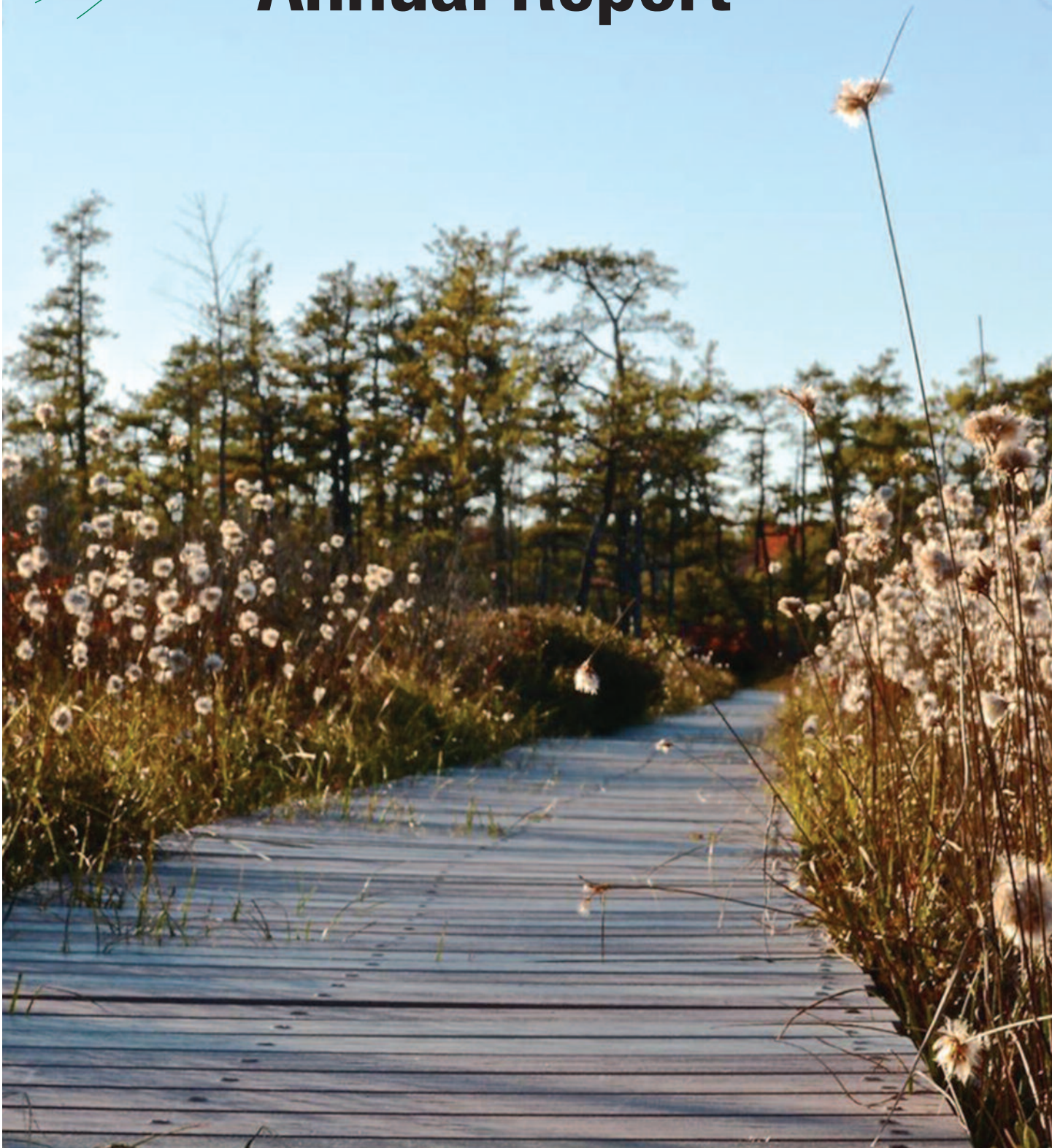




# 2019 **Saco Bay Trails Annual Report**



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Linda Beane  
Marjorie Belanger  
Carol Benoit Reynolds  
Michael Berkowitz  
Susan Bernier  
Barbara Boutet  
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Jacqueline Bucar  
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Joy Elsner  
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Robertta Gallant  
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Jim Swain  
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Saco Bay Trails  
P.O. Box 720  
Saco, Maine 04072  
We are a 501(c)(3) organization

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### Annual report design

Custom Communications, Inc.  
22 Monument Sq., Suite 501  
Portland, Maine 04101

**Cover photo:** Saco Heath by Laura Hughes

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Martha Wood



## President's Letter

Dear Members & Friends,

I'm proud to have completed my first year as President of Saco Bay Trails. Thanks to the effort of our hard-working members and Board, it's been a busy and productive year. The results have been generally positive, with one spectacular setback along the way.

Who will forget the emotional roller-coaster ride that was Cascade Falls Park? The renewal of this long-neglected jewel was just getting underway when it was struck by disaster. A brand new bridge built by the City of Saco and Maine Conservation Corps was washed away by a record-breaking 4.9" of rain, sending large chunks of the bridge downstream and some over the falls itself.

Cascade Falls is a public-private partnership; we maintain the trails while the City has overall responsibility for the park. When the storm struck, Saco Bay Trails had just finished building a new trail across the bridge to the paths and attractions on the far bank of Cascade Brook. At this point, we need to wait for the City to determine next steps for the bridge before we can resume work on the trails. Fortunately, all the bridges on our other trails survived the deluge. This is a testament to the skill and foresight of our talented, hard-working volunteers who designed and built them.

From a long-term perspective, the most important initiative in 2019 may have been our Work/Walk Parties. We started a new routine of gathering monthly to work, walk or both. By combining trail maintenance with group walks, Work/Walk Parties now give our members a chance to get together—and get something done—on a regular, predictable schedule. We will continue the Work/Walk Parties in 2020, but change the dates to the second Saturday of each month (except August). The season will get underway at 9am on May 9th. As before, locations will be announced by email, in social media, and on our website.

Another important development of the past year has been to formalize our relationship with the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. We signed a renewable five-year agreement with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service this January, giving Saco Bay Trails the responsibility of maintaining trails in the Goosefare Brook Division of the refuge. We will work collaboratively with the staff of Rachel Carson this year to rehabilitate the old Wildwood Trail from Ocean Greens Drive to Wildwood Drive in Saco, and make improvements to Ted Wells Trail and Vines Trail.

And that's not all! We reworked a stream crossing at Horton



*At top, Saco Bay Trails President Dan Ross (third from left) poses with members of a work party crew. Above, birdwatchers at Laurel Hill Cemetery. At left, a winter hike on the Middle Goosefare Trail.*

Woods, installed a memorial bench on Atlantic Way Trail, watched birds together in Laurel Hills Cemetery, improved our kiosks across our trail network, launched a new Instagram site, and upgraded our Facebook page to make it easier for you to follow us. As this report went to press, we were planning a new winter gathering to swap tales of trails (over ales) at Run of the Mill.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our members, and particularly the Board members who dedicate so much time behind the scenes. In 2020–21, Andrew Holbrook, Janice Lane, John Riordan, Joyce Mailman, Patti Poole and Ryan Gorman will continue their service on the Board, while Bruce Napolitano steps off and Clint Chase joins us. Ryan Gorman will also accept new responsibilities as Vice President of Saco Bay Trails.

A special Thank You is sent to Odette Dansereau who has retired from the Board after 12 years. Besides organizing and running our most popular group walks, story walks and our booth at the Saco Arts Festival, Odette's sunny personality has made her a joy to work with. Luckily Odette will continue to participate in Saco Bay Trails' events.

With best wishes for another active and productive year,

*Dan Ross*





*We did some work on our trailhead kiosks in 2019. Top left, the kiosk marking one end of the Atlantic Way. We had help on our trails from a number of groups, including these students from the University of New England, above and this Thornton Academy student, at left.*

### Cascade Trail

The Cascade had an eventful year. Efforts by the Saco Conservation Commission, the Saco Parks and Recreation Department and Saco Bay Trails combined to make notable improvements to the park. The Kiosk was updated, trails were rehabilitated, trail signage was improved, safety fences were installed and a foot bridge went in above the Falls. The bridge and safety fencing opened up the most scenic areas of the park to the public and have created a new appreciation for the Cascade. Unfortunately, the bridge was swept away during a heavy rainstorm. The City is in the early stages of planning another, more substantial, bridge.

### Sylvan Trail

Several work parties were held at the Sylvan Trail to rebuild the small bridge and do our usual trail maintenance. The Kiosk was updated. The land owner at the Sylvan Trail reached out to us to ensure we installed signage warning users that hunting is permitted on the property. This trail is well used by hunters and walkers exercising their dogs.

### Ted Wells Trail

It was a quiet year for the Ted Wells Trail. Plans for improving the Trail are under discussion with the Old Orchard Beach Conservation Committee and need to be finalized and submitted to the Rachel Carson Preserve. Trail usage has decreased after the removal of the Boardwalk and is mainly used by the local community, summer visitors and the Oceanwood Camp and Conference Center.

### Ferry Landing Trail

This peaceful trail continues to attract locals looking for a quiet walk. We have kept up the yearly board replacements. The annual application of preservative has slowed the rate of deterioration but eventually the entire deck will have been replaced with pressure treated boards. A wind storm dropped a sizable tree on the trail, this was cleaned up and the trail is in good shape. The kiosk was updated.

### Horton Woods

This beautiful trail network is well used and is in good shape. The City resurfaced the parking area, new signage was installed at the access road, and the creek crossing on the Stackpole Bridge Trail was improved. We also trimmed the Trail in early summer but did not get a late season trimming in – which the Trail could have used. We were not able to extend the Trail to the Saco River as the costs associated with safety fencing and the lack of a parking area on the Simpson Road proved to be insurmountable obstacles. Planning for rebuilding the Stackpole creek bridge has started.

### Plymouth-Vines and Atlantic Trail

This popular trail is used throughout the year by the local community. Projects for the coming year include replacing one of the bridges on the Vines Trail and improving the bog bridges at the junction of the Plymouth and Atlantic Way Trails.



## Work/Walk Parties, 2019



*Starting last year, monthly Work/Walk Parties gave members of Saco Bay Trails the opportunity to work and walk together on a regular schedule. We made improvements to Atlantic Way, Horton Woods, Ferry Landing, Sylvan, Vines and Cascade Falls trails. Snacks were provided. Next year's Work/Walk Parties will be on the second Saturday of each month from May to November (except August). Times and locations will be announced in emails, social media and on our website.*



## Saco Bay Trails Profit and Loss: Prev. Year Comparison: January - December 2019

	Jan - Dec 19	Jan - Dec 18	\$ Change	% Change
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
<b>Donations</b>				
Annual Appeal	2,085.90	1,460.00	625.90	42.9%
General donation	1,422.83	1,786.22	-363.39	-20.3%
Memorial Donations	0.00	1,240.00	-1,240.00	-100.0%
SacoBiddefordSavings Doer Prog	0.00	200.00	-200.00	-100.0%
<b>Total Donations</b>	3,508.73	4,686.22	-1,177.49	-25.1%
<b>Fundraising</b>				
Bench Fund	206.67	0.00	206.67	100.0%
Clynk Fund	0.00	15.00	-15.00	-100.0%
Memberships	1,529.63	2,003.52	-473.89	-23.7%
Trail Guides	454.05	445.66	8.39	1.9%
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	2,190.35	2,464.18	-273.83	-11.1%
<b>Interest Income</b>	172.16	136.02	36.14	26.6%
<b>Total Income</b>	5,871.24	7,286.42	-1,415.18	-19.4%
<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>				
Annual Meeting	36.38	34.98	1.40	4.0%
Annual Report Expenses	127.94	157.56	-29.62	-18.8%
Bank Fees	0.00	23.55	-23.55	-100.0%
Donations	25.00	50.00	-25.00	-50.0%
Filing Fees	39.95	39.95	0.00	0.0%
Insurance	1,250.00	500.00	750.00	150.0%
Letterhead/envelope printing	189.79	247.87	-58.08	-23.4%
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	71.09	0.00	71.09	100.0%
Office Supplies	84.14	55.56	28.58	51.4%
Post Office Box Rental	176.00	166.00	10.00	6.0%
Postage	233.75	359.04	-125.29	-34.9%
Storage Space Rent	589.00	513.00	76.00	14.8%
Website expenses	313.88	290.84	23.04	7.9%
<b>Total Administrative Expenses</b>	3,593.12	2,894.55	698.57	24.1%
<b>Fundraising Expense</b>				
Park Benches	0.00	232.98	-232.98	-100.0%
Trail guide printing	0.00	884.09	-884.09	-100.0%
<b>Total Fundraising Expense</b>	0.00	1,117.07	-1,117.07	-100.0%
<b>Outreach Expenses</b>				
Brochure Printing	37.19	0.00	37.19	100.0%
General event expense	70.13	0.00	70.13	100.0%
Outreach Expenses - Other	353.56	175.00	178.56	102.0%
Outreach Expenses - Other	0.00	776.12	-776.12	-100.0%
<b>Total Outreach Expenses</b>	460.88	951.12	-490.24	-51.5%
<b>Taxes</b>				
Taxes (state/federal)	23.61	24.20	-0.59	-2.4%
<b>Total Taxes</b>	23.61	24.20	-0.59	-2.4%
<b>Trails Expense</b>	2,194.07	1,155.69	1,038.38	89.9%
<b>Volunteers</b>				
Gifts for leaving board members	190.00	0.00	190.00	100.0%
<b>Total Volunteers</b>	190.00	0.00	190.00	100.0%
<b>Total Expense</b>	6,461.68	6,142.63	319.05	5.2%
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	-590.44	1,143.79	-1,734.23	-151.6%
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-590.44</b>	<b>1,143.79</b>	<b>-1,734.23</b>	<b>-151.6%</b>



## Balance Sheet

Dec 31, 19

### ASSETS

#### Current Assets

##### Checking/Savings

##### Paypal

Transfer to SVCU

Paypal - Other

-100.00

384.17

Total Paypal

284.17

##### Petty Cash

17.75

##### SBS - Middle Goosefare

3,228.39

##### SBS - Savings Capital Account

28,174.04

##### SBSI Checking

2,926.43

Total Checking/Savings

34,630.78

Total Current Assets

34,630.78

#### 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

**48,412.78**

### LIABILITIES & EQUITY

#### Equity

##### Opening Bal Equity

56,447.74

##### Retained Earnings

-1,994.02

##### write off/depreciation of asset

-5,450.50

##### Net Income

-590.44

Total Equity

48,412.78

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY

**48,412.78**



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.

## Annual Meeting Minutes: March 30, 2010, People's Choice Credit Union, Saco, ME

President Andrew Holbrook called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. 16 members were present.

Andrew announced that Ryan Gorman would be presented later as a candidate to join our board.

Plans for the coming year including first Saturday of the month work/walk parties. May will be held at Atlantic Way and June will be at Horton Woods.

Andrew announced that we have lost three trails in the past years. Log Cabin, Sawmill and Ted Wells. Andrew explained the reasons for these closures.

President Holbrook summarized our organization as a steady.

Trail work in 2018 included work parties by Idexx employees and UNE students. Andrew recognized Bruce Napolitano, John Roirdan and Jim Brunell for their trail work and

bridge building. Matt McBean worked to survey our membership to determine priorities and expectations.

Outreach activities included Trail locator maps created by Dan Ross and John Gold. We hosted a bird walk in Laurel Hill Cemetery with Josh Fecteau, a Star Party in Kennebunk and a guided walk on the Middle Goosefare trail. We were unable to participate in the 2018 Saco Sidewalk Art Festival due to lack of people to man our booth. Ryan Gorman will be representing us with the Saco Conservation Committee. Andrew also thanked John Gold for his work on our publications.

Andrew once again appealed to members for volunteers to help lead work parties and provide assistance with administrative tasks

Andrew reported the sad new of Don Horton's passing.

Minutes ontinued on next page

## Minutes, continued from previous page

Treasurer Patti Poole provided the membership with an overview of our income and expenses for the previous year.

Andrew introduced Dan Ross as the person who would assume the duties of President in the coming year. Dan thanked Andrew for his leadership and presented him with a gift certificate as a thank you from SBT. Andrew will continue to be responsible for leading our trail work efforts.

Dan introduced himself as a retired marketing executive from New York who had summered here for 19 years and retired to Saco three years ago.

Andrew and Dan asked the members present if they would be in favor of paying to build the trail beside the Ecology School to connect to our Horton Woods trails. It would benefit our trails if they could be connected to the river and Simpson Road.

The new Ecology School on the Simpson Road is required to build a public trail beside the river as part of their agreement with the city for permission to build the school on the former Merrill farm. They have asked for our help to build this trail. Challenges to building this trail include the lack of off street parking on the Simpson Rd. The trail would connect to the trails from Horton Woods, but would need parking on the Simpson Road end. Another challenge would be the steep river banks that cause safety concerns and would need permits before work could be done.

Jane Hamblen asked if the Ecology School would be paying part or all of the trail. John Gold asked about the possibility of parking on the Ecology school grounds to access the trail. The school has safety concerns with public parking on the grounds of the school as there are children who will be staying on the grounds. John Gold questioned whether we wanted to pay for a trail that would not have public parking to provide access to the trail. Jane Hamblen suggested that since the school is required to build the trail, they should at least pay have of the cost of building the trail if we partner with them. Sheila Painchaud suggested that since they are required by the city to build the trail, we should let them fund the trail. Jane suggested we participate in building the trail with labor instead of dollars. Andrew suggested we consider building the trail as it would be one of our only opportunities to have a trail with access to the river. Dan offered that this is a rare opportunity to enhance one of our trails. We tabled the vote to provide funding for the trail. The members present felt that parking should be a requirement if we are to be involved. Dan Ross, Andrew Holbrook and John Gold will meet with the Ecology School and ask the Saco Parks & Rec Director to participate as a representative of the city.

Dan presented a second opportunity we have for a new trail. There is an informal trail from Ocean Green Drive to Wildwood Drive and Seaside Ave. that crosses Rachel Carson land. We would like to formalize the Wildwood Trail. The



*A crew from IDEXX.*

new trail will need 2 bridges like we have on Atlantic Way. We will work with Rachel Carson to obtain a Memorandum of Understanding so that we can build/maintain this trail that crosses their land.

Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup> a 7 am we will be offering another bird walk at Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Dan's goals for the coming year: Keep up our good work, increase membership engagement and keep in mind that the quality of our trails is more important than the quantity of our trails. We need to take care of the existing Ted Wells and Cascade Falls trails. Expansion of what we have needs to be done in moderation and only if it makes sense for us to do so. We also need to look ahead and figure out what other issues we should be considering. We also need to make sure we are living up to our name – **Saco Bay Trails** – not only trails in Saco, but in the saco bay area.

We have been offered a free 1 year membership with the Southern Maine Conservation Collaborative. They are an organization that can help us with grants. The membership comes with 10 hours of consultation on a topic of our choice. We will be asking for help on expanding and making better use of our social media efforts.

Dan Ross was confirmed as the new President of SBT by all. The following people were voted in as board members for 2019: Ryan Gorman, Bruce Napolitano, Matt McBean, Joyce Mailman, Patti Poole, Janice Lane, Andrew Holbrook and Odette Danserau. Jacqui Bucar has decided to leave the board. She will be presented with a thank you card and gift certificate at a later date.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Janice Lane*