundholm, who stepped off the board, and voted in new board members Carol Baker and Meagan Miller. Susie Lawrence also rejoined the board after a year off, and was voted president of the board of directors. Many thanks to Pat, who has filled so many roles for VLT over the years. Jonathan followed in the footsteps of his mother, Linda Labaree, who was a member of VLT's first board, and also served as president during her terms in office. Both Jonathan and



Photo: Rick Morgan

Pat have offered to remain on VLT committees; it's reassuring to know they are not too far away.

- Our Environmental Education program has reached new levels of engagement with the school, providing meaningful and positive experiences outdoors for our students.
- Board, staff, teachers, students, and volunteers participated in Coastal Cleanup, an effort supported by Ocean Conservancy. In mid-September, groups headed out in dense fog to pick up trash and debris that had washed up on the shores of Roberts, Brown, and Stoddard Islands. Nearly three pickup truck loads—almost a half ton—of trash were collected. In early October, VLT partnered with the school to clean up beaches and shorelines on Vinalhaven. Almost every student and teacher participated, despite the cool and windy weather. Students kept data sheets on what was collected: mostly discarded beverage cans and bottles, take-out containers, bits of rope, and cigarette butts. The data was compiled and shared with Ocean Conservancy.

As always, thank you for being part of VLT! We value your input and support.

Linnell Mather

Climate, Conservation, & Resiliency

Mark Anderson almost didn't make it to VLT's Annual Meeting this summer. Route 1 traffic, missed ferries—we've all been there! But a quick boat ride across the bay and a drive from the north end of the island, and here he was, relaxed, cheerful, and not even breathing hard. Talk about resilience!

And resilience—the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties—is exactly what Mark Anderson chose to talk about. As Science Director for the Eastern Division of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), he is interested in the broad principles that inform conservation choices. Currently, his focus is on "climate resilience," or the physical characteristics which support plant and animal adaptation in the face of rapid climate change.

So often when we think of climate change we think of the human cost. Mark reminded us that human communities are not the only ones affected by extreme weather. Many animals and plants are struggling to stay alive as well.

Previously, conservation efforts have focused on saving endangered or rare species by preserving the environment they depend on. Changing weather patterns mean that no environments can be counted on to remain stable. Mark suggests we identify and preserve the most diverse habitats—those in which varied soil, geology, latitude, and elevation support biodiversity. Mark and his team of scientists advocate identifying and conserving "climate resilient" land- and waterscapes.

What makes land climate resilient? In order to survive a rapidly changing climate, species

need to be able to relocate to more hospitable conditions, and they need to do that easily. For instance, a plant suffering from too much warmth might be able to thrive at higher elevation by moving deeper into a river gully, or by colonizing a north-facing slope, if those choices are available. Therefore, land which includes varied topography and diverse microclimates becomes essential to the health of many species.

Another characteristic is "connectedness." Roads and development form obstacles to movement and hinder relocation, whereas a long connected river system, forest corridors, or large tracts of undeveloped land provide opportunities for adaptation. How forests are managed makes a difference. Young, small, disconnected forests or tracts of older single-species-dominant forests offer fewer habitats and therefore fewer options for survival.

Thinking in this way, TNC scientists are looking to identify and preserve dynamic landscapes—ones in which a varied and interconnected topography offers the most options for species adaptation.

So, how do we score in Vinalhaven? We get high marks for landscape complexity, with a large part of the island (the north end at Perry Creek, and wide swaths of land surrounding Mill River and the Basin) scoring high in connectivity as well. Note that these are our areas of "whole place" conservation. VLT has already preserved some of the most resilient land on the island!

-Kelly Richards

President's Message

In early September the VLT board met to review the Strategic Plan that we completed in 2007, to evaluate our progress, and plan our next steps. While we were pleased to see how far we have come, we were keen to look to the future. With enthusiasm we reaffirmed our mission statement: *Vinalhaven Land Trust promotes the conservation and appreciation of our island's significant plant and wildlife habitat, our water resources, and scenic or traditionally valued spaces in order to preserve the character of the community for generations to come.*

The 2007 Strategic Plan had pointed to the need for a dedicated stewardship fund to help pay for VLT's long-term responsibilities in caring for the lands we've protected. Thanks to you, our members, we were successful in meeting that goal. We develop management plans for our preserves to ensure their protection while offering creative community use and appreciation for the land. We continue to support "whole place priority areas" like Seal Bay, the Basin, Perry Creek, and seabird nesting islands.

We have expanded our programming: through environmental education for school students, with walks and talks for the whole community, and by partnering with other organizations in town. You'll read more about these efforts in Linnell's "Notes from the Executive Director." We hope these programs encourage a personal connection to and appreciation for Vinalhaven's land and water resources; our goal is to have offerings throughout the year.

Conservation, stewardship, and community engagement: we continue to strive for the balance between these aspects of our mission. We are well positioned to move forward and on we go! We need your help to ensure that this progress continues. We depend on you as you depend on us. Please give as generously as you can to our year end appeal. Encourage the next generations to join VLT by telling them why you think the work we do is important to their future. This is your land trust and your community.

Thank you for your generous support.

Susie Lawrence, President



Photo: Rick Morgan

Our Leadership

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Linnell Mather, Executive Director
 Colleen Conlan, Programs Coordinator
 Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator

Help Conserve the Nature of Vinalhaven

Join us in protecting Vinalhaven's natural beauty with your contribution. Use this form or donate online at www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org. Thank you!

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other \$ _____

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All donations are tax deductible and will ensure that you receive VLT's newsletter and notice of special events. Contributions at all levels are greatly appreciated.

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WISH LIST

Binoculars
 Compasses to help moni-
 tors locate boundary pins



Vinalhaven Land Trust promotes the conservation and appreciation of our island's significant plant and wildlife habitat, our water resources, and scenic or traditionally valued spaces in order to preserve the character of the community for generations to come.



Photo: Kerry Hardy