



ANDROSCOGGIN LAND TRUST

Fall 2021



Hallelujah Farm - Lisbon

Join us for our Annual Meeting (virtual)

***Tuesday, November 16th
6:00pm – 7:30pm***

Open to the Public (donations appreciated)

RSVP for Zoom Webinar at:

***[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register
/WN_3V8fxgj2QoKccoWH9je6eQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3V8fxgj2QoKccoWH9je6eQ)***

EVENT PROGRAM:

Introductions and Business Meeting

2021 Presentation of Awards

Keynote Speaker – Mitchell Thomashow

Q&A Session

Mitchell Thomashow

Mitchell Thomashow is a former president of Unity College in Unity, Maine. His current passions are teaching, writing, and cultivating connections between environmental learning, sustainability, and the arts. Mitchell's new book, *To Know the World: A New Vision for Environmental Learning*, proposes that we revitalize how we think about our residency on Earth, by understanding how the major challenges of our time—including migration, race, climate justice, and democracy—connect to the global ecosystem.

Learn more about Mitchell:

<https://www.mitchellthomashow.com/>



Welcome to Amy Soper:

ALT Stewardship Director

In September, ALT welcomed Amy Soper of Livermore to the important staff role of Stewardship Director. Amy brings a wealth of experience in land conservation and stewardship, a strong network in the Maine environmental field, and great initiative and energy to her new position for ALT. “Amy hit the ground running in just her first few weeks of work,” said ALT Board President Jim Pross. “We’re excited and confident that her skills and experience will enhance our work protecting valuable local lands and encouraging people to explore the amazing natural world around us.”

Amy holds a Master’s degree in Sustainable Natural Resource Management from Unity College. Before joining ALT, she served as stewardship director at the 7 Lakes Alliance in the Belgrade Lakes region, where her work included oversight of the 6,800-acre Kennebec Highlands, the largest contiguous block of conserved land in Central Maine.

In prior years, Amy worked as an intervention teacher at RSU 73, where she incorporated conservation and wildlife into her curriculum.

A Livermore native, Amy has been actively involved in her family’s logging business since childhood and is now raising her active sons Joel and Brody in her hometown. Her hobbies include a wide range of outdoor pursuits: from snowmobiling, skiing, and ice fishing in the winter, to summer and fall hiking, and motorcycle riding. Amy has explored many of the great peaks of Maine, fished its most pristine lakes, and ventured through diverse and rugged terrain—experiences that have solidified her belief that Maine’s natural wonders must be conserved for all future generations to experience and enjoy



Many thanks to Susan Boyd of Greene for her extraordinary volunteer work as ALT’s bookkeeper over the last five years. Susan came into ALT’s Auburn office weekly to maintain our accounts, always with great thoroughness, attention to detail, and good humor. Truly, we can’t thank her enough for her dedication and sizable contribution to our work over so many years.

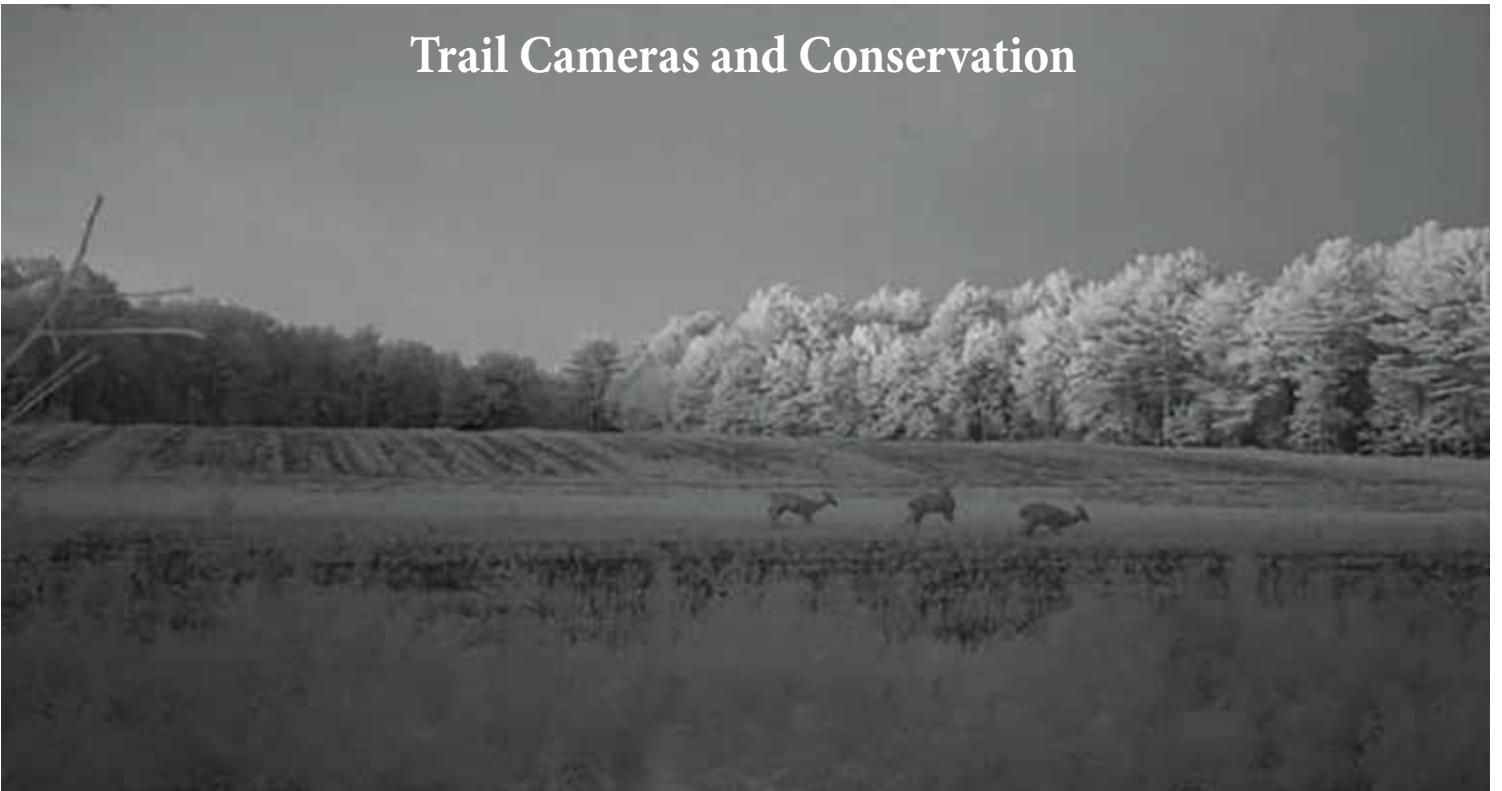
The role of ALT Stewardship Director is a sizable one, responsible for the care of our organization’s 5,000 conserved acres, from Jay and Canton south to Lisbon and Durham. It includes oversight of annual easement monitoring of all of ALT’s conserved properties; working

with landowners to ensure easement awareness and compliance; training and support for our volunteer land stewards; and maintaining diverse habitats through best conservation practices. Another significant stewardship focus is ongoing care and expansion of public trails for the public to enjoy these lands where appropriate.

“My goal is for ALT is to be a model of how to successfully manage Maine’s natural resources,” Amy said. “It’s not always clear to people how all the pieces of conservation fit together—why we provide access to some properties and leave others wild, how a sustainable timber harvest can protect and even improve forest health and biodiversity. I am very grateful to be

at ALT, and in a position to use the many conservation tools available to us to connect our communities with the natural world.”

Trail Cameras and Conservation



Late this summer and into the fall we placed cellular trail cameras at ALT-conserved Katherine Breton Memorial Preserve in Lisbon. We captured many images of white-tailed deer frolicking through the fields, gray foxes, wild turkeys, and many other creatures. These photos remind us of the many wildlife species that share our world, and

why conserving and protecting their critical habitats is so important. Many land trusts across the country have begun to use trail cameras to give people a glimpse of wildlife that they might not see in their own neighborhoods and engage local communities in land conservation. We hope you enjoy the photos!





On a humid Saturday morning in late June, about 50 hard-working community members lent their time and energy to help clean the riverbanks of Lewiston and Auburn the ALT's 10th Annual River Clean Up. Over one ton of trash was removed. ALT had amazing cooperation from citizens, local businesses, and public works from the cities of Lewiston and Auburn.

Many thanks to this year's River Clean Up business sponsors: Maple Way Dental Care, Wolfpack Fitness, Baxter Brewing, Austin Associates, Axis Natural Foods, Riverside Greenery, Lisbon Cannabis Company, and 207 THC.

Let us know if you're interested in volunteering, or have ideas for locations on the river.





In late July, scores of residents and visitors gathered on the banks of the Androscoggin River to take part in the inaugural L/A Riverfest celebrating the Androscoggin River and the exciting recreational possibilities of this beautiful waterway that runs through our region. ALT partnered with five other local group to organize and lead the weekend's events.

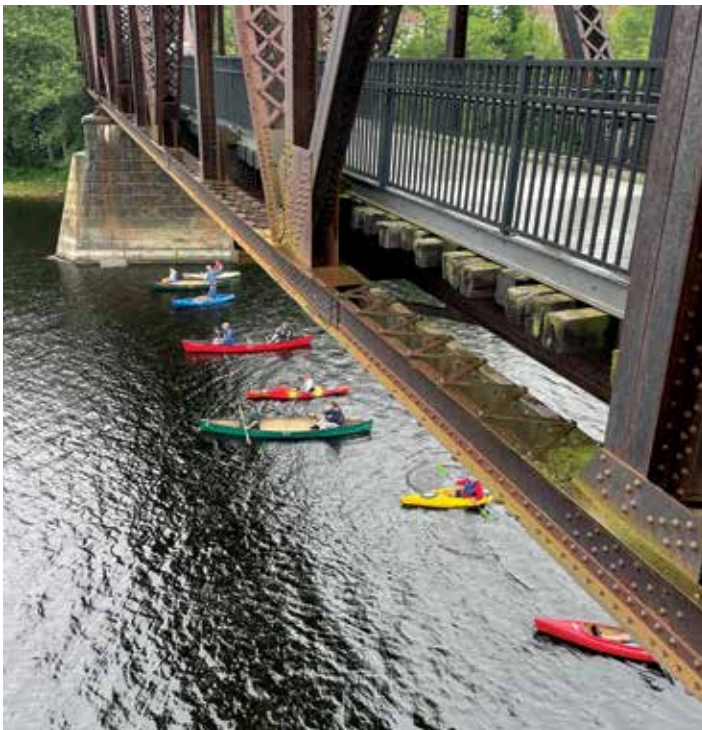
On Saturday, the L/A Rowing Regatta showcased rowers in their streamlined shells for the very first event of its kind in our area. Sunday's River Race renewed the ALT River Race first launched in Lewiston/Auburn in 2016, with this year marking



ALT protects 10 miles of river frontage from Jay to Lisbon, and the Androscoggin River is the heart of the landscape in our large service area.

Getting people out onto the river and discovering its beauty helps connects our local communities to this historic waterway in a way that was impossible decades ago. Whether on the water or on land—from our local riverbank parks or the David Rancourt Preserve in Lewiston—we encourage you to safely explore the river's many treasures.

Thanks to L/A Metro Chamber of Commerce, Lewiston Community Rowing, the Androscoggin River Watershed Council, the cities of Lewiston and Auburn for partnering to make this fun-filled weekend possible. And most importantly, thanks to our River Race business sponsors: Rooper's, Androscoggin Title Company, Lost Valley, Riverside Greenery, MedCo, Brookfield Renewable, Sonder & Dram, Maine Source Realty, Skelton, Taintor, & Abbott, Androscoggin Bank, Baxter Brewing, Hilton Auburn Riverwalk, and Ouellette & Associates.



our first year's partnership with L/A Metro Chamber. Although Sunday's rain kept participant numbers down, the hardy paddlers, families, friends, and volunteers all had a great time.



Researching Mosquitoes at the David Rancourt Preserve



Among the many benefits of land conservation is the opportunity for wide-ranging research on plant and wildlife species. In recent years, research projects on ALT conserved lands have included a study of carbon sequestration at Garcelon Bog and other ALT property habitats, the Maleberry shrub on Purinton Preserve in Bowdoinham, and a fly species that live in pitcher plants on Hooper Pond in Greene. These studies are becoming increasingly important in the face of warming temperatures due to climate change and its impact on species of all kinds.

One key research focus is insects, which account for more than three-quarters of all known animal species. This past summer, Maine

Medical Center (MMC) Research Institute's Vector-borne Disease Laboratory chose ALT's David Rancourt Preserve along the Androscoggin River in Lewiston as one of many sites in several Maine counties for a mosquito surveillance program focused on the West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis viruses.

The West Nile virus took biologists and public health professionals by surprise when first reported in mosquitoes collected in Connecticut and New York in 1999. Two decades after that first introduction, it is now found across the country, with regular hotspots in the Southwest, upper Midwest and Northeast US. Maine has been generally fortunate, with only a handful of human cases seen in southwestern Maine, along with a few equine cases.



The mosquito that carries the virus—*Culex pipiens*, commonly known as the house mosquito—is more attracted to birds than people or livestock, which then become accidental hosts for the mosquitoes in this cycle.

MMC's research program uses a specialized "gravid trap" that collects mosquitoes in a tub of nutrient rich water by means of a mechanized vacuum. The traps are placed in the afternoon and picked up the next morning to coincide with the peak activity of the mosquito. They are then identified by species and sent to the CDC for testing for West Nile or EEC, with mosquito eggs also sent to a Cornell University lab to be reared and tested for pesticide resistance.



Mushrooms and More!

Many of us exploring the Maine woods this fall have been thrilled to spot a remarkable number of colorful mushrooms, their abundance and variety made possible by a favorable combination of rain and warm temperatures. Can you identify the mushroom and other fungi on this page, which have been photographed on ALT-conserved properties? If so, send an email to info@androscogginlandtrust.org and the first person to identify them correctly will win a small prize! Remember, admiring wild mushrooms without picking them is always the safest approach, and if you're foraging, go with an experienced forager.



Upcoming events – Save the Date Please check our website and social media for event updates

November 16th, 2021 – ALT 2021 Annual Meeting
w/ Keynote speaker, Mitchell Thomashow (virtual)

November 30th, 2021 – Giving Tuesday

January 23th, 2022 , 11am-1pm - Snowshoe Hike @
Sherwood Forest, Auburn.

February 16th 2022, 6:30pm-8pm - Full Moon
(Storm Moon) Snowshoe Hike at French Falls, Jay.

February 19th, 2022, 11am-3pm - Spruce Mountain
Sled-In and Winter Family Fun Day at French
Falls, Jay.

April 23rd, 2022 - Earth Day trails clean up
(locations and times tba)



**ANDROSCOGGIN
LAND TRUST**

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The Androscoggin Land Trust is a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) membership-supported organization dedicated to protecting, through land conservation and stewardship, the important natural areas, traditional landscapes, and outdoor experience in the Androscoggin River watershed. We currently conserve approximately 5,000 acres of land including over ten miles of riverfront along the Androscoggin River.

Board of Directors

Jim Pross – President – *Auburn*

Joshua Nagine– Vice President – *Lewiston*

Dana Little – Treasurer – *Auburn*

Melissa Bilodeau – *Auburn*

Deb Charest – *Lewiston*

Marian (Kitsie) Claxton - *Auburn*

Paula Curtis-Everett - *Auburn*

Robert Kleckner – *Lewiston*

Judy Marden - *Greene*

Wylie Mitchell - *Auburn*

Debbie Poliquin - *Lewiston*

Rick Speer – *Auburn*

Travis Sparks – *Bowdoin*

Elwood (Woody) Trask – *Auburn*

Staff

Aimee Dorval – *Executive Director*

Amy Soper – *Stewardship Director*

Our thanks to the generous sponsors of ALT



Ask us about our adopt a trail program, volunteer trail work days or property monitoring opportunities! Please contact us at: (207) 782-2302 or info@androscogginlandtrust.org

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