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Please join us in protecting Vinalhaven's natural beauty. To become a member, complete this coupon and return it to the address below or drop by our office in the cottage at Skoog Park. Annual dues (for each calendar year) are \$10 per person.

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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.

Questions? Please call us at (207) 863-2543. Thank you! [www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org)  
Please mail to: Vinalhaven Land Trust • PO Box 268 • Vinalhaven, Maine • 04863

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

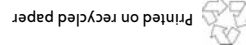


Photo by Kerry Hardy



CONSERVING THE NATURE OF VINALHAVEN

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# Vinalhaven Land Trust

CONSERVING THE NATURE OF VINALHAVEN

NEWSLETTER  
Spring 2014 • Vol. 27, No. 1

## VLT Receives Maine Forest Service "Project Canopy" Grant

In late December of 2013, VLT received welcome news: our proposal to publish a booklet about forest management for coastal landowners had just been awarded a \$6,850 "Project Canopy" grant from the Maine Forest Service (MFS). In our proposal, we pointed out that the growing conditions, species mix, average lot size, harvest economics, and aesthetic parameters are all very different along the coast of Maine from those in the forested interior of the state—all of which the grant reviewers agreed with, to our delight.

"Saltwater Forestry" is the working title for this project, and the goal is to produce a 40-page booklet that gives landowners the basic information they need: how to assess their forest, determine their personal goals, and choose the management approach that best meets their needs. It will include descriptions of native tree species common to the island, a summary of property tax programs and considerations, a list of "best practices" to follow during timber harvests, and

a guide to local human resources—state foresters, private consultants, local woodcutters, and town officials—who can help at each stage of the process.

In early February, VLT hosted an all-day meeting to start the ball rolling on this project. Professional foresters, local woodcutters, woodlot owners, landscape foresters, and caretakers joined us for a tour of a recent logging operation at the north end of the island, followed by a four-hour discussion of relevant issues in island forestry, pleasantly interrupted by a lunch of clam chowder and cornbread supplied by VLT staff. The diverse group of stakeholders covered a lot of ground in this time, and everyone contributed their experiences and opinions freely, giving us valuable pointers on how the booklet could be most useful. Several themes came up time and time again—the need to balance conservation of large parcels against the local tax burden, the need for flexibility and easy implementation of forestry guidelines in conservation

and the responsibilities of large landowners like Vinalhaven Land Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to lead the way by setting a good example on their own preserves.

The booklet will feature specific sites on Vinalhaven as examples, and various local stakeholders will be interviewed and quoted. Production of the document will be overseen by professional forester and VLT board member Chuck Gadzik and MFS district forester Morten Moesswilde, and it is expected to be available for free distribution to residents of Vinalhaven and North Haven early in 2015. In conjunction with this work, VLT will be offering a forest management walk with Chuck and Morten at some point this summer. We hope that many local landowners will join us to gain some insight about how we can all help our forest to sustain the ecology and economy of Vinalhaven.

-Kerry Hardy, Stewardship Coordinator



### VLT IS COUNTING ON YOU!

Along with listening for the peepers and watching for the first pussy willows, renewing your VLT membership is a rite of spring.

Vinalhaven Land Trust is a membership organization. By continuing to be a member (or joining), you affirm that the work we do to protect the wild heritage of Vinalhaven is important to you. You should have recently received your membership renewal letter from VLT, and if you haven't already done so, please take a moment to respond with your donation. You may use the coupon on the back of this newsletter, or click on the "Join Us" link at [www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org](http://www.vinalhavenlandtrust.org).

No matter how you do it, VLT is grateful for your continued support!

## Stewardship

One of the most exciting aspects of the recently completed capital campaign was the strong support our members showed for the stewardship side of it. The campaign was originally conceived by the board as a way to put a stronger foundation under our stewardship work. The response of the people we approached was immediate and enthusiastic. Everyone strongly supported our determination to manage our preserves thoughtfully and to balance the needs of the island's plants, animals, and people.

Of course, there was also great excitement about the other side of the campaign, the protection of Tip Toe Mountain. There was a collective sigh of relief the day we closed on the Tip Toe property. It felt, at the time, like the end of a long and challenging road. Yet perhaps the most important thing about that day was that it was also a beginning. The day we bought Tip Toe, it stopped being a "property" and became a preserve, and what began that day was our stewardship, not only of the preserve, but also of the relationship between the preserve and its people.

The essence of stewardship is relationships, the relationship of the people to the land and the relationship of the generations that protected the land to those that come after. One of the most important stewardship activities that VLT undertakes is not the maintenance of trails, but the introduction of young school children to the island trails. Our preserves provide summer day camp opportunities for junior conservationists in training. Sponsoring satellite trips to Mount Katahdin and helping kids explore tide pools to create a saltwater aquarium are all parts of the connection we try to foster early for future stewards of the land.

One day it will be up to our children to continue the work we have begun. They will be the stewards of our legacy. At the same time, they will be creating legacies of their own. If we want them to value what we are leaving them, we need to be sure they understand why we care about it. When they look back on the campaign that was successfully concluded at the end of 2013, we hope they reflect upon the legacy and the responsibility this generation of stewards—all of us—is passing on and why it matters.

*-Tuck Godfrey, Executive Director, and Elizabeth Swain, chair of Easements and Acquisitions Committee*



Above: *Garland*, 17"x22". For more information, including when and where to buy tickets, please visit our website. For more information about Peter, or to see more of his works, please visit [www.ralstongallery.com](http://www.ralstongallery.com), or his gallery in Rockport, Maine.

Noted Maine photographer Peter Ralston has generously donated one of his beautiful prints to be raffled off to benefit Vinalhaven Land Trust. The winning ticket will be drawn at Annual Meeting at Skoog Park on August 1st. Peter Ralston has photographed the coast of Maine since 1978, drawn especially to the working communities that define coastal Maine's character. Ralston's work has been seen in countless books and magazines, featured on network television and has been exhibited in galleries, collections and museums throughout the United States and abroad. In 2003 he was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree at Colby College for his photography as well as his role as cofounder of the Island Institute.



## Cleaning Up

The sixteen volunteers who gathered near the Granite Island Bridge on a warm, sunny Saturday in mid-April were delighted that spring had finally decided to arrive. Wearing boots and gloves and armed with trash bags, they headed down to the shore, out into the marsh, and along the Granite Island Road right to its terminus to gather the cans, bottles, Styrofoam, plas-

tic, paper and other "treasures" (including a very corroded camera) that had accumulated over the winter. A group ventured down the Granite Island Trail, then walked the shore, gathering trash. Thanks to Kevin Moore and Tuck Godfrey for hauling off two truckloads of debris, and to everyone who came out to help!

## Gearing Up for Island Explorers

Island Explorers is happening again this summer! Sponsored by VLT, it is a day camp focused on nature exploration and fun. In case you missed it last year, we explore habitats and play lots of games to reinforce concepts. Although it happens right after "Scamp" (the school's summer program), it is open to anyone, not just children who attend Scamp. We provide safe, fun, outdoor learning experiences, and also give both island and off-island kids a chance to make new friends. We are based at the Vinalhaven School on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and if weather permits, at Lane's Island on Thursdays to explore the marine environment.

All sessions run from 12 noon to 2:30. Session 1: July 8-10, ages 5-7. Session 2: July 15-17, ages 5-7. Session 3: July 22-24, ages 8-10. Session 4: July 29-31, ages 8-10. Cost: \$30 for Vinalhaven school students, \$60 for children who attend a different school.



The Vital Signs team used these special bands from entomologist, Joe Elkinton, to record the number of female winter moths crawling up our sample trees. These bands capture the moths on the inner side of the plastic so that predators do not eat the data. Photo by Amy Palmer.



## Thanks to You

VLT's 25th Anniversary Campaign officially ended on December 31, 2013 having raised just over \$1,810,000, exceeding our campaign goal of \$1,760,000 by almost 3%. A few highlights:

- Nearly \$555,500 was raised for the purchase of Tip Toe Mountain parcel
- Over \$599,000 was raised specifically for a dedicated investment account for sustained stewardship
- The remaining \$655,500 was dedicated to Any Purpose of the Campaign. Around \$155,000 of this was used to meet the purchase price for the Tip Toe parcel. The balance was used to cover the minor costs of the campaign, acquisition costs (option preparation, title search, land survey, environmental survey, closing costs, etc.) and to add funds to our Stewardship Fund to

ensure that VLT can manage and protect this property in perpetuity, for all of us to enjoy.

- Donations ranged in size from \$10 to \$260,000.
- Approximately 186 individuals or foundations made donations.
- At least 15 donors gave more than once.
- 26 donations were received from 39 supporters who had never given to VLT previously.

This accomplishment reflects a dedicated committee: Dick Byrd, Peggy Ewing, Tuck Godfrey, Ed Hoyt, Jonathan Labaree, Susie Lawrence, Curly Lieber, Lucy McCarthy, Didi Stockly, and Elizabeth Swain. (Pat Lundholm provided web support).

Particular thanks go to our Staff. Kerry Hardy provided support on the land planning and leading tours.

His photographs were used in our brochure. Sheri Romer-Day kept us organized. Representing the office, she generated thank you letters and tax receipts. Linnell Mather guided us in every way, as she continually cheered us on. She generated reports and was willing to provide addresses and telephone numbers whenever we asked. Though new to VLT, Executive Director Tuck Godfrey stepped right in, becoming an invaluable part of the committee and its efforts.

With many thanks to all of you who made this possible,

*Susie Lawrence and Didi Stockly,  
Co-Chairs, 25th Anniversary Campaign Committee*

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 Alton Oakes  
 William Julius Polk, Jr.  
 Emily Byrd and William Saltonstall (2 donations)  
 Emily Byrd and William, Alice, and Leverett Saltonstall  
 Nancy M. Swain  
 Peggy and Ralph Williams

IN MEMORY OF  
 Emily Byrd  
 Millie Cheney  
 Julian and Theresa (Reynolds) Coolidge  
 Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Gates  
 Barbara and George Grogan  
 Helen Mather Handley and Oliver Wilson  
 Handley  
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 L. Emmett Holt 3rd (Bim)  
 Edwin C. Hoyt  
 John P. Jennings  
 Dick and Jo Kimball  
 John E. Lawrence (3 donations)  
 Doobie Nowlan  
 Alton Oakes  
 William Julius Polk, Jr.  
 Emily Byrd and William Saltonstall (2 donations)  
 Emily Byrd and William, Alice, and Leverett Saltonstall  
 Nancy M. Swain  
 Peggy and Ralph Williams

IN HONOR OF  
 Peter H. and Catherine L. Creighton  
 Linda P. Labaree (2)  
 Susan H. Lawrence (3)  
 Lucy McCarthy

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 Abigail Trafford  
 Patience and Patrick Trainor  
 Andy, Kathy and Nora Updegrove  
 Phyllis Vincent  
 Karen and Ryckman Walbridge  
 Linda LaPointe and Ethan Warren  
 Bessy Kong and John Wasielewski  
 Marthena Webster  
 Adam and Lorraine Weinberg  
 Thomas Godfrey, Jr. and Anne Weir  
 Barbara Weitz  
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 Pamela Wetherbee  
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 Taina Litwak  
 Norbert and Roger Longman  
 Frederick and Penelope Lord  
 George and Sarah Loring  
 Ted Johanson and Pat Lundholm  
 David and Sally Wylie  
 Hansjörg Wyss

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.

# President's Message

I'm writing from the *Philbrook*, enjoying a glorious, though surprisingly choppy, crossing (the West PenBay buoy is reporting 4' seas, though I'd swear a few of those swells were a bit more than that). It's the kind of April afternoon that, after a few false starts over the past month, makes you think that the long winter is finally over and spring may actually be on its way. I'm headed over to attend a VLT board meeting. Although I wish it could be a longer visit, I am delighted to have this near-monthly opportunity to gather with my fellow board members— Islanders and seasonal folk alike—to discuss matters at hand for VLT. Our April meeting is when we vote on the budget for the coming year. Nothing signals an organization's priorities like its budget. Ours shows a healthy distribution of focus on stewarding our lands, watching our easements, engaging our neighbors, educating our youth, and attending to the important details of running a small but vibrant organization.

The budget anticipates the coming year, but it also reflects the land trust's past. Every line—of both revenue and expense—bears testament to the hard work and commitment of past boards, staff, volunteers, and members. It is a tremendous honor—and a bit intimidating—to pick up where they left off. Thanks to them, VLT is financially sound, nationally accredited, blessed with beautiful preserves, and actively engaged in the community. I said intimidating, but that's just me. When I look around the table during a board meeting or at the tent full of members at the Annual Meeting, I am astounded and awed by the talent and commitment that each person brings to the Trust. I am honored to be serving as president, grateful to be succeeding Susie Lawrence's strong tenure, and tickled to be following in my mother's footsteps—a decade down the moss-laden path.

*-Jonathan Labaree, President*



*VLT President Jonathan Labaree accepts "View From Big Tip Toe" from artist Elaine Crossman. Crossman, who directs New Era Gallery on Vinalhaven, created fifteen of these hand colored block prints, fourteen of which were given as thank you gifts to the major donors to the 25th Anniversary Campaign. The fifteenth graces our office. Thank you, Elaine! Photo by Kerry Hardy.*

Many thanks to Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), our partner in conservation on Vinalhaven. Since its inception, VLT has been ably guided and supported by them. Over the course of the anniversary campaign, MCHT was an invaluable partner, playing a major role in the effort to save the Tip Toe Mountain parcel from development.

MCHT staff negotiated with the owner to achieve a division of the entire property and commissioned an appraisal of the portion that MCHT and VLT wanted to preserve. MCHT arranged a matching grant from the Pew Charitable Trusts and obtained a significant gift from a major donor, initiatives that delivered a total of 20% of the funds raised for the creation of the Tip Toe Mountain Preserve.

MCHT provides statewide conservation leadership through its work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners, and has been VLT's valued partner right since our earliest days.

## Annual Meeting to Feature Forbes

Vinalhaven Land Trust's Annual Meeting is scheduled for August 1 at 4 p.m., under the tent at Skoog Park. A short business meeting will be followed by our speaker, Peter Forbes, who is on the faculty of Center for Whole Communities in Fayston, VT in the heart of Vermont's Green Mountains, overlooking the Mad River Valley. Peter believes in helping groups "succeed and innovate by living more closely to their visions and values."

A lifelong student and advocate for the relationship between people and place, Forbes has worked with many different people in many different geographies, from remote Nepal to the Rocky Mountains to Central

Harlem, New York. His life as an emergency medical technician, photographer, political consultant, author, father, farmer, and facilitator combines unusual aspects of the very practical with the wildly visionary to produce work that has been helpful to a variety of sectors: conservation, leadership development, sustainability, philanthropy, ethics, and social ventures.

For twenty years, Forbes has been leading learning experiences designed to help people transform their lives and work to better fit their values and to build professional relationships across divides of class, race, profession, and ideology.

The Center for Whole Communities fosters inclu-

sive communities that are strongly rooted in place and where all people—regardless of income, race, or background—have access to and a healthy relationship with the natural world. (For more about Center for Whole Communities, see [www.wholecommunities.org](http://www.wholecommunities.org).)

After a short business meeting and Peter's talk, you are invited to enjoy wine, beer, other beverages and delicious finger food. A chance to mingle with other VLT members, board members, and staff will wrap up the afternoon.

This is a rain or shine event, so be sure to put it on your calendar, and we look forward to seeing you!

# Come Monitoring!

Do you like to be outside? To hike over varied terrain? To go boating? To observe your surroundings? Study property maps? Take detailed notes and photos? Will you commit to conscientiously fill out and submit a form punctually? If yes, monitoring may be for you!

Annual monitoring visits are made by dedicated volunteers to observe, record, and report the conditions and activities on each of the properties entrusted to VLT's stewardship by easement, including a number of nearby islands (Here's where the boating comes in!). Visits and subsequent reporting are critical, ensuring easements are upheld "in perpetuity," regardless of property changing hands.

VLT is responsible for monitoring 37+ easements, seven of which are islands, and all of our fee, or owned, properties. (An easement is a legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. It allows landowners to continue to own and use their land, and they can also sell it or pass it on to heirs.)

The first time I monitored, I had stopped by the office

the week prior to pick up the relevant field books to begin to familiarize myself with each property former VLT staff member Lucy McCarthy and I were going to visit. Each field book provided a wealth of information: the reasons for conservation and values being preserved, the property boundaries, a synopsis of what is permitted or prohibited under the terms of the easement, many relevant photographs and additional maps, and copies of all previous monitoring reports. Reading through past reports was a glimpse at the dedication of volunteers to this effort year after year.

With field books close at hand, Lucy and I began measuring, sometimes with a tape, other times pacing the distance, to locate the roadside boundaries. Referring to the maps, and using a compass borrowed from the VLT office, we transected each property, locating the other boundary markers—sometimes an iron rebar, a pipe, a drill hole in a boulder or ledge, or, my favorite, a granite post. A treasure hunt, of sorts! We measured, getting acquainted with the lay of the land, taking ample time to photograph and write detailed notes pertaining to our route, recording any changes

since the last visit, and noting points of interest such as the weather, animal and/or plant life.

With our walkabout complete by mid-day, I transferred my notes to the report form Sheri Romer-Day, co-chair of the monitoring committee, had emailed to all monitors. Returned, reviewed, and signed, copies of each report would then be sent to the respective landowners and filed at the VLT office, with the original stored securely off-site.

Does spending a day outdoors with a camera and compass sound appealing? We can always use help! Would you be interested in becoming a monitor and, after a training session with an experienced monitor, being responsible for overseeing one or more easements? Please call if you are interested. The office phone number is (207) 863-2543.

-Thena Webster, Co-Chair, Monitoring Committee

Members of the Monitoring Committee are Sheri Romer-Day and Marthena Webster, Co-Chairs, Pam C. Alley, Jim Boone, Munch Grogan, Patience Trainor, and VLT's Steward Kerry Hardy.



## An Early Spring Hike

In early April, VLT's environmental educator Amy Palmer led kids Pre-K through grade 2 and grades 3 through 5 on separate hikes of the Granite Island Trail out to the Basin as part of "Perspectives After School," a program jointly sponsored by the ARC and Partners in Island Education. These were the first truly spring-like days of the year and everyone was psyched to be outside to enjoy the beauty of the Vinalhaven woods and shoreline.

As part of the program, Amy helped the kids learn more about the differences between fir and spruce trees, and explore the lush mosses and blown down trees. She also called attention to the man-made features of the trail, like the abandoned granite quarries.

The 3rd through 5th grade group particularly enjoyed learning about the huge glacial erratic on the trail, thinking about glaciers and

how Vinalhaven used to be part of the mainland back when water levels were much lower. The groups followed the blazes to the Basin and enjoyed a little time exploring tide pools and discovering the close-up fun of periwinkles as well as the far-off view of the wind towers over the Basin.

On our Thursday hike with PreK-2nd grade kids, 22 kids attended—a record! These outings were made possible by many people and organizations: volunteers drove and chaperoned, the ARC provided a nourishing trail mix snack, PIE and VLT provided financial support, and Amy, of course, led the charge. This is one of VLT's more accessible trails, and it is great when even our very young ones can be introduced to some of the beauties of nature that VLT has protected for us all.

The entire VLT family extends its gratitude to Sheri Romer-Day, VLT's Office Assistant and Accreditation Coordinator, for her devoted service to the organization. Sheri was instrumental in helping VLT achieve accreditation in 2012 from the Land Trust Alliance. Sheri served on the board before joining the staff and has for many years guided the easement monitoring process. She has moved on from VLT and will be greatly missed.

