



Saco Bay Trails Annual Report 2020



Members

Ron Albert
 Anne Andrie *
 Linda Beane
 Blanche Belliveau *
 Denise Benedict *
 Carol Benoit Reynolds
 Michael Berkowitz
 Susan Penna Bernier
 Jed Bloom *
 Max and Maria Brandt
 Jacqueline Bucar
 Richard Buhr
 Joan Buotte
 James and Susan Burnell
 D.M. Capezzuto *
 Heather Clark
 Denise Clavette *
 Cathy Coffman
 Nan Cone
 Lynn Copeland
 Sharon Danis *
 Odette Dansereau
 Doug Dolan *
 Timothy Dunn *
 Joy and Roland Eon
 Glenn Evans
 Caryl Everett
 Bob Faucher
 Josh Fecteau
 Jan Filgate
 Roberta Gallant
 Charles and Ann Garland
 Catherine Giuffre *
 John and Susan Gold
 Ryan Gorman
 Fran Halamandaris
 Vietta Hamblen
 Jane and Bob Hamblen
 Marcia Hanson
 Deborah Hjort *
 Andrew Holbrook
 Jean Horton
 Dennis Jackson *

Bill and Mary Johnson
 David Kortz
 Janice Lane
 Stephen & Susan Littlefield
 Karen and Marston Lovell
 Joyce Mailman
 Karen Malmgren
 Dorothy Mathes
 Christine McAuliffe *
 Leanna and Mike McCausland
 Deborah and Christopher McKenney
 Gail Merritt
 Adam Mumm *
 Connie and Bruce Napolitano
 Katy Nicketakis
 Lawrence Olasky *
 Shawn and Amy Ouellette
 Sheila Painchaud
 Fred Parent
 Patti and Malcolm Poole
 Lynn Quincy *
 Mogens and Donna Ravn
 Neil Raymond
 John Morrill Read
 Burgess and Sandra Record
 Patricia Remillard *
 John Riordan
 Sharon Robinson
 Dan Ross
 George Roth
 Susan Slee *
 Donald Smith *
 Rosemarie Smith
 Rachel Smith
 Lynn Soucy *
 Andrea Stark
 Jim Swain
 Jack Thompson
 Elaine Vadeboncoeur
 Daniel Williams *
 Patricia Wright *

* = new members

Saco Bay Trails
 P.O. Box 720
 Saco, Maine 04072
 We are a 501(c)(3) organization

Trustees

Dan Ross, President
 Ryan Gorman, Vice President
 Janice Lane, Secretary
 Patti Poole, Treasurer
 Joyce Mailman
 John Riordan
 Andrew Holbrook

Advisory Trustees

Michael Bolduc
 Max Brandt
 Jacqui Bucar
 Nan Cone
 Eric Cote
 Ted Cotsis
 Odette Dansereau
 Caryl Everett
 John Gold
 Thomas Goulding
 Bob Hamblen
 Jane Hamblen
 Joe Hirsch
 Jean Horton
 Andrew B. Hutchinson
 Bill & Mary Johnson
 William S. Kany, Esq.
 Donald Lauzier
 James & Edna Leary
 Dan Letellier
 Stephen & Susan Littlefield
 Matt McBean
 Deborah McKenney
 Jonathan Mistos
 Bruce Napolitano
 Marie O'Brien
 Shawn Patrick Ouellette
 Sheila Painchaud
 John Morrill Read
 Carol Benoit Reynolds
 Kenneth Rice
 Elaine Vadeboncoeur
 Martha M. Wood

Annual report design

Custom Communications, Inc.
 7 Pilgrim Lane
 Saco, Maine 04072

Cover photo: The Wildwood Trail. Photo by Jack Thompson. Other photography by Joyce Mailman, City of Saco Communications/Andrew Dickinson, Dan Ross.

Mission



Saco Bay Trails' mission is to create and maintain this network of trails and to promote its acceptance and use by the public. We are an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to creating and maintaining recreational trails in the Saco Bay Area.

We envision a permanent network of free, easily accessible, well-maintained, well-marked and well-publicized trails, which people with a broad range of abilities can use and enjoy.

President's Letter

The year 2020 will be remembered for many reasons. At Saco Bay Trails, we will remember it as a year when we rose to many challenges and responded to the urgent need of our community for a safe, convenient space to get outdoors and enjoy the quiet pleasures of nature.

Our challenges were varied. The global pandemic, of course, upset the lives and routines of every resident, family, visitor, business and activity in the Saco Bay region. Our thoughts go out to all who suffered from this disease, and to those whose lives were turned upside-down by its impact. Saco Bay Trails did our best to support you by keeping our trails open and safe throughout the year, even while other trails and parks in the area closed. Our trails were used more heavily last year than any of us can ever remember, some so heavily they now need more repair. We do not think of this as a problem but as a sign we served our community in its time of need.

In addition to the pandemic, many of our trails were in urgent need of repair or improvement. Elsewhere in this report, you will read of Andrew Holbrook's epic undertaking to rebuild the largest bridge in our system, over Stackpole Creek in Horton Woods, and how our members and volunteers rerouted Ted Wells Trail to a new view of Goosefare Brook, built two new bridges on Wildwood Trail, restored Middle Goosefare after it was logged, bridged a longstanding muddy spot on Plymouth and Vines, and completed other improvements. Through it all, we continued our monthly Work/Walk Parties along with routine maintenance and other activities like the annual bird walk at Laurel Hills. Great work, everyone!

But in this letter I'd rather dwell on the future than the past. In the coming year, we plan to add two important new trails to our network.

Wildwood Trail is an abandoned logging road connecting Ocean Greens Drive with Wildwood Drive through the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in Saco. It continued to be used over the years by community members who bridged several gaps with makeshift but dangerous wooden structures. As part of the Memorandum of Understanding we signed with Rachel Carson last winter, we gained the authority to rehabilitate this trail as well as manage our other trails in

what they call its Goosefare Division. John Riordan led a large team of members, neighbors and other volunteers to immediately build the first of two new bridges, and put up a temporary crossing at the second. This year, we plan to officially open the trail by completing the second bridge, installing new signage and a bench or two, and building a kiosk at the Wildwood trailhead. (The Ocean Greens kiosk will have to wait a little longer.) This trail will be a great addition to our network of trails in the coastal region of South Saco. We thank the wildlife refuge for its support, including the funding of

these improvements. We hope in the near future to find ways to connect all our trails in this region, together with Ferry Beach State Park, to build a veritable Saco Coastway of trails stretching from Goosefare Brook to the Saco River.

River Bend Trail will be a short but important addition to our network in North Saco. To be built on the new campus of The Ecology School on Simpson Road, it will connect to Horton Woods via Stone Bridge Trail and lead to a beautiful overlook at the confluence of Stackpole Creek and the Saco River – the first of our trails ever to reach the river! Parking will be available during daylight hours at the trailhead just off the school's driveway, or you can park at Horton Woods and hike three-and-a-half miles to the river and back. This short-but-

scenic addition will reinforce Horton Woods' prominence as the jewel of our trail system and a destination for hikers from around southern Maine. Many thanks go to the Saco Conservation Commission and Saco Parks and Recreation Department for helping to fund this trail, and to The Ecology School for its support and, of course, use of its property.

Finally, this year we will expand our popular Spring Bird Walks with Josh Fecteau to a series of three consecutive Thursday mornings on May 6, May 13 and May 20 at 7am. Our Work/Walk Parties will resume in May on the second Saturday of every month (except August) at 9 am. Mark your calendars!

Whether you're walking or working, snowshoeing or bird-watching, we hope to see you out on the trails this year staying healthy, happy and safe. As we say each year, "Take a hike!"

Dan Ross



A volunteer paints a blaze on a tree on the Ted Wells Trail in Ocean Park.



Despite the pandemic, we were able to continue with many of our activities by adopting CDC safety guidelines including masking and social distancing. At left, participants enjoyed a guided bird walk led by Josh Fecteau in Laurel Hill Cemetery. At right and below volunteers work on bog bridges on the Plymouth Spur.



Atlantic Way

This trail continues to be well used by locals and visitors for biking, walking and running. We held a work party on the Plymouth spur last spring and installed new bog bridging to make a crossing over the worst part of the trail. We'll revisit if there are any issues with ice shifting the bridges over the winter. The bridges near the Plymouth neighborhood will need maintenance this coming year. We also hope to do some work on the culverts underneath the Atlantic Way route.

Wildwood Trail

Although not officially a trail yet, we have held several work parties to bring this existing path up to Saco Bay Trails' standards. John Riordan has led the efforts to build and install a new bridge at the Wildwood end and provide

temporary bridging closer to the Ocean Greens end. Anyone who uses this trail or the Atlantic Way Trail will appreciate the quality and beauty of John's bridges. This coming year we will be providing a permanent bridge for the second crossing. A new kiosk will be installed at the Wildwood Drive trailhead this year; we hope to add one at Ocean Greens Drive before too long. When finished, Wildwood Trail will provide an excellent extension to Atlantic Way Trail as well as some beautiful vistas over the Rachel Carson Preserve. We are really excited about this addition to our trail system.

Cascade Falls

The Cascade Falls continues to be our most visited "trail". The area gets an additional vehicle load from people using the parking lot for access to the Eastern Trail.



We made very good progress on the new Wildwood Trail which follows an old logging road on Rachel Carson land between the end of Wildwood Drive and Ocean Greens Drive. Clockwise from top: Volunteers work on a temporary bridge; moving a completed bridge into place at the start of the trail; wheelbarrows lined up for moving several tons of gravel that was used to improve the trailbed.



The City of Saco has taken over more of the maintenance and improvements at this park. The City installed a trash receptacle that has greatly aided in keeping refuse under control. The City is also planning to provide a replacement bridge over the stream. This project is in the design and permitting phase. It is hoped that the bridge will be installed in 2021 despite municipal belt tightening. Saco Bay Trails will be providing new signage and rerouting pathways once the bridge is installed.

Ted Wells Trail

With the permission of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center, and the Old Orchard Beach Conservation Committee, we have rerouted this trail to a new lookout over the Rachel Carson Preserve. Led by Ryan Gorman, Saco Bay Trails installed new bog bridges

and trail signs. A small platform and bench will be installed in 2021. This trail is mainly used by the local community. We hope that with the recent improvements and a new viewing platform, more visitors will discover it and take the scenic walk at this lovely and peaceful location.

Middle Goosefare

This hidden gem is underused considering its location and terrain. Improvements were made to the bog bridges last year, and the trail was restored after some logging along the top of the hill. The Brandt/Ouellette family provided the routine maintenance and thanks to them, this trail is in good shape. It could use a sign facing the Eastern Trail letting people know of its existence.

TRAILS continued on next page

Trails Report

TRAILS, from previous page

Ferry Landing

The Ferry Landing Trail is in good condition due to the efforts of a Saco Bay Trails member who lives in the vicinity. Every year about 30 to 40 boards rot out and need to be replaced. We are using pressure treated wood for the replacements so we hope this trail will be an easy walk for a long time to come. This trail is mainly used by the local community.

Sylvan Trail

The Sylvan Trail continues to be well used by locals, particularly those walking their dogs. This is also a very good trail for cross country skiing. Generally, this trail requires very little maintenance with a yearly mowing being the primary activity. This trail is on privately owned land and the land owner promotes in-season hunting and trapping on the property. We have added signage to the area to make visitors aware of these conditions.

Horton Woods

Probably our most popular trail after the Cascade, Horton Woods remains a pleasure for those looking for a nearby hike in the Maine woods. Other than replacing the Stackpole Creek Bridge with a steel span (see separate article on page 8), this trail did not receive much in the way of maintenance last year. The popularity of the trail has kept the pathways well cleared but has also led to a condition at the beginning of the trail where tree roots are coming out of the ground and making for difficult footing. We are looking at various remedies and a raised gravel path with culverts through this area may need to be installed. Marcus Gaudet, a local Boy Scout with Troop 310 has taken on a project to improve the trail signage throughout the trail system for his Eagle Project. With the bridge project out of the way, we will get back to the clipping and weed whacking this trail needs every year.

Andrew Holbrook



Volunteers post a sign marking the end of the Ted Wells trail.

Annual Appeal Donors

Many thanks to all who responded to our annual appeal this year. We raised over \$2,000, an increase of 6% over the previous year.

Dale & Melissa Armstrong
Linda Beane
Susan Penna Bernier
Jed Bloom
Jacqueline Bucar
Richard Buhr
Joan Buotte
Cathy Coffman
Nan Cone
Odette Dansereau
Joy Elsner
Joy and Roland Eon
Caryl Everett
Charles & Ann Garland
John and Susan Gold
Fran Halamandaris
Vietta Hamblen
Ronald and Patricia Harwood
Andrew Holbrook
Bill & Mary Johnson
David Kortz

Joyce Mailman
Karen Malmgren
Deborah and Christopher McKenney
Ernest and Gail Merritt
Maurice and Claudette Nadeau
Ray and Molly Ouellette
Shawn and Amy Ouellette
Sheila Painchaud
Fred Parent
Jane Perkins
Patti and Malcolm Poole
Mogens and Donna Ravn
Neil Raymond
Burgess and Sandra Record
Patricia Remillard
Dan Ross
George Roth
Donald Smith
Andrea Stark
Judy Tripp
Martha Wood

Saco Bay Trails Profit and Loss: Prev. Year Comparison: January - December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	Jan - Dec 19	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Donations				
Annual Appeal	2,109.51	1,985.90	123.61	6.2%
General donation	663.23	1,422.83	-759.60	-53.4%
SacoBidefordSavings Doer P...	195.00	0.00	195.00	100.0%
Total Donations	2,967.74	3,408.73	-440.99	-12.9%
Fundraising				
Bench Fund	0.00	206.67	-206.67	-100.0%
Memberships	2,700.80	1,529.63	1,171.17	76.6%
Trail Guides	547.55	454.05	93.50	20.6%
Total Fundraising	3,248.35	2,190.35	1,058.00	48.3%
Interest Income	45.81	172.16	-126.35	-73.4%
Total Income	6,261.90	5,771.24	490.66	8.5%
Expense				
Administrative Expenses				
Annual Meeting	0.00	36.38	-36.38	-100.0%
Annual Report Expenses	212.93	127.94	84.99	66.4%
Donations	0.00	25.00	-25.00	-100.0%
Filing Fees	30.00	39.95	-9.95	-24.9%
Insurance	1,599.75	1,250.00	349.75	28.0%
Letterhead/envelope printing	0.00	189.79	-189.79	-100.0%
Maine Annual Report	35.00	35.00	0.00	0.0%
Membership Software	421.20	421.20	0.00	0.0%
Misc. office supplies/copy chgs	0.00	71.09	-71.09	-100.0%
Office Supplies	246.26	84.14	162.12	192.7%
Post Office Box Rental	190.00	176.00	14.00	8.0%
Postage	271.70	233.75	37.95	16.2%
Storage Space Rent	840.00	589.00	251.00	42.6%
Website expenses	313.88	313.88	0.00	0.0%
Total Administrative Expenses	4,160.72	3,593.12	567.60	15.8%
Fundraising Expense				
Annual Appeal	220.00	0.00	220.00	100.0%
Annual Appeal Postage	220.00	0.00	220.00	100.0%
Trail guide printing	563.37	0.00	563.37	100.0%
Total Fundraising Expense	783.37	0.00	783.37	100.0%
Outreach Expenses				
Advertising	52.40	0.00	52.40	100.0%
Brochure Printing	0.00	37.19	-37.19	-100.0%
General event expense	0.00	70.13	-70.13	-100.0%
Outreach Expenses - Other	50.00	353.56	-303.56	-85.9%
Outreach Postage	105.79	0.00	105.79	100.0%
Trail Map Printing	620.72	0.00	620.72	100.0%
Outreach Expenses - Other	114.80	0.00	114.80	100.0%
Total Outreach Expenses	943.71	460.88	482.83	104.8%
Taxes				
Taxes (state/federal)	35.37	23.61	11.76	49.8%
Total Taxes	35.37	23.61	11.76	49.8%
Trails Expense				
Horton Bridge Project	3,506.32	0.00	3,506.32	100.0%
Trail Building & Maintenance	1,194.65	0.00	1,194.65	100.0%
Trails Expense - Other	0.00	2,194.07	-2,194.07	-100.0%
Total Trails Expense	4,700.97	2,194.07	2,506.90	114.3%
Volunteers				
Gifts for leaving board members	0.00	190.00	-190.00	-100.0%
Miscellaneous expenses	50.00	0.00	50.00	100.0%
Total Volunteers	50.00	190.00	-140.00	-73.7%
Total Expense	10,674.14	6,461.68	4,212.46	65.2%
Net Ordinary Income	-4,412.24	-690.44	-3,721.80	-539.1%
Net Income	-4,412.24	-690.44	-3,721.80	-539.1%



Exploring an interesting tree in Horton Woods.

Balance Sheet

	Dec 31, 20
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Paypal	633.64
Petty Cash	17.75
SBS - Middle Goosefare	3,232.30
SBS - Savings Capital Account	21,299.09
SBSI Checking	4,935.76
Total Checking/Savings	30,118.54
Total Current Assets	30,118.54
Fixed Assets	
Land Values	12,000.00
Total Fixed Assets	12,000.00
Other Assets	
Equipment and Supplies	1,782.00
Total Other Assets	1,782.00
TOTAL ASSETS	43,900.54
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	56,447.74
Retained Earnings	-2,684.46
write off/depreciation of asset	-5,450.50
Net Income	-4,412.24
Total Equity	43,900.54
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	43,900.54

Annual Meeting Minutes

Due to the pandemic, we cancelled our 2020 Annual Meeting. There were no changes in the officers or board membership.

Project of 2020: The Horton Woods Bridge Replacement



Above: Clearly, we weren't going to get another two years out of the bridge crossing Stackpole Creek. Heavy snow broke one of the log stringers supporting the structure. Next two: The steel I-beams fit perfectly. At right, putting on the finishing touches. At left, the finished product as seen from the air.



We had big plans for various projects in 2020 but physics and Mother Nature had other ideas for us. We knew that the bridge crossing the Stackpole Creek in Horton Woods was beginning to decay, but we thought we had another two years to plan for a replacement. We were proved wrong after a heavy wet snow in late March. The load on the bridge was too much and one of the log stringers crossing the creek broke apart.

The bridge was originally built by the Appalachian Mountain Club and our first thought was to ask them to replace it. Unfortunately, they were too busy with their own projects to help us out. The City already had enough on its plate with the Cascade Falls Bridge, so out of better options, we decided to get it done ourselves.

Luckily the hardest part of the bridge was already in place in the form of the two abutments. With the help of a couple volunteers, we cut up and removed the old bridge railing deck and stringers. John Riordan came down and helped to take the measurements. We needed to provide a level surface for the new steel cross beams to rest on so Jim Burnell gave up a day to come out and help install the anchor bolts and sleepers. We ordered the steel beams and had all the bolt holes predrilled to minimize the amount of work we'd have to do "in the field". Then we crossed our fingers that all the dimensions were correct.

The steel was delivered and we had to figure out a way

to get it down to the creek. Jean Horton let us use her tractor and property get the steel down there. Our hero, Mike McCausland, took charge of moving the beams and after a couple of hard afternoons and a few learning moments we had them down there.

To put the beams in place, we hired a local contractor to get down to the creek with a small excavator. Each beam weighs 500 lbs. and had to be placed in just the right spot to get everything to line up. Ryan Gorman, Clint Chase, Dan Ross, Andrew Holbrook and Mike all volunteered to assist in installing the steel and fastening it together. It was a big day and thankfully, it went well. AND EVERYTHING FIT TOGETHER.

After that, it was relatively easy. We put up the railing posts, the indefatigable Mike McCausland worked to put in the nailers and bring down the rest of the materials. We had one last work party to screw on the deck and railings. Sue Slee, Joy, a father-son team, Dan Ross and of course Mike did that in a few hours.

Patti Poole kept track of all our costs and the City of Saco Parks and Rec Department provided half the funds for the materials and contractor help. Thank you. Most importantly we thank the members of Saco Bay Trails who provided the other half of the cost and continue to support our organization for the benefit all.

Andrew Holbrook