



Tidings of the Turtle



Captain Sandy's mark from the collections of the Maine Historical Society

Francis Small Heritage Trust Newsletter – December 2003

Trust acquires pivotal 338 acres with LMF funding support

Imagine a one thousand piece puzzle with a 338 piece section missing almost dead in its center. Until a very few weeks ago that was the undeniable picture of the Trust's holdings in the Sawyer Mountain Highlands (see map below).

Today, in what arguably represents its most significant purchase since the acquisition of 120 acres at the top of Sawyer Mountain in 1996, the Trust has:

- Brought together the contributions of numerous individuals and organizations, most importantly the Land for Maine's Future Program, to garner a wild parcel which boasts, in addition to ridges, valleys and old foundations, several prominent peaks;
- Consolidated its Highlands ownership into a contiguous 1000 acre block stretching two and a half miles in length and one mile in width;

- Realized the culmination of a process that was envisioned and begun years ago.

Important part of Highlands puzzle completed

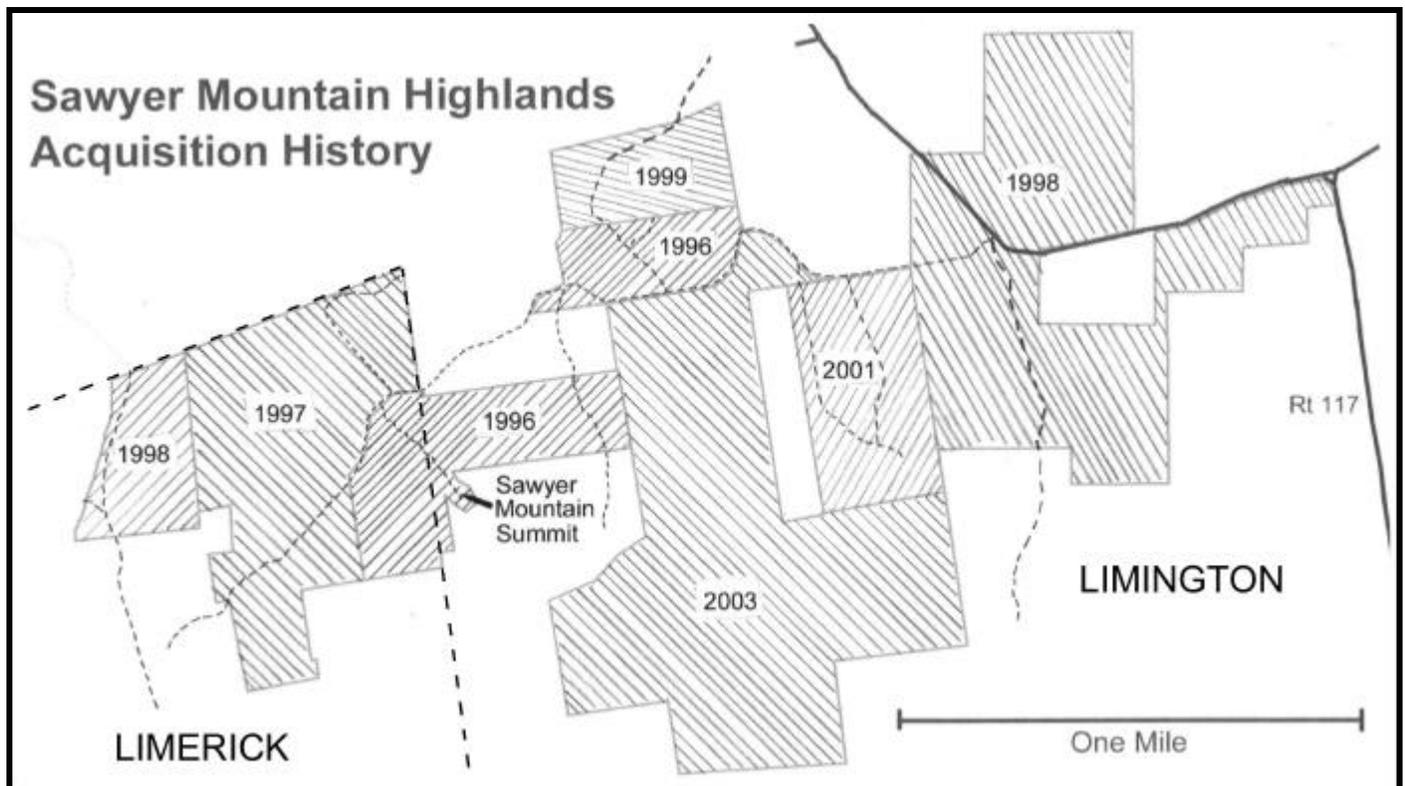
The total cost of the primary purchase (300 acres) was \$120,000, but additional monies had to be raised to cover expenses for surveying and title search. The state's LMF Program, established by Maine voters for acquiring significant lands for recreation and conservation, will reimburse two-thirds of this outlay. During the survey, an additional 38 acres were identified and deeded to the Trust for \$5,000.

How will the Trust manage it's one-third match? While we are not quite there yet, the funding is close. The Norcross Conservation Foundation generously agreed to loan the full purchase

price at no interest so that the purchase could be closed while we wait for the state funding to be completed. In addition, the Fields Pond Foundation granted \$10,000, the Davis Conservation Foundation chipped in \$6,000, and Trust members exceeded the matching grant of \$5,000 from the Maine Fund for Conservation Land Acquisition of the Maine Community Foundation. Individuals also responded generously including Neil Rolde (\$ 1,000), Scotty and Christina Hoar (\$2,027), and Robert Yarumian II (\$5,434).

Much credit goes to Director Sherwood Libby who initiated the purchase process years ago and Director Robert "Bos" Savage who brought the project to fruition.

The sellers? They remain unidentified at their request, but we can report that they registered satisfaction in seeing their land go into conservation.



Exploring the new parcels

The 338 acres of new land offer hikers a unique opportunity to investigate rugged and wild forest land. There are at least two old homesteads and two prominent peaks waiting to be explored. Please do not disturb these sites but leave them as you enjoyed finding them. Since there are no official trails on these parcels, a map and a compass are a must for safely exploring the terrain. There are a few old logging roads, but the numerous ridges, peaks, and valleys cause even the most experienced hiker to get turned around easily. Whenever possible, please try to stay on the trails and old logging roads. The FSHT Fall 2002 newsletter contained a hiking map based upon the USGS maps. If you need a copy, drop us a line and we would be happy to send you the map with the new parcel boundaries added on. Or, look in the new map box at the trail head on Route 117 for a copy of the map. If you prefer to use the USGS maps, the Sawyer Mountain Highlands fall at the corners of four different quadrangles: Cornish, Steep Falls, Limington, and Limerick.

Ebenezer Walker homestead

These old foundations are located close to the Sawyer Mountain Road and contain stones from the house, barn, and



As Coco waits anxiously, Denise Jarrett examines a map from the new "birdhouse" map box on Route 117.

The trailhead is located 2.5 miles south of Route 25 and 2.4 miles north of Route 11.

an old stone stairway. Walking downhill (east) from the Estes Cemetery on the Sawyer Mountain Road, look for an old woods road leading south (right). Follow the road several hundred feet and then bear left after the valley on the left. Follow the numerous stone walls to the foundations.

John Douglas Mountain Peak

This peak is identified on the maps with an elevation of 942 feet. It offers views to both the east and the west on a lightly wooded summit. To reach this peak, follow either the Upper or Lower Veazie Trails to their dead end. Then head south through the forest, skirting the ridge that drops off to the east. Take a right (uphill) on an old logging road that encircles the peak in a horseshoe shape around the east, north, and west. A left branch off the logging road will take you to the summit of the peak.

Joab Black Peak

This peak is identified with an elevation of 1034 feet. It offers views to the southeast at the top of a very steep cliff. To reach this peak, walk through the forest due south for three-quarters of a mile, starting at the Estes Cemetery on the Sawyer Mountain Road.

Moses Blake homestead

These old foundations are located in the southernmost section of the new parcels and contain the Moses Blake burying ground. An old logging road runs between the two peaks above south to the homestead. The traditional access to the homestead is via the Governor Black Road.

Take a hike!

The fourth grade classes of Mrs. Shortsleeve and Mrs. Greenleaf at the H. B. Emery school hiked Sawyer Mountain last September on a school outing. The students were able to view the beaver dams and lodges as well as eat lunch on the summit. The class members later composed and illustrated individual letters to hike leader Dick Jarrett expressing their appreciation as well as relating what they had learned. Then in October, Limington Girl Scout Troup 24 also made the climb. If you have a class or group that would like a guided hike (no charge) on the mountain, please give the Trust a call!



The Ice Storm

Birches dressed in crystal gowns
Bow upon the crusted ground
Lifeless wires snake aimlessly
On roadways strewn with storm debris
Limbs crack and crash in icy showers
The sound repeats for endless hours
Generators roar their harsh refrain
Pale light glows from window panes
The splintered maples I pass by
Turn jagged edges to the sky
From far away, beyond my view
Come flashes of electric blue
Deep within the forest weeps
Her children's wounds are raw and deep
Her teardrops fall as ice cascades
In every hollow, hill, and glade
The saddened woods become a shrine
Filled with the scent of wounded pine
And now at last the storm is spent
An angry jay screams his lament
Will the birches rise again?
Can the maples bear their pain?
And what of the tall majestic pine
With broken bones along its spine?
Can springtime with its gentle rain
Bring shattered forests back again?
When birds return to build their nests
Can then the woodlands stand at rest?
Then new growth will replace the old
And tiny leaves in May unfold
As new life flows to every limb
Another cycle will begin

Jean Morris

Trust member Jean Morris is a newspaper carrier from Waterboro who expressed her thoughts in this poem after the ice storm of 1998. The effects of the devastating storm are still evident in the forest after five years.

Eric Matthews wings it and soars!

Jagolinzer Preserve: Eagle Scout cited

During the past two years, Limington Boy Scout Troup #315 has forged a strong relationship with the Trust-maintained Jagolinzer Preserve.

In November, 2001, the scouts cleared a half mile hiking loop through the preserve, a 20 acre parcel on the Saco River near the Cornish-Limington line. The Trust had recently received a conservation easement for the land from Phil Jagolinzer of Scarborough. With his gift, Dr. Jagolinzer had requested the creation of such a trail.

Over the past several months, under the leadership of 17 year old Eric Matthews of Steep Falls, the scouts have re-

turned their attention to the preserve. Matthews, son of Joyce and Mike Matthews, chose additional work on the preserve trail as the project to elevate him to rank of Eagle, Boy Scouting's premiere honor. A bridge spanning a wet area, two benches for enjoyment of scenery, trail blazes, and the removal of trash near the trailhead, were part of the vision he had conceived.

Matthews began his labors in early summer 2003, when he met with the Trust's Board of Directors, his Scoutmaster, Mike Smith, and the Pine Tree Council for approval of his project. Next he contacted Maine's Department of Environmental Protection to see if a



One of the two new benches

building permit was required for the bridge. It wasn't. He did, however, need to obtain a permit from the supportive Limington selectmen to haul debris -- four truckloads eventually --- to the dump. Local businesses responded as well, donating lumber, nails, orange spray paint, and sheet metal (for the blaze templates).

The best part of the experience? Matthews says he "liked the whole thing", while admitting the inevitable paperwork was "tedious". The biggest challenge was moving the runners for the bridge. Two 21 foot ash trees had to be hauled 100 yards. It took Eric, his dad, Sam and Rick Berry, and R. J. Brackett to get the job done.

A lot of folks had a hand in this effort. Matthews credits his mom, Jacob and Josiah Plummer, Sherry and Sam Beety, John Trott II, John Trott III, Rick and Eric Lovejoy, and Brian Harmon with providing valuable support. Pilot Paul Belanger offered a fly over for an aerial photo of the preserve. Board member Robert "Bos" Savage, who had overseen the scouts' earlier trail clearing, was the Trust's liaison to the project. Matthews calculated that the work consumed 114 person hours, of which more than one-quarter were his own.

On December 11th, Matthews successfully presented his project to the Council's Board of Review. A national review now awaits him.

Perhaps the testament to Eric Matthew's accomplishment will only be fully realized when hikers follow his orange blazes through the woods and over the new bridge, stopping by the ravine bench to savor Pease Brook as it cascades its way to the Saco.



Eric Matthews nails the planking onto his bridge in the Jagolinzer Preserve.



Please accept my donation of _____ to help protect the Sawyer Mountain Highlands as well as aid in other conservation activities of the Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____



Please contact me next spring about purchasing dragonflies.

Contributions & memberships are tax-deductible under IRS code 501 (C)(3).
Francis Small Heritage Trust, Inc. PO Box 414 Limerick, ME 04048
(207) 637-3510 www.FSHT.org

Trust holds 12th Annual Meeting

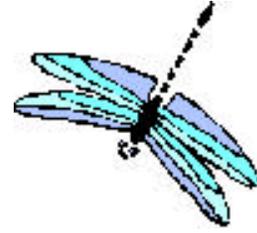
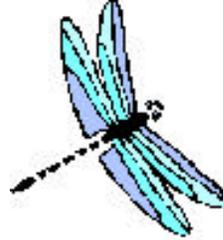
Tom Adelman of West Baldwin, a member of the organization Grow Smart Maine, delivered a presentation on the causes, effects, and possible solutions to the problems of sprawl in Maine at the Trust's annual meeting on October 28th. During and after his delivery, Tom answered questions from the audience.

Also at the meeting, officers of the Trust were re-elected as follows: Marlene Livonia, President; Robert Savage, 1st Vice-President; Dan Kidd, 2nd Vice-President; Peter Zack, Secretary; and Dick Jarrett, Treasurer. Other directors of the Trust include Dave Fedrizzi, Scott Hoar, and Sherwood & Lorraine Libby.

Francis Small Heritage Trust . . .

Ahh Wilbur...

It's hard to be just one of this year's 6,000...



Hush up Orville...
and eat your weight in mosquitoes!

. . . Celebrating 7 years of flight!



Snowmobile club honors Trust

The Francis Small Heritage Trust is committed to sustaining traditional uses on the lands of the Sawyer Mountain Highlands. These uses include snowmobiling on existing trails as well as hiking and hunting. Last winter, the Limington Crankers Snowmobile Club honored the Trust with its "2002 Land Owner of the Year" award.

The Trust is pleased to work with the club members, who have consistently demonstrated their responsible use of the land.



Francis Small Heritage Trust

www.FSHT.org (207) 637-3510

PO Box 414

Limerick, ME 04048