



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Upcoming Events	3
Donor Recognition	4, 5
The Next Generation	6
Vinalhaven's Invasive Plants	7

THE SPLENDOR OF OUR TREES

The Roots of Watershed Protection

This spring, staff decided to focus on the splendor of Vinalhaven's trees. Land Trust staff spent the month of March giving thanks to magnificent Maple—we helped a friend with his maple syrup operation, and it was worth it! Syrup is the sweetest of benefits from trees, and we could devote pages upon pages rapturing over so many other gifts we receive from trees, but here I want to talk a little about water and trees.

Meandering up a trail, it's easy to see the effects of water everywhere—the rivulets dug into the ground, bog plants sprouting up, debris left behind where run-off jumped small stream banks. Fresh water left behind by snow and rain eventually becomes our drinking water supply, precious and vital to our survival

on this rock. This past winter we had a scare when the town supply dropped—presumably from a leak in the system, it was identified and repaired. But it left us mindful of how precarious fresh water is, even in Maine, where it



seems water is everywhere.

Trees protect and serve that watershed. They filter and store water. Their leaves catch precipitation, reducing the impact of increasingly violent storms on erosion and runoff. Statistically, Vinalhaven lies within a greater watershed area that includes the other Fox Islands. According to USDA Forest to Faucets data, 61.66% of this watershed is served by private forest land. 9.74% is protected forest.

Your support for the work of VLT goes beyond trails and vistas—it runs through your pipes and taps.

—Andrea Hogan, Executive Director

Group keeping the fire in the burners going and making sure the sap for the maple syrup doesn't burn.

Vinalhaven's Biggest Trees

I've been an admirer of big trees for the last five decades or so, and on several occasions I've noticed specimens that actually were the largest of their kind in Maine—black spruce, Ohio buckeye (not native), and witch hazel. The Maine Forest Service keeps an updated list of the largest of each species, which always makes for some interesting reading—you can access it online at https://digitalmaine.com/for_docs/265/.

The method used for ranking trees by size is fairly straightforward, although it has some inherent biases that might be worth nitpicking. The formula awards points as follows: one point for each inch of circumference at breast height, plus one point for each foot of vertical growth, plus one point for each four feet of average hori-

zontal spread. So, for instance, an 80-foot-tall red oak tree that was ten feet (120 inches) in circumference and had a 60' average spread at its outermost drip line would score 80+120+15 for a total of 215 points. That would be a pretty big oak, but it would fall well short of the state's biggest, which scores 367 points. There's a white pine in Sumner that scores 364 points; a white willow in Yarmouth that scores 388 points; and a whopping silver maple in Fryeburg that scores a whopping 396 points.

In general, Vinalhaven's combination of thin soils, big wind events, and extensive island logging back in Rockland's lime-burning days all adds up to a shortage of record-book trees on this island. However, there are a few notable ex-

ceptions, and some of Vinalhaven's species may be legitimate contenders for the list of state champions.

For starters, there's red spruce (*Picea rubra*), the backbone of our evergreen forest on Vinalhaven. The current state record scores 208 points, with a circumference of 106 inches. If you go to VLT's Overlook Preserve, there's a tall, healthy spruce tree that's 109 inches around at breast height, with a height that I've calculated at 99 feet and an average spread of 40 feet, which would give it a total score of 218 points (109+99+10). I should add that I know of several on the island approaching that size, including one with a 115" circumference. I suspect there are many on the island of roughly the same stature.



Vinalhaven's Biggest Trees continued from page 1

At our Fish Hook preserve, there's an eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) with a 150-inch circumference that actually exceeds the current champion by ten inches; unfortunately, it's disqualified because of having a double trunk. There's another giant hemlock on the western side of Long Cove, and several other contenders just beyond the Bathing Pool on the Zeke's Point Road.

Another species worth looking at is red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The state champ scores 216 points and has a 126-inch circumference (or roughly a forty-inch diameter trunk); I know of at least one on the island that approaches that size. I also think that a balsam fir could be found here that exceeds the current state champ's rather underwhelming total of 115 points, with a measly 62" circumference (about a 20" diameter). White spruce (*Picea glauca*), which we have lots of, would have to score more than 189 points to knock off the current champ, which has a 98-inch circumference. I haven't yet seen one quite in that category, but I wouldn't rule out that one might exist here. Pitch pine (*Pinus rigida*) is another one worth checking—some of you may have noticed the giant pitch pine that blew down at Lawson's Quarry this winter, which might have rivaled the current state champion's overall score of 193 points. I stopped by to look at that blowdown, which measured 91" around, and counted about one hundred and fifty years' worth of growth rings in one of the sawed-up butt sections—in other words, it started growing back around the time of Custer's last stand.

There are some species that don't have a current champion, because they're considered shrubs rather than trees—mountain maple (*Acer spi-*

catum), American mountain-ash (*Sorbus americana*), and shadbush (*Amelanchier laevis*, also known as sugar pear, wild pear, Juneberry, and serviceberry) all can grow as a single-stemmed tree out here, and are some of the biggest I've ever seen. In my opinion, all of these species deserve a category...especially since Vinalhaven could then claim those spots in the record book.

If you know of any big trees that you think might be worth measuring and nominating, stop by the land trust and let us know; I'll be happy to check them out and see how they measure up... and one of these days, we'll publish our own list of the biggest trees on the island.

—Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator

Photo, left: A balsam fir that we think scores 17 points higher than the current state record holder. Below: Hope measuring a large Red Maple Tree with a circumference of 120 inches.



TICK CHECK!

With ticks out and about, be sure to perform frequent tick checks on yourself, your family and your pets. For more info on ticks check out our resource page:

vinalhavenlandtrust.org/resources

Giving This Spring

After a cold and snowy winter, nothing makes us rejoice more than returning bird song, lovely delicate blossoms and you! Just as Spring reaffirms its presence on our beautiful island every year by bringing warm weather, we ask you to reaffirm your support for VLT by renewing your membership or making a donation. If you are not already a member, we would love to sign you up! We are always looking for new people who share our love for the island.

Your membership is the foundation on which we are able to maintain more than 18 miles of

trail for hikers of all abilities. Your membership is the key to educational programs that kindle an enduring love of the natural world for current and future generations. Your membership is the force that allows VLT to continue all of our hard work, to conserve, protect and educate about our magnificent island.

You can renew your membership by using the card we recently mailed out, the form on the back of this newsletter, or the "Donate Now" button on our website: vinalhavenlandtrust.org.

Thank you for your enduring support!

2022 Donors

IN HONOR OF

Arum Belzer
Jim and Merry Boone
Lee Campbell
Nancy Campbell
Haley and Rick Cimini
Anne Engelhart
Cay and George Kendrick
Susie Lawrence
Susie MacBride
Linnell Mather
Peter McGlamery
John McLeod

IN MEMORY OF

Mary Brock
Rhoda Boughton
Phillip Ward Brown
Emily Dean
Carl and Margaret Engelhart
Geoffrey D. Kimball
George Lewis

Jody and Donald Abbott
Dena Belzer and Chuck Adams
Victoria Albert-Olson
William Alcorn
Eve Allen
Pam and Steve Alley
Nina Ryan and Denny Alsop
Martha Altreuter
Amazon Smile Foundation
David and Holly Ambler
Anonymus (14)
Charity Reynolds Appell
Alexandra Aron and Pablo Aslan
Leonard Aurigemma
Jane and Tom Babbitt
William Bailey
Christine Bailey
John Baker III
Alex and Skippy Banker
Anne and Bob Barrett
Sam MacBride and Eileen Barret
Allen Beatty
Laura and Scott Beebe
John and Sarah Beggs
Alisa Belzer
Michael Pollan and Judith Belzer
James Bennett
Sophie and Patrick Benzie
Acacia Berg
Pamela Kul-Berg and Terry Berg
John and Patricia Bergin
Nick Nickerson and Jennifer Berne
Colette and Edmund Berry
Alexandra Shor and John Bianchi
Elizabeth Bickford
Geoff and Mike Bird
Kathleen and Sheldon Bird

Anne and Paul Blain
Laura Blankertz
C B Bliss
Louisa Boatwright
Peter Bodnar
Delmont and Grace Bogart
Elisabeth and Frank Bohlen
Jessica Bayer and Jack Bonner, IV
Jim and Merry Boone
Anyes and Jay Borden
David and Nancy Borden
Paul Bergkamp and Martha Borrero
Candace Boyden
Perry Boyden Jr.
Elaine Bridge
Kevin and Stephanie Briody
Sheri and Steve Brock
Michael Brodt
Hooper Brooks
Janice and Thom Brown
Steven Buck
Hillary Bunker
Patrick Brown and Nancy Burns
Mrs. Josephine Bush
Mary C L Bush-Brown
John and Ruth Buteau
Judy and Skip Butler
Rosalie Byard
Cathy and Leverett Byrd
Harry and Nancy Byrd
Richard Byrd III
Cheryl Byrne
Elizabeth Calihan
Amy and David Calkins
The Hon. Levin H. Campbell
Levin Campbell, Jr.
Peter McGlamery and Nancy Campbell
Tom Carlson
Jack Carter and Bobbie Carnwath
Alexandra and Arthur Carpenter
Bethany Caruso
Carver's Harbor Market
Margaret Casey
Sally Casey
Molly and Steve Cashin
Mary Cattan
Patience and Tom Chamberlin
Larry Best and Kory Chatelain
Stephanie Hixon and Terri Rae Chattin
Susan Cherbuliez
Andrew and Barbara Chernack
Craig and Sarah Churchill
Keelin Bogart and John Cicciariello
Dr. Lizzie Clapham
Benjamin and Susanne Clark
Nicole Cherbuliez and Seth Clayter
Marcia Cleveland
Lawrence Clough
Diane and John Cochran
Brian and Caroline Coffay
David Banta and Caroline Coggeshall
Bruce and Tina Cohen
Doug and Sandy Coleman
Anne and Franz Colloredo-Mansfeld
Chesca and Rudi Colloredo-Mansfeld
Susanna Colloredo-Mansfeld
Pam Conine
Amanda Conklin
Colleen and Jim Conlan
John and Sintra Constant
Elaine Alden and Thomas Cooke

Elizabeth and Michael Cooney
James and Louise Cormier
Fred Coughlan
Don and Terri Coustan
Christophe and Landis Coutzoukis
Wendy Cox
John and Sheryl Craig
Richard Cranford and Laura Jennings-Cranford
Catherine and Peter Creighton
The Creighton Family
Elaine and Phil Crossman
Poppy Connor-Crouch and John Crouch
Lindsay Crudele
Jeannie Curtiss
Ruth Cutler
Enrica Ferrero and Tristan Dahn
Kim Davidson
Kris Davidson
Susan Davis
Bonnie and Eric Davis
Ethelyn Day
Judy Blevins and Howard Day
Walter Day
Thomas Dean
Matt and Sylvanus Coombs-Dewkett
John and Carol Dexter
Donald and Elizabeth Dicey
Sara Dickson
Joseph and Mara Donadio
Kathleen and Jerry Dougherty
Olivia Dreier
Grace F. K. Drown
Peter Dunbar
Tyler Dunham
Cindy and Jim Dunham
Robert and Maria Dwyer
Leanne Dyson
Sally and Terry Eagle
Elizabeth Eaton
Delphine Eberhart
Christine and Carl W. Eilers Jr.
Elin Elisofon
Judy Ellenzweig
Ben Emory
Doug Durant and Anne Engelhart
Steven Engelhart
Jen Queally and Rich Entel, MD
Marshall Evans
Holly Evarts
Bill Allen and Alice Evarts
Kate Evarts
Helen Evarts
Grant Ditzler and Frances Evens
Peggy Ewing
Priscilla Fales
Eleanor Bartolomeo and Young Fan
Frank and Franci Vinal Farnsworth
Cecily and Wallace Feldman
Daniel and Teri Ferguson
Claudia Dengler and Douglas Fincham
Ginny Fitts
Roberta Fitzgerald
Alexandra Fitzsimmons
Bruce Fleury
Elaine and James Flore
John Folk
George and Lisa Foote
Charlie and Sarah Forbes
George Fosque
Chris Foster and Hilary French

Peter and Marnie Frost
Gail S. Fu
Cynthia Cave and Chuck Gadzik
Diane Garner
Cathy Garnett
Peter Gasperini
Frank Feist and Sarah Gates
Eben and Win Gay
Harvey and Pam Geiger
Connie and Fred Gemmer
Mr. and Mrs. David Gengler
Robin Gibson
John Alden and Beth Gilford
Tom Gardner and Marian Godfrey
Natalie Dean and Jeff Goldenson
Andrew Cohen and Mary Gooderham
Dale and Jeannie Goodwin
Cyndie Gould
Lindsey and Margaret Grandison
Susan Barnes and Martha Grant
Harry and Tita Gratwick
Niaz Faruqui and Katharine Gratwick
Becky and Joel Gratwick
Patricia Dunn and Douglas Green
Julia Dickenson and Joel Greenberg
Jackson Gregory
Michael and Pat Grishman
Donna Cordner and Brent Groce
Marian Grogan
Jim and Pam Grumbach
Paul Gudelis
Janet Gohres and Robert Hahl
Karen Gates and James Hall
Elizabeth Haluszka
Dona Bolding and Roger C. Hamilton
Kate Hannan
Robert and Diana Harding
Henry and Mary Harding
Margaret Hardy
Carla Harris
T. Alan and Marianne Hatton
Molly Perkins Hauck
Anne Elixhauser and Bill Hayden
Allan and Jeanie Hayes
David and Joanne Healey
Charlotte Henderson
Julie Henderson
Wesley Joseph and Brittany Hendrick
Ben and Vannesa Henneke
Erinn and Jeff Hicks
Claudia Diller and Thomas Hildreth
Alison Hildreth
Chris and Mary Hoch
Ellen and Mark Hoffman
Craig Hollingworth
Chris and Jessica Holm
Eleanor Holt & Susan Holt
Elizabeth Holt
Emmett and Gwen Holt, IV
Jane Hood
Nancy Hood
George Hooper
Eric and Jessi Hornfeldt
Cynthia and Mark Howard
Brett Cook and Richard Howard
Dru Ellen and Will Hoyt
Edward and Sarnia Hoyt
Horace Hunt
David and Sarah Hyde
Joan and Timothy Ingraham
Lea Iselin

Benjamin and Cathy Iselin
Egan and William Iselin
Island Sail
Island Ticks
Colin and Louisa Ives
Robert Cornell & Catherine Ives-Cornell
Carol Baker and Mark Jackson
Pat and Simon James
Sally Colwell and Jeff Janacek
Lawrence Janes
Harold and Betsy Janeway
Beverly and Bill Jaques
Pete and Sue Jaques
Brewster Jennings
Nina Jennings
David and Judith Jones
Suzette and Thomas Jones
David Wood and Nancy Judge, MD
L. Frederick Kaplan
Jennifer Karady
Bruce Burnham and Mary Beth Kelly
Elizabeth and Morris Kellogg
Richard Kelly
George and Cay Kendrick
Gail Eierweiss and Jeff Kilibreth
Hopeton Kimball
Joe Adams and Barbara Kinder
Henry Holt and Pam Kittredge
Chris and Kathy Knight
Chris and Wendy Koelbl, III
Anne Kolker
Joshua and Melody Komyerov
Peter Krakoff
Bettina Krampetz
Stephen Blatt and Lynn Krauss
Patricia Kreuzberger
Jane Bryden and Christopher Krueger
Glenn and Linda Kubiak
Clyde and Lucy Kuemmerle
Catherine Kulka
Jennifer Kyle
Josef and Sue L'African
Priscilla Carothers and Jonathan Labaree
Linda Labaree
Sylvia Lacey
Hilda Dorgan and Michael LaFarque
Carol and Curt Laffin
Gregg and Marti Laird
Robert Lakin
Emily Lane
Sarah Lawrence
David and Susie Lawrence
John and Tara Lawrence
Geno and Laura Lazaro
Anna Marie and Joe Lazaro
Philip Leahy
Chong and Jacqueline Lee
Diane and Timothy Lee
Christopher Janeway and Catherine Leiser
Clara Lennox
Norbert and Sally Leser
Charlene Landis and Thomas Leslie
Emily Lewis
Lynn Lewis
Lisa Lewis
Christina Libby
Jan Lichtenwalter
Sandy and Curly Lieber
Joseph Lieber
Carolyn and William Lieber

Joanna Lieberman	Lisa Braiterman and David Newfeld	James and Marilyn Rockefeller, Jr	Marian Smith	Jonathan C. Wales
Richard and Donna Littlefield	Schuyler Ludwig and Audrey Nichols	Rick Morgan and Arlene Rodenbeck	David and Stephanie Smith	Kate and Tom Walker
Taina Litwak	Jake and Kathy Nicholson	Charles Lowrey and Susie Rodriguez	Peter Belknap and Jennifer Snodgrass	Frank Wall
Nicholas Lobkowitz	Susan Niederhoffer	Martha and Paul Rogers	Benjamin Labaree and Alison Snow	Judy Heining and Ted Walsh
Jim and Susan Long	Caroline Norden	Christine and Paul Rosell	Caroline and Stephen Sontheimer	Chris and Jennifer Walton
Norbert and Roger Longman	Helen Norris	Alice Bissell and Steve Rosen	Mary Soyer	Bessy Kong and John Wasielewski
Penelope Lord	Andrew and Rachel Noyes	Cathy and Ron Rosenstock	Bat Sparrow	Nancy Weaver
Pat Lundholm	Hannah Noyes	Alexander Colhoun and Selina Rossiter	Jonathan and Sue St. Mary	Anne Hooper Webb
Thomas Luxon	Robert Nunn	Wanatha Garner and Hugh Roth	Karen Golding-Staelin and Charles Staelin	Mary Jo and Paul Webster
Craig Jewell and Erin Lyman	Lindsay French and Peter O'Neill	Mark and Wendy Rovelli	Robert Remillard and Heather Stamler	Cynthia and Gary Wegner
Susie MacBride	Stephen and Thayer Olson	Elaine and Richard Ruback	Kristina Stankunas	Lorraine Ferguson and Adam Weinberg
June MacDonald	Carol and David Olson	Stephen Ruell	Bettye Bradley & David Stansbury	Thomas Godfrey and Anne Weir
Wendy MacGaw	Chris Osgood and Mary Heller Osgood	Bonnie Rukin	Mary Sillman and Martin Stein	David and Sandra Weiss
Karen Allen Maguire	Gillian Lobkowitz and Matt Paige	Dorothy Ahlgren and John Rummler	Caleb Stewart	Barbara Weitz
Jennifer and Sean Mahoney	Kirk Gentalen and Amy Palmer	Christine and James Runcie	Richard and Valerie Stewart	Pam Wellumson
William and Fidele Malloy	Linda Pardo	Anne Russell	Didi Stockly	Cristy West
Jay and Natalie Manning	Charlie Pardoe	Joe Reynolds and Sarah Russell	Elise Stockly	Charles Pardoe and Mariette Westermann
Chris and Joan Mansfield	Phillip Conkling and Paige Parker	David and Susan Russell	Cristina Squeff and Mitchell Stokes	Pamela Wetherbee
Joseph Marcus	David Parsons	Robert McQuilkin and Willy Russell, Jr.	Eric and Elizabeth Stotz	Joseph and Sarah Whinery
Joshua and Cathryn Marcuse	Herbert Parsons	Holly and William Russell, Jr.	Marjorie Stratton	Ann Helwege and Edward White, Jr.
Barbara Leonard and Daniel Marra	Jill and Pankaj Patel	John and Margot Saltonstall	Steve Loughin and Carol Strawson	Barbara Deuell and Peter Whitman
Hugh and Susan Martin	Carol Goodridge and Jim Payne	Jula and Paul Sampson	Gloria Strazar	Edward Wiese
Angela and Mel Marvin	PayPal Giving Fund	Daniece and Roland Sayward	Gust and Jan Stringos	David Helgerson and Bethany Wiggin
Anne and Caleb Mason	Daniel and Katherine Pease	Lila Schaefer	Ellen Stutman	Ben and Betsy Williams, Jr.
Linnell Mather	Javier Penalosa	Victoria Brett and Geoff Schaefer	Todd Almond and Mark Subias	Ben Williams, Sr.
Charles Sullivan and Susan Maycock	Anne and Kent Penfield	Sophia Schaefer	Charles and Susan Sullivan	The Ralph B. and Margaret C. Williams Foundation
Linda McAulay	Les and Theresa Penick	Michael Schlesinger	Charles and Claudia Sullivan, Jr.	Karen and Jeffrey Wills
Dr. Peter McCann	Melissa and Steve Pennell	Chris and Andy Schoenberg	Chris Ayres and Elizabeth Swain	Lloyd Van Lunen and Margaret Wilson
John Drury and Lucy McCarthy	Brittany Perham	Carrie and Christopher Scholz	Connie Keedle and David Swain	Beth Newbold and Patrick Winkler
Greta and Mark McCarthy	Stephen Ervin and Valerie Perkins	G Philip Schrodel	Eleanor S. Campbell-Swank and Darrell Swank	Frank Marchell and Cindy Wojcicki
Anny Ewing and Larry McCauley	Katharine Perkins	Russell Campbell and Alayne Schroll	Carl and Theresa Swidorski	Allie Wood
Bette and Edward McCormick	John M. Perkins	Linda Schuller	Susan Tananbaum	Joan Wright
Patrick McCormick	David & Julie Perry	Alice and Tom Schultz	Dorothy and Paul Tasillo	David and Sally Wylie
Terri-Lynn McCormick	Susan Petersmeyer	Nancy Schulz	Elizabeth Teague	Christine and Leonard Yannielli
David and Elizabeth McCullum	Gheretein and Jeffrey Peterson	Mary Schwanke	Dan Boxer and Karin Tehue	Albert L. Yetter
Francesca Fererro and Alexander McDonald	Debra Pettengill	Peter Schwarzenbach	Agnes Terry	Dick and Holly Young
Peter Davidson and Drew McGhee	Charles Cherrington and Ashley Pettus	James and Trina Secor	Jim and Maude Terry	Hansjorg Wyss and Roz Zander
Hannah and Jamie McGhee	Anja Hanson and Derek Pierce	Bill and Margot Seefeld	Mr. and Ms. Mark Terry	Judith Zinsser
Larry McIntosh	Deborah Pixley	The Sekhar Family	Agnes Terry	Stephen Zoloth
Beth and Jack McKenna	Leah Creelman and Martha Plusquellec	George Jolly and Caroline Seligman	Harry Holt and Sarah Thacher	Joshua Stein and Laura Zucker
Carly Goss and Chris McKnight	Joshua Eckels and Anna Poe	Virginia Calega and Mark Sereni	Sally Thibault	
Dr. Margaret McLaren	Lucian Burg and Marie Pollard	David Seligman and Kate Sontag	Alison Thibault	
Jane Kitchel and Peter McLaughlin	Katherine A. Hooper and Arthur B. Porter III	George Jolly and Caroline Seligman	Jamie and Yvonne Thomas	
Nicole McLeod	Torry Pratt	John Feingold and Nancy Seligson	Kate and Tom Walker	
Lynne and Vincent McMahon	Tom Kearney and Rebecca Pschirrer	Virginia Calega and Mark Sereni	Bear and Gerry Thompson	
Gabe McPhail	Janine and John Putnam	Allan and Sally Seymour	Carol and Skip Thompson	
Donald and Valerie McQuillan	Peter Drury and Margaret Qualey	Preble Jaques and Jessica Shattuck	Shannon Thompson	
Elsa and Tom Menaker	Deb Manegold and Dwight Quayle	Jean Sheehy	Patricia and Stanley Timson	
Stevie Kaimmer and Mike Mesko	Joan Quigley	Leonora Sheeline	Katharine Baker and Peter Titelman	
The Middlecott Foundation	Geoff Gratwick and Lucy Quimby	Sandra Sheeline	Ben Matlock and Ted Todd	
Morgan Clond and Max Migliore	James and Sharon Radford	Mr. and Mrs. W. Stevens Sheppard	Irving and Joan Tolette	
Sara Lennox and Larry Miller	Sue Radley	Molly Sholes	Mark and Mary Lou Tolette	
Frank and Mary Ellen Minichiello	James and Lisa Rafferty	Dewey Shay and Cal Shook	Leanne and Alec Torrie	
Barbara and Arnold Mintz	Aviva Rahmani	Larry Rogers and Mary Silva	Thomas and Rebecca Townsend	
Lisa Lewis and Banner Moffat	Kathleen Ramee	Eric and Rhoda Silverberg	Abigail Trafford	
Francois Deschamps and Judith Mohns	Ann and Thomas Ramee	Lilea and Richard Simis	Robert and Virginia Travers	
Priscilla Moody	Wesley Reed	Anne and Kendrick Simmons	Darrow Lebovici and Margaret Twohey	
Mary Ellen and Steven Morgan	Louis Reycroft	Ellen Simmons	United Way of Rhode Island	
Mark Bigalke and Eileen Morgen	Irene and Ned Reynolds	Libby and Frank Simon	Andrew and Katherine Updegrove	
Garlan and Jody Morse	Marcus Rhineland	Clara Simon	Joe and Mary Lou Upton	
Elaine S. Morse	Kelly and Peter Richards	Thomas Sisk	Christi and Jan van Heek	
Paul and Sharon Mrozinski	John and Wendy Richards	James and Toni Skiff	Cecily Vaughan	
Neil Mufson	John and Marie Richardson	John and Drusilla Slattery	Richard Fried and Pam Velardo	
Grace Mullen	John and Marie Richardson	David Drinkwater and Jacqueline Smethurst	Christian and Mary Verlaque	
Raymond and Gail Munn	Flora Drury and Troy Richardson	J.P. and Kaki Smith	Alan Farago and Lisa Versaci	
Peter Murad and Deborah Mutschler	Ruth Ripnitz	Clawson Smith	Gary Krog and Lori Versaci	
Jack Myer	F. Richard Pappas and Adrienne Rivers	Marian Smith	Jacquelyn and Mark Villinski	
Network for Good	A. Sydney Roberts	Marjorie Smith	Jean Vincent	
David and Yolanda Newby	Lloyd and Marjorie Roberts	Marjorie Smith	Christine Vincent	
Grosvenor and Wendy Newcomb	Isabelle Gaston and Steve Robey	Karen Kuskin-Smith and James Smith	Karen Walbridge	
	Barry Robinson	Peter Smith		

SPECIAL RECOGNITION
Vinalhaven Land Trust would like to thank the Creighton family for a generous gift in memory of Al Creighton in support of land preservation. Al was a long time supporter and board member of VLT from its founding days, and was active in many conservation organizations.

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please accept our deepest apologies.

Thank you!

What's Happening

WALKS AND TALKS PREVIEW

This season's Walks and Talks preview is here! We are still adding more events so be sure to check our website, social media, wind-ads or posters that will be hung around Town.

Weekly Bird Walks: Every Thursday from June 15th- September 14th

May: Roadside Cleanup

June: Firefly walk, Strolls with the Exec Director

July: Grasses and Sedge walk, Low Tide Walk, Hurricane Island Trip, Wildflower Walk,

August: Dog Walk, Fairy House Building, Phil Crossman Talk, Pressed Flowers, Indigenous People & Places Walk, Lobster: From Pot to Plate, Geology Walk

September: May: Sea Level Rise, Coastal Cleanup

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Want to help keep our trails in tip-top shape? Keep an eye out for our pop-up volunteer trail maintenance days. We will announce them as they come up on our website, social media, and posters.

ANNUAL MEETING

We hope you will join us under the tent at Skoog Park on Friday July 28 for VLT's 38th Annual Meeting. After a guest speaker and the usual VLT reports, please enjoy a beverage and some snacks, while we all catch up with one another.

Our speaker this year will be Jane Arbuckle, Director of Stewardship for Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Jane has been MCHT's Director of Stewardship for over 20 years, taking care of conserved land from Kittery to Lubec, including over 120 public preserves.

After reports from board members and Andrea, please plan to stay and enjoy a beverage and hors d'oeuvres. Voting will once again be done by proxy; we'll be mailing those to you in July.



Photo: Sheri Romer Brock

Scholarships

We are pleased to offer the following scholarships to Vinalhaven students:

An annual renewing scholarship for a graduating senior pursuing further education or training in a field that aligns with our mission

A scholarship for middle school students to attend a summer camp at Tanglewood Learning Center

For more information about these scholarships, please email info@vinalhavenlandtrust.org

President's Corner

Last year, 2022, was an eventful year for Vinalhaven Land Trust. There was some sadness as we bade farewell to our Executive Director Linnell Mather; much happiness as we welcomed a new Executive Director, Andrea Hogan, and a lot of success as VLT completed its application to renew our accreditation and remain an accredited land trust. In early 2023 we received final word from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission that our application had been approved! This was a major effort and you can find more information elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website.

While the winter can seem like the "off season" for many of us, besides closing the books on the past year, the staff is clearing blow downs on the trails along with assistance from volunteers and interns (thank you!) and our new Program and Communications Coordinator Hope Steffins is busy with our educational programs in the Vinalhaven School, and working with the Walks and Talks Committee to plan a new season of activities. The foot traffic picks up as the weather gets warmer, but there is always buzz in the office. Thanks again to our dedicated members who support our membership and year end appeals and make VLT a financially stable organization.

There will be a variety of opportunities to meet Andrea this summer, and I encourage members to take advantage of one of the upcoming scheduled trail walks with the Executive Director, or to attend the Annual Meeting on July 28th, to introduce yourself. You can drop by the office at Skoog Park as well. I look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual Meeting or on the trails.

—Lee Campbell, President

LEAVE NO TRACE

Remember when enjoying the many trails to follow the Leave No Trace principles, carry out anything you bring in and refrain from disturbing or removing the living or nonliving things. We have a great responsibility to protect this shared space.

WELCOMING A NEW FACE



Hope Steffens with her husband, Ryan Nizolek

This past winter VLT said farewell to our passionate and talented Programs and Communications Coordinator, Acacia Berg. In her time with VLT, she worked on expanding our social media presence and our website to bring wider awareness to VLT and our causes. One of her greatest contributions was her passion for our Environmental Education program, where she spent her time guiding and inspiring the next generation through hands on learning. We wish her all the best in all her future endeavors!

Of course, with every farewell there is a welcome. VLT is looking towards the future and welcomes our new Programs and Communication Coordinator, Hope Steffens. Hope moved to the island in November with her husband, Ryan Nizolek, the new ambulance director and began working at VLT just a few days into January. She comes to us with degrees in both History and Theatre from East Carolina University.

Most recently, Hope worked for the state of North Carolina department of Natural and Culture Resources in the Historic Sites division. She worked on developing, designing and installing a large-scale permanent exhibit that explores the history of the oldest town in North Carolina from precontact through the 20th century, using an inclusive narrative. She also developed adult and youth educational programs that explored diverse history topics including clothing, gardening and plants, hearth cooking and historic trades.

Hope can't wait to work on educational programs and build strong lasting partnerships with the school and other island organizations. She is excited to explore her love of nature and the way in which history, the land, its resources and its people are interconnected. It is this interconnectedness that inspires the conservation of the beautiful island of Vinalhaven.

Reaccreditation

Over the last season, VLT has been working towards reaccreditation, and we are proud to announce that we have achieved this goal. Our reaccreditation is only possible through the dedication and hard work of our volunteers and staff. The process to achieve accreditation is rigorous, but worthwhile to ensure confidence in our practices for our community.

The accreditation seal is awarded by the land trust accreditation commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, and is a mark of distinction in land conservation. It is awarded to land trust meeting the highest national standards for excellence, including Sound finances, responsible governance, and lasting stewardship. VLT has exemplified these

standards and is proud to be a part of a network of organizations united by these strong ethical practices.

Vinalhaven Land Trust is dedicated to working with the Vinalhaven community to protect and preserve the places we love!



Conservation Excellence



Photo: Sheri Romer Brock

Stewarding the Future

Planned giving enables donors to create a lasting legacy and make a gift that is larger than life. You can make a provision now in your estate plan that will benefit VLT in the future. A gift from your estate will help ensure that the place we save today will be conserved forever. Protection and stewardship into perpetuity is a promise VLT makes and with your help we can make this pledge a reality.

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 a beneficiary of an insurance policy or retirement plan. Please contact Andrea Hogan at 207.863.2543 or email her at executive.director@vinalhaven-landtrust.org.

Invasive Plants on Vinalhaven

Step out the front door and onto your own lawn some morning, and take a look at the plants around you. Start with those growing right under your feet—if your lawn is like mine, you'll see a mix of bluegrass, white and pink clovers, and maybe some dandelions or hawkweeds or buckthorn plantains. It may be a perfectly fine lawn, but those are all non-native plants.



Glossy Buckthorn, Frangula alnus

Now look at the landscape shrubs and flowering plants against your house—and again, you'll see mostly non-native plants, brought from around the world because of their ornamental attributes. Chances are, the first plant that you'll see that you can positively call native will be a tree or shrub at the edge of your yard—a birch, a maple, a spruce or cedar—but even at this distance, there are no guarantees. Apple trees, rugosa roses, and a host of meadow flowers like daisies, black-eyed Susans, Queen Anne's lace, and even our beloved lupine are all plants that weren't seen before Europeans settled here—and for that matter, the honeybees that pollinate them aren't native either. As of now, non-native species that have become naturalized in our flora represent roughly one-third of all species present.



Common Barberry, Berberis vulgaris

Most of these plants are tolerated, and some are even welcomed into our flora. It's hard to imagine a Maine spring without apple blossoms and lupine's colorful spikes; but over the past few centuries, there are some non-native species

that have made themselves a little too much at home. Identifying just which species are unwelcome additions to our flora and worthy of the title "non-native invasive plant," is a task that most land trusts are being forced to confront. In the process of answering that question, we invite an even bigger one: what should we do about it? Here's how our botanist friend Javier Peñalosa describes it:

Plant species are considered invasive if they are native to other areas (e.g. Eurasia), naturalized (i.e. maintaining themselves without cultivation) and successful to the extent that they can have significant negative impact on native vegetation. These impacts can range from the subtle (e.g. luring pollinating insects away from native plants) to the dramatic (e.g. completely displacing native species, thereby reducing biodiversity). Since a goal of VLT is to "promote the conservation of our island's significant plant and wildlife habitat", we take the management and control of invasive plant species to be an important component of our stewardship of protected properties on Vinalhaven.

That's a good definition, but the problem is that the State of Maine has already identified 115 species that are classified as either severely invasive or very invasive. Of these, 24 species have been observed on Vinalhaven...but that's still a lot of different plants. A more practical approach will be to start with the species posing the greatest threat to the local ecosystem, and see how many of them we have the human resources to combat. To quote Javier again,

We believe that our primary focus should be on conserving the integrity of communities dominated by native species, i.e., woodlands, freshwater wetlands, and saline wetlands. Although roadsides and open areas are commonly colonized by a number of aggressive non-native species (e.g. Japanese knotweed), these communities are already dominated by non-native species and so should be of secondary concern... For example, common valerian colonizes open sites but since it is very shade intolerant, does not invade and become established in closed-canopy woodland. On the other hand, glossy buckthorn has a broad ecological range, is shade tolerant and is a likely invader of our forests and forested wetlands.

Last summer, VLT organized a volunteer afternoon to attack a plant which has the potential to become a real problem: Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*), the tall grass-like plant with sil-

very seedheads that has completely overtaken urban wetlands throughout the Northeast. It was a humble beginning; we began by cutting the stems of the plant in the three known colonies in salt marshes on the island, so that no seeds could be spread. Our hope is that by continually cutting the new shoots down, we can eventually starve it to the point where native salt marsh species like *Spartina* can crowd it out for good.

In addition to the Phragmites, there are six other species that we hope to focus our control efforts on. In these cases, the overall numbers are low enough that we think a combination of vigilance, community education, and staff/volunteer elbow grease might be sufficient to delay or even prevent these problem species from getting established here. Specifically, we're looking at common barberry, Japanese barberry, Asiatic bittersweet, common buckthorn, glossy buckthorn, and purple loosestrife.



Asiatic Bittersweet, Celastrus orbiculatus

The final piece of the puzzle, as Javier points out, is that "plants and seeds are not respecters of property lines." VLT can do as we like on our own preserves, but controlling invasives means going after them wherever they grow. Towards this end, we will need to work in cooperation with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, town government, and private landowners. We will be initiating efforts on all of these fronts as the growing season arrives this year. We are kicking it off by asking our members to take a minute to familiarize yourself with these seven species; to keep an eye out for them as you drive and hike on the island; and to let us know when and where you may encounter them. We will maintain a map and database, and organize volunteer efforts to physically remove the plants throughout the coming year.

—Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator

Photos: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut

Our Leadership

Board of Directors

Jim Boone
Toria Brett
Hillary Bunker
Lee Campbell, Jr.,
President
Art Carpenter
Eric Davis
Claudia Dengler
Joshua Eckels,
Secretary

Bill Jaques
Cay Kendrick
Lucy McCarthy
Marjorie Stratton
Elizabeth Swain,
Vice-President
Yvonne Thomas
Mark Tolette,
Treasurer

Staff

Andrea Hogan, *Executive Director*
Hope Steffens, *Programs and Communications
Coordinator*
Sheri Romer, *Office Assistant*
Kerry Hardy, *Stewardship Coordinator*

Help Conserve the Nature of Vinalhaven

Join us in protecting Vinalhaven's natural beauty with your membership or additional contribution. Use this form or donate online at www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org. Yearly membership is \$20 per person. Thank you!

\$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 Other \$ _____

Check enclosed.

If you'd prefer to pay by credit card or PayPal, please visit our website: vinalhavenlandtrust.org

and click on the Donate Now button. Thank you!

Name _____

Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

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

www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org • 207.863.2543 • PO Box 268 • Vinalhaven, Maine • 04863



Vinalhaven Land Trust conserves and stewards our island's important natural, recreational, and agricultural resources, including scenic and other traditionally valued places, for the benefit and enjoyment of the entire Vinalhaven community. Through education and engagement, VLT seeks to advance understanding and appreciation of the natural world.

Photo: Sheri Romer Brock

