



Saco Bay Trails Annual Report 2021

Members

Stephanie Ainsburg
Ron Albert
Anne Andrie
Brenda Austin
Elizabeth Bean
Linda Beane
Denise Benedict
Carol Benoit Reynolds
Michael Berkowitz
Susan Penna Bernier
Marty Birmingham
Kyle Bolduc
Nancy and Charles Borg
Colleen Bossie
Katrina Botelho
Barbara Boutet
Ben Bradford
Max and Maria Brandt
Shannon Bryant
Jacqueline Bucar
Joan Buotte
James and Susan Burnell
D.M. Capezzuto
Denise Clavette
Cathy Coffman
Nan Cone
Lynn Copeland
Ellen Corrigan
Larissa Crockett
Carolyn Curtis
Andrew Dabczynski
Sharon Danis
Odette Dansereau
Doug Dolan
Timothy Dunn
Joy Elsnor

Joy and Roland Eon
Glenn Evans
Bob Faucher
Josh Fecteau
Susan Field
Jan and Bob Filgate
Ann Fisher
James Gaffney
Roberta Gallant
Jonathan Gardner
Charles Garland
Catherine Giuffre
John and Susan Gold
Ryan Gorman
Cheryl Gray
Mark and Rayma Griffin
Fran Halamandaris
Vietta Hamblen
Jane and Bob Hamblen
Marcia Hanson
Andrew Holbrook
Thomas Hopkins
Jean Horton
Barry Hudson
Caryn Husman
Dennis Jackson
Bill and Mary Johnson
Catrine Kelty
David Kortz
Kevin Lafortune
Janice Lane
Stephen & Susan Littlefield
Karen and Marston Lovell
Carol Macallister
Joyce Mailman
Karen Malmgren

Christine McAuliffe
Deborah and Christopher McKenney
Gail and Ernie Merritt
Pamela Morgan
Kathryn Murphy
Kathleen Nahorney
Connie and Bruce Napolitano
Audrey Northway
Audrey Northway
Shawn and Amy Ouellette
Sheila Painchaud
Fred Parent
Patti and Malcolm Poole
Lynn Quincy
Mogens and Donna Ravn
Neil Raymond
John Morrill Read
Patricia Remillard
John Riordan
Sharon Robinson
Linda Rogoff
Blaise Ross
Dan Ross
George Roth
Ted Sirois
Susan Slee
Donald Smith
Rosemarie Smith
Helen Stevenson
Jaylene Summers
Jack Thompson
Elaine Vadeboncoeur
Kurt Wittneben
Martha Wood
Patricia Wright

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
Marty Birmingham
Clint Chase
Jane Hamblen
Andrew Holbrook
Joyce Mailman
John Riordan
Susan Slee

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
7 Pilgrim Lane
Saco, Maine 04072

Photos

Susan Slee, Joyce Mailman,
Ryan Gorman, 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

2021 was my third – and final – year as President of Saco Bay Trails. I've had lots of fun and enjoyed working with all of you who came out on the trails and helped out in so many ways. I plan to stay on the Board of Trustees and continue working with all of you to build, maintain and promote trails in Saco.

At our annual meeting in April, we'll vote on the election of Ryan Gorman to be our next President and Marty Birmingham to replace him as our Vice President. Patti Poole and Janice Lane will continue their great work as our Treasurer and Secretary. Ryan has been our Vice President for the last two years and brings a wealth of outdoors knowledge as a Registered Maine Guide. Marty grew up in northern Maine and is Chair of our new Trails Committee. They are active in the community and their families attend the Saco schools. I believe they represent a new generation of leadership to take Saco Bay Trails into the future.

As of this writing, the pandemic continues. Over the last two years, we've kept our trails open continuously even while others in the area closed. Trail usage – and the wear and tear that come with it – continues at unprecedented levels. We've kept up through an aggressive program of trail-building and maintenance. We now have three new trails to talk about in this year's Trails Report, including our first trail on the Saco River and two more in the Rachel Carson preserve!

Last year, our monthly Work/Walk Parties focused on bridges, bridges and more bridges. All told, we designed and constructed five new bridges on Mary Merrill, Wildwood and Atlantic Way trails, as well as the extensive bog bridges on Branch Brook Loop and repairing the boardwalk at Ferry Landing Trail. Work/Walk Parties are the primary way our members and volunteers engage with each other and fulfill our mission. Be sure to come out and join us this year!

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed by our neighbors, especially those who live near the new trails. We gained 36 new members for a total of 108 individuals and families. Fundraising increased 40% year-over-year, including an unprecedented three Lifetime Mem-

berships. As one new Lifetime Member wrote to us, "Everyone in the neighborhood is really enjoying the trail. I'm so thankful that SBT has adopted it in its network."

We also invested in our future last year by replacing our long-term storage unit with a Mobile Trail Workshop. As you'll read elsewhere in this report, Ryan and Marty found a 6'x12' aluminum trailer and refurbished

it with reclaimed lumber and donated accessories to consolidate all the tools, power equipment and other supplies we kept in various locations. Now we can easily bring our equipment to work parties and other events.

We expanded our popular Spring Bird Walks with Josh Fecteau last year, into a series of three weekly walks at Laurel Hill Cemetery through the spring migration season. The walks were well

attended and brought many new faces and memberships. We plan to continue the series with Josh this May.

We still have a lot on our plate for this year. Our highest priorities will be to address serious erosion near the entrance to Horton Woods, put the finishing touches on Wildwood and Branch Brook trails, and deal with other issues that arise from storms and heavy usage such as this month's damage to the bridge on Atlantic Way Trail near Seaside Avenue.

Through all this activity, we've been careful with the money you generously donate. The new trailer will pay for itself in 4–5 years by eliminating storage rental fees. Improvements on Rachel Carson's trails are funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Contributions from Saco Parks & Recreation and the Saco Conservation Commission helped fund Mary Merrill Trail and its expensive safety fence. Starting this year, we are also applying to the City of Saco to provide Saco Bay Trails with a regular source of funding as part of its annual budget process.

It's been a great three years for me, and I hope to continue seeing you out on the trail and at our Work/Walk Parties. As we say each year, "Take a Hike!"

Dan Ross



Photo by Andrew Dickinson/City of Saco Communications
Dan Ross views the Saco River from a resting bench placed at the terminus of the Mary Merrill Trail.



Photos by Andrew Dickinson/City of Saco Communications

Saco Bay Trails President Dan Ross is joined by Drew Dumsch, President and CEO of The Ecology School, Tom Merrill and Saco Mayor William Doyle, along with others at the October opening of the Mary Merrill Trail. The trail begins at a parking lot off the school's access road and terminates at the edge of the Saco River.



Mary Merrill Trail

We completed Mary Merrill Trail in October, our first new trail in nine years and our first on the Saco River. This short trail on the grounds of The Ecology School leads to a scenic overlook with a beautiful river view. A side entrance on Simpson Road connects with Stone Bridge Trail and Horton Woods, so you can now hike all the way from Buxton Road to the river. For this trail, we built three short bridges and a 70-foot safety fence, to prevent accidents on the steep bluffs overlooking the Saco River and Stackpole Creek. Many thanks go to The Ecology School, Saco Parks & Recreation and The Saco Conservation Commission, which is also working on some interpretive signage.

Wildwood Trail and Branch Brook Loop

We started rehabilitating Wildwood Trail, an abandoned logging road in Rachel Carson, in 2000 with the first of two truss bridges. Last year, we built the second bridge and a kiosk at the Wildwood Drive trailhead. We also got permission from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to upgrade an informal side trail with a spectacular view of Goosefare Brook Marsh, which we named Branch Brook

Loop. We laid over 100 feet of bog bridges there in November, and plan to finish the Loop this year with a new viewing platform, benches, signs and fresh blazes. Both trails are now open to the public, although a formal launch awaits the spring. These trails are already heavily used by neighborhood residents at both ends, who no longer have to struggle across treacherous gulley crossings. Many thanks go to the Rachel Carson preserve for their enthusiastic support.

Atlantic Way

This January, a flood tide severely eroded the underpinnings of the truss bridge on Atlantic Way Trail near Seaside Ave. As of this writing, we are consulting with Rachel Carson on possible short-term and long-term fixes, perhaps in coordination with a marsh restoration project the Refuge is planning to begin this year. Last year, we replaced a footbridge near the Atlantic Way entrance, and reused the old bridge at a muddy spot farther up the trail. Several stretches of trail have gotten muddier in recent years and may need new bog bridging or resurfacing in the future.



Clockwise from top image: A work party on the Atlantic Trail; using a power auger to dig post holes; cleaning up storm damage on the Middle Goosefare trail; hauling a new section of bridge on the Wildwood trail; bog bridges on the Branch Brook loop.



Horton Woods

Our largest trail system, Horton Woods, is showing signs of wear and tear from heavy use over the last few years. Particularly near the entrance on Buxton Road, tree roots are coming out of the ground to make footing difficult. We are looking at various solutions such as a raised gravel path with culverts. Bog bridging throughout the system also needs repair and expansion. Restoring and enhancing Horton Woods will be among our highest priorities in the year ahead.

Middle Goosefare Trail

We closed Middle Goosefare for about a month last summer after a microburst devastated several clusters of fully grown trees along Innis Brook and Goosefare Pond near the southern entrance. It took several emergency work parties to clear them, with many thanks to Shawn Ouellette whose family helps maintain that trail.

Cascade Falls

We had to fix the entrance sign at Cascade Falls Park last year which was damaged by a vehicle. We are still waiting for the City to replace its short-lived 2019 bridge across Cascade Brook, when we will realign our trails to meet the new bridgeheads and look at other enhancements.

Ted Wells Trail

It was a quiet year at Ted Wells Trail after re-routing and rebuilding it a year ago. A full year's usage of the new route shows a few spots where additional bog bridging is needed. We also hope to build a new viewing platform at the end of the trail, which would match the one we are planning directly across the marsh at Branch Brook Loop.

Ferry Landing Trail

This small trail gets an annual sprucing-up from neighbors who enjoy this quiet refuge tucked into the southeast corner of Saco. Last year, we complemented their efforts with a Work/Walk Party to replace a larger-than-usual number of deteriorating boards.

A 500-year-old landslide at Horton Woods



One of our biggest recent surprises was learning that the landscape of Horton Woods was shaped by a large prehistoric landslide. Discovered by senior geologist Lindsey Spigel of the Maine Geological Survey, the landslide blocked parts of Stackpole Creek and helped create the swampy valley along Blue Heron Trail. Dr. Spigel augered through 8 feet of soft blue clay to find bits of buried soil, plants and twigs determined by radiocarbon dating to be 500–600 years old. Dr. Spigel published her findings with a geological tour of Horton Woods in the Maine Geologic Facts and Localities series which is available online at the Maine Geologic Survey: maine.gov/dacf/mgs.

Annual Meeting Minutes: April 10, 2021 via Zoom

Call to order and Introductions - President Dan Ross called the meeting to order at 10 am. Trustees attending were Marty Birmingham, Ryan Gorman, Andrew Holbrook, Janice Lane, Joyce Mailman, John Riordan, and Sue Slee. In addition to the board, 9 members took part in the Zoom meeting.

Business:

President Ross acknowledged the past year of the pandemic has been a tough one, with losses of people and the disruption of the economy. He sited that we have been called to a higher mission as people are looking for places to be outside and noted our trails have been more heavily used in the last year.

Dan cited the following:

Accomplishments for 2020:

- Trails, Tales and Ales outreach event hosted at Run of the Mill.
- Trail work done to Middle Goosefare trail to mitigate the damage from the heavy logging done by the land owner.
- Ted Wells Trail – removal of the deteriorating boardwalk and rerouting of the trail. In 2021, we will be building a bench and platform with financial help from Rachel Carson.
- Horton Woods Trail – bridge stringers failed due to the heavy rain and wood rot. In August and September we will be removing the old bridge and rebuilding it. The Saco Parks & Rec department will be paying 50% of the cost of the new bridge.
- Rachel Carson logging road. We are authorized to maintain this area thru a signed memo of understanding with Rachel Carson. Dayton Sand and Gravel donated materials to this project. In September of 2020 we installed a new bridge on the trail.
- Continued our Work/Walk parties - 2nd Saturday May thru October (with August off).

Plans for the year ahead:

- Host a series of bird walks the first three Thursdays in May to observe bird migrations.
- Complete the Wildwood Trail
- Work on the Horton Woods trail entrance.
- Complete the Riverbend trail. The permits are in place and the parking area has been secured. They have a 12 car parking lot and will dedicate 6 parking spaces for use by people walking the trail. Tom Clark will provide signage for the vegetation on the trail. The fence along the water will be installed in May. Trail cost is being split 3 ways – Saco Parks & Rec, Saco Conservation Com-

mittee and Saco Bay Trails. The Ecology School will mow the open areas of the trail.

Dan announced that Andrew Holbrook will be backing away from Saco Bay Trails. He thanked Andrew for all of his hard work over the last few years. Ryan Gorman will take on the responsibility of coordinating our trail work. John Riordan and Ryan will take on leadership of our work parties. We are considering hiring a person to do our general trail maintenance of mowing and weed whacking. We may be able to get the Saco Conservation Commission and Saco Parks & Rec to help fund this maintenance.

Patti Poole, our treasurer, was unable to attend the meeting. Dan reviewed the financial information she provided. He noted that we gained the most new memberships ever over the last year and that the donations to our Annual Appeal for 2020 were up slightly.

Partnerships with the Saco Conservation Commission and the Saco Parks & Rec department have enabled us to make the most of our money in regards to our projects.

The following slate of people were presented for vote as board members and officers

Dan Ross – President	Clint Chase
Ryan Gorman – Vice President	Andrew Holbrook
Janice Lane – Secretary	Joyce Mailman
Patti Poole – Treasurer	John Riordan
Marty Birmingham	Sue Slee

Motion to accept the slate of officers/board members as presented.

M: Andrew Holbrook **S:** John Riordan
The motion carried.

John Gold made a motion from the floor to nominate Jane Hamblen to the board.

M: John Gold **S:** Ryan Gorman
The motion carried.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 AM

M: Sue Slee **S:** Marty Birmingham.
The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Janice Lane, Secretary

Saco Bay Trails Profit and Loss: Prev. Year Comparison: January - December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21	Jan - Dec 20	\$ Change	% Change
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
Donations				
Annual Appeal	2,240.49	2,109.51	130.98	6.2%
General donation	1,273.96	663.23	610.73	92.1%
SacoBiddefordSavings Doer P...	200.00	195.00	5.00	2.6%
Total Donations	3,714.45	2,967.74	746.71	25.2%
Fundraising				
Memberships	4,194.51	2,700.80	1,493.71	55.3%
Trail Guides	382.50	547.55	-165.05	-30.1%
Total Fundraising	4,577.01	3,248.35	1,328.66	40.9%
Interest Income	22.58	45.81	-23.23	-50.7%
Total Income	8,314.04	6,261.90	2,052.14	32.8%
Expense				
Administrative Expenses				
Annual Report Expenses	146.95	212.93	-65.98	-31.0%
Filing Fees	75.00	30.00	45.00	150.0%
Insurance	1,599.75	1,599.75	0.00	0.0%
Letterhead/envelope printing	395.41	0.00	395.41	100.0%
Maine Annual Report	0.00	35.00	-35.00	-100.0%
Meeting expenses	139.95	0.00	139.95	100.0%
Membership Software	421.20	421.20	0.00	0.0%
Misc. office supplies/copy chgs	91.74	0.00	91.74	100.0%
Office Supplies	367.05	246.26	120.79	49.1%
Post Office Box Rental	113.00	190.00	-77.00	-40.5%
Postage	410.40	271.70	138.70	51.1%
Storage Space Rent	944.99	840.00	104.99	12.5%
Website expenses	313.88	313.88	0.00	0.0%
Total Administrative Expenses	5,019.32	4,160.72	858.60	20.6%
Fundraising Expense				
Annual Appeal	0.00	220.00	-220.00	-100.0%
Annual Appeal Postage	0.00	220.00	-220.00	-100.0%
Total Annual Appeal	0.00	220.00	-220.00	-100.0%
Trail guide printing	595.02	563.37	31.65	5.6%
Total Fundraising Expense	595.02	783.37	-188.35	-24.0%
Outreach Expenses				
Advertising	0.00	52.40	-52.40	-100.0%
Outreach Expenses - Other	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.0%
Outreach Postage	0.00	105.79	-105.79	-100.0%
Trail Map Printing	334.14	620.72	-286.58	-46.2%
Outreach Expenses - Other	150.00	114.80	35.20	30.7%
Total Outreach Expenses	534.14	943.71	-409.57	-43.4%
Taxes				
Taxes (state/federal)	12.97	35.37	-22.40	-63.3%
Taxes - Other	6.24	0.00	6.24	100.0%
Total Taxes	19.21	35.37	-16.16	-45.7%
Trails Expense				
Horton Bridge Project	0.00	3,506.32	-3,506.32	-100.0%
Mary Merrill Trail	2,839.36	100.00	2,739.36	2,739.4%
Trail Building & Maintenance	2,074.89	1,094.65	980.24	89.6%
Trails Expense - Other	387.40	0.00	387.40	100.0%
Total Trails Expense	5,301.65	4,700.97	600.68	12.8%
Volunteers				
Miscellaneous expenses	115.00	50.00	65.00	130.0%
Total Volunteers	115.00	50.00	65.00	130.0%
Total Expense	11,584.34	10,674.14	910.20	8.5%
Net Ordinary Income	-3,270.30	-4,412.24	1,141.94	25.9%
Net Income	-3,270.30	-4,412.24	1,141.94	25.9%

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Paypal	450.01
Petty Cash	17.75
SBS - Middle Goosefare	3,235.79
SBS - Savings Capital Account	15,918.18
SBSI Checking	2,337.86
Wix Payments	-11.35
Total Checking/Savings	21,948.24
Total Current Assets	21,948.24
Fixed Assets	
Land Values	12,000.00
Storage Trailer	4,900.00
Total Fixed Assets	16,900.00
Other Assets	
Equipment and Supplies	1,782.00
Total Other Assets	1,782.00
TOTAL ASSETS	40,630.24
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
Opening Bal Equity	56,447.74
Retained Earnings	-7,096.70
write off/depreciation of asset	-5,450.50
Net Income	-3,270.30
Total Equity	40,630.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	40,630.24

Annual Appeal Donors

Ron Albert
 Linda Beane
 Susan Penna Bernier
 Jacqueline Bucar
 Nan Cone
 Larissa Crockett
 Doug Dolan
 Drew Dumsch
 Joy and Roland Eon
 Caryl Everett
 Josh Fecteau
 Charles and Ann Garland
 Mark and Rayma Griffin
 Fran Halamandaris
 Vietta Hamblen
 Jane and Bob Hamblen
 Marcia Hanson
 Andrew Holbrook
 Bill and Mary Johnson
 Joyce Mailman
 Karen Malmgren
 Deborah and Christopher McKenney
 Katy Nicketakakis and Clint Chase
 Fred Parent
 Patti and Malcolm Poole
 Lynn Quincy
 Mogens and Donna Ravn
 Neil Raymond
 Dan Ross
 Rosemarie Smith
 Donald Smith
 Lynn Soucy
 Martha Wood
 Patricia Wright

Saco Bay Trails New Mobile Trail Workshop

We are happy to announce that Saco Bay Trails added a new enclosed utility trailer to help further our mission to create and maintain recreational trails in the Saco Bay Area.

During our board meeting in May 2021, the trustees discussed the idea of purchasing a utility trailer as a solution to combine all of our tools, materials, and supplies into a single place. The organization had outgrown the storage unit we were renting and many of the organization's tools and materials were stored offsite at various locations around Saco. Owning a trailer would give the organization a flexible storage solution and would save around \$100 per month in rental fees.

The board assigned the task of further researching trailers to trustees Marty Birmingham and Ryan Gorman and during the July board meeting, Marty and Ryan presented their research. The board then discussed the pros and cons of owning a trailer and after much consideration, all members in attendance voted unanimously to move forward with acquiring a trailer.

In late July, Saco Bay Trails was able to purchase a 2015 EZ Hauler Enclosed 6' x 12' Aluminum Cargo trailer that is in excellent condition. The trailer meets all the needs of the organization and includes features such as:

- All-Aluminum construction so it is lightweight and will not rust;
- Spring-assisted rear ramp door. This ramp can easily be open and closed and provides easy access to large equipment and materials;
- Side Access Door that allows for quick and convenient access to the inside of the trailer;
- Easily Towable. With a Gross Vehicle Weight (GVW) of 2990lbs,



The Saco Bay Trails mobile workshop. The well-organized trailer is easily towed to the worksite and it has plenty of room for all of our equipment!



this single axle trailer can be towed by most SUVs, crossovers, and small trucks.

After purchasing the trailer, Marty and Ryan spent several weeks customizing the trailer's interior to meet the organization's needs, and the improvements they made used mostly donated or reclaimed materials. Now all of Saco Bay Trails' tools, supplies, and equipment are in one place and can easily be transported to any trailhead for a work party. Also, the trailer will pay for itself in just over four years by saving Saco Bay Trails the cost of renting a storage unit.

The last item on the trailer modification checklist will be to add graphics to the trailer in 2022. We want to

add our Saco Bay Trails logo for better visibility and brand recognition. We can then display the trailer at upcoming community events to help raise interest in our mission and increase membership enrollment.

The new trailer rolled into service for our last two work parties in 2021 at the new Mary Merrill trail and the Branch Brook Trail (scheduled to open officially in spring of 2022). Our first impression is that we are very happy with how this trailer functions in the field and we are looking forward to developing this asset to help Saco Bay Trails fulfill its mission.

Please be on the lookout for the new Saco Bay Trails Mobile Workshop. We are coming to a trail near you in the Spring of 2022!!!