

ANDROSCOGGIN LAND TRUST

Fall 2025



Annual River Clean Up

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Come Connect & Conserve




Join us at ALT's Annual Meeting to connect with fellow professionals, learn about Maine's land conservation efforts, and grow your network.

Guest Speaker: Carey Michael Kish. Carey is the founder Maine Geographic and The author of AMC's Best Day Hikes Along the Maine Coast.

Event Details:

 Date: Tuesday, November 18, 2025

 Time: 5:00 – 8:00 PM

 Location: Bates Mill Atrium, 36 Chestnut St., Lewiston

This in-person event promises to be both exciting and informative. Don't miss your chance to be part of an engaging evening of learning and connection. Find out more on pg. 6



Spruce Mountain is a family-friendly ski area on the banks of the Androscoggin River in Central Maine. Beyond its natural beauty, Spruce Mountain holds a unique history deeply rooted in the Livermore, Jay, and Livermore Falls communities. To really understand the value of the property, you must know the history of how a town moved a mountain. After returning home from World War II, soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division of the U.S. Army sought a place to reconnect with their community and enjoy skiing.

The original Spruce Mountain ski area was established about 12 miles from its current location. After operating for two years, it was relocated in 1959 due to access issues, settling on a cow pasture on the Dion Farm in Jay/Livermore, Maine, where it continues to operate today. In 1989, the towns of Jay, Livermore, and Livermore Falls purchased the ski area from the Dion family to ensure the community could continue enjoying downhill skiing.



Oil painting of the original Spruce Mountain in North Jay, Maine. c.1958. Artist: Fonnice Austin



George Baston and Frank Austin at the summit of Spruce Mountain, c. 1957. Photo by Bill Mitchell.

The remainder of the property, which included the Nordic center and ski jumps, was owned by the International Paper Company (IPC) mill. In 2014, Androscoggin Land Trust (ALT) purchased the 143.6-acre IPC parcel, adjacent to the Spruce Mountain ski slope, as part of the Androscoggin Greenway Community Forest Project. This acquisition was generously funded by Land for Maine's Future and several private foundations.



Spruce Mountain has a rich legacy in Nordic skiing. It served as a training ground for some of the world's top Nordic skiers, including Dan Simoneau, who trained there before competing with three other Spruce Nordic athletes in the NCAA Championship and representing the United States in the 1980, 1984, and 1988 Olympics. The mountain was also among the first to allow women to compete on a Nordic ski team. Today, the local high school and middle school, named after Spruce Mountain, continue to train there, competing at the highest levels in their divisions.



With a little elbow grease and a lot of determination, Spruce Mountain has once again become a pillar of the community—an achievement celebrated at the inaugural Rock the Mountain event hosted by the Jay Recreation Committee, Spruce Mountain Ski Club, and Androscoggin Land Trust. The evening beautifully honored the mountain's past, present, and future, creating an unforgettable experience for all who attended. Community members from near and far enjoyed a taste of snow in September as the terrain park came alive from its summer slumber with an incredible Rail Jam—a chance for skiers and snowboarders to show off their new skills.



The celebration continued with local live music, games, delicious food, and opportunities for community connection. The event also highlighted recent upgrades and improvements to the Mountain and Lodge, made possible by the collaboration of Maine Cabin Masters.

This free community celebration showcased our collective efforts and offered a chance to thank the community and business leaders who have played a vital role in enhancing this valuable outdoor resource. By fostering outdoor recreation, conservation, and community engagement, Spruce Mountain continues to bring people together in meaningful ways.



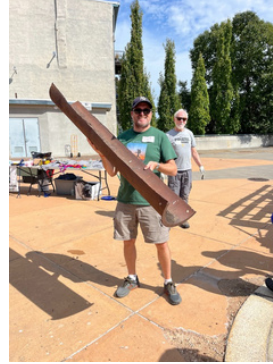
Annual River Clean Up

How far we have come.

Early September of this year ALT joined the Land Trust Alliance along the shores of Ohio's Cuyahoga River—a waterway that once became a national symbol of pollution after multiple fires, most famously on June 22, 1969. That fire, ignited by oil and debris on the river's surface, captured the nation's attention and spurred widespread outrage. It led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the Clean Water Act, transforming the Cuyahoga into a symbol of the environmental movement and a model for river restoration.

During that same time, Maine's Androscoggin River was also among the nation's ten most polluted rivers. Its waters were depleted of oxygen, millions of fish were lost, dyes from industry discolored the current, and the river gave off a strong odor of rotten eggs.

Today, both rivers stand as triumphs of what is possible when communities commit to restoring waterways to health and resilience.



In the spirit of Maine Senator Edmund Muskie—whose tireless leadership led to the federal Clean Water Act of 1972 and transformed the fate of the Androscoggin River—ALT rolled up our sleeves on September 13th to clean the shoreline along Auburn's Riverwalk.

Once ranked among the nation's ten most polluted, the Androscoggin River is now making the grade thanks to decades of care, advocacy, and community action. This year, volunteers removed the equivalent of three dump trucks of trash and debris—leaving behind a cleaner, safer Riverwalk for all to enjoy.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our Annual River Clean-Up a success! It truly takes many hands to heal a river.

At the Androscoggin Land Trust, our mission is to protect—through conservation and stewardship—the important natural areas, traditional landscapes, and outdoor experiences found throughout the Androscoggin River watershed.

Together, we're ensuring this river continues to thrive for generations to come.

A big thank you to our event sponsor for making this work possible!

Many thanks to 2025 River Clean Up business sponsors:

- Platz Associates
- Androscoggin Bank
- Maine's Paper & Heritage Museum
- Evergreen Subaru
- Otis Federal Credit Union
- Main Land Development Consultants
- Axis Natural Food
- Freeport Wild bird Supply
- Community Credit Union
- City of Auburn



Main Land Development Consultants putting their survey skills to work because success can only be measured by the success of those we serve!



knight's in shining safety vests
City of Auburn
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Volunteers from Androscoggin Bank
proudly supporting the community they serve

Thank you to all of the Development Committee and all volunteers whose dedication and hard work greatly contribute to the success of our initiatives, helping to foster a vibrant and supportive community environment.

Private Lands and Public Access

Maine has the least amount of publicly owned land in the Northeast—only about 6%. ALT’s primary mission is to provide public access to natural spaces. From our roots in conserving what is now Riverlands State Park, we continue to preserve open space and ensure long-standing public access for recreation, community, and ecological benefit.

About 95% of Maine’s land is privately owned, and of that, more than 10 million acres of private working farms and forests are voluntarily open to the public for recreation—thanks to the generosity of landowners and Maine’s deep-rooted traditions of access, permission, and conservation partnerships. In addition, 810,000 acres are state and federally owned public reserved lands managed for hiking, camping, and wildlife habitat protection.

Across the state, 80 land trusts are working to conserve the 23 million acres that make up Maine’s landscape. Together, these local organizations have protected more than 2.5 million acres, safeguarding land for wildlife habitat, recreation, clean water, and climate resilience.



Land trusts play a vital role in protecting habitat for wildlife, songbirds, and native flora and fauna on which we all depend. Expanses of undeveloped land allow rain to filter into the ground, replenishing drinking water supplies and cleansing stormwater before it enters rivers and streams. Trees and vegetation absorb pollutants, provide shade, and help moderate the effects of climate change. Large, contiguous parcels of open land are also essential to the survival of many species of mammals and birds.



Those who recreate in Maine benefit from a remarkable tradition of public access to private lands—a privilege that depends on mutual respect and cooperation between landowners and the public. While Maine has a strong tradition of access, it is guided by the principle that access to private land is a privilege, not a right, and that visitors should always seek permission before entering private property.

Even on conserved land, access is not always unrestricted. Some properties may have seasonal closures, limits on motorized vehicle use, or designated trails to protect sensitive habitats. Others remain in private ownership with conservation easements that define specific public uses. Visitors are encouraged to check property-specific rules before exploring to help ensure that access remains available for generations to come.

As you look to the future, questions may arise about the long-term care and use of your property. There are a variety of conservation tools available, and ALT is here to help you find the approach that best meets your goals. Finding the right solution takes time and thoughtful consideration—but it’s time well spent. Each conservation method is flexible and can be tailored to your needs as a landowner and to the unique characteristics of your land.



If you are considering conserving your land contact ALT at: info@androscogginlandtrust.org

The vital work of Maine's land trusts

Protecting Maine's Natural Heritage

- *Maine's land trusts conserve forests, wetlands, rivers, farms, and coastlines that define the state's character.*
- *They protect critical habitats for wildlife, preserve water quality, and safeguard climate-resilient landscapes that store carbon and buffer floods.*



Ensuring Public Access



- *Over 95% of Maine's land is privately owned, yet many Mainers and visitors depend on access to the outdoors for recreation, health, and livelihood.*
- *Land trusts protect land as open space for public use—maintaining trails, water access, and recreation areas for hiking, hunting, fishing, and paddling.*
- *Many conserved lands remain free and open year-round, often filling the gap where state or municipal ownership is limited.*

Supporting Local Communities and Economies

- *Conserved lands attract tourism and outdoor recreation—industries that generate billions annually in Maine.*
- *Land trusts also help keep working lands working, partnering with farmers and foresters to ensure long-term economic use without sacrificing conservation values.*
- *They strengthen local identity and quality of life, drawing residents and businesses that value Maine's natural beauty.*



Stewardship and Local Leadership



- *Maine has more than 80 local and regional land trusts, making it one of the most active states in community-based conservation.*
- *These organizations are rooted in their communities, guided by local volunteers, and responsive to local needs—whether restoring fish habitat or creating safe trails for children.*
- *Land trusts often collaborate with towns, schools, and state agencies, acting as trusted partners in conservation planning.*

Preserving Cultural and Historical Connections

- *Land trusts work with Indigenous tribes, local historians, and community groups to protect places of cultural importance.*
- *They help maintain traditional uses of the land—hunting, foraging, farming, and gathering—that have sustained Maine people for generations.*



2025 Annual Meeting



ALT's Annual Meeting will be held at Bates Mill Atrium on November 18th from 5-8 pm. Join ALT to hear the amazing stories from Carey Kish of Maine Geographic.

Carey Michael Kish is the founder and editor-in-chief of Maine Geographic, which explores the best of Maine and Mainers, from adventure and travel to beer, nature, history and culture and much more, here at home and "from away."

An active member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America, New England Outdoor Writers Association and New England Travel Writers Network, Carey's writing and photos have appeared in numerous other publications, most recently Activities Guide of Maine, Maine Brew & Bev Guide, Maine Today Travel Magazine, Green & Healthy Maine, Maine Seniors Magazine, Northwoods Sporting Journal, Outside and Senior Hiker.

Carey is currently working on several new books, including Footloose in the Maine Woods: Great Hiking & Camping Adventures in the Pine Tree State and Beer Hiking New England, which pairs 50 great hikes and craft breweries from around the six-state region.

Over the course of his long outdoor career, Carey has hiked more than 10,000 official big trail miles, and easily that much again and probably a lot more through his extensive travels and explorations across Maine, New England, the U.S., Europe and Canada. Based on these accounts, Carey has plenty of fun stories to tell (which just might include just a few tall tales) with lots of stunning photography to match.



If you would like to purchase one of
Carey's books scan QR code

Upcoming events

– Save the Date

Please check our website and social media for event updates

November 18 - Annual Meeting will be held at Bates Mill Atrium. Join ALT from 5-8 hear the amazing stories from Carey Kish of Maine Geographic. More information on the website.



Scan for events information

**See you all at the Annual Meeting on November 18th 2025 from 5-8pm at
Bates Mill Atrium**

Leaving Your Legacy Through Land Conservation

For many landowners, their land represents more than acres and boundaries—it's a legacy. It tells the story of a family, a way of life, and a connection to Maine's natural beauty.

The land we cherish tells our story—the fields where our children played, the woods where we walked in quiet reflection, the views that take our breath away. Through a conservation land donation, you can ensure your land's story continues for generations.



At ALT, we offer a variety of tools to help protect your legacy:

Fee Land Donation:

Protect your land by donating the title, rights, and interest to ALT. In special cases, landowners may sell their property to ALT. ALT then retains the land for conservation purposes and manages it responsibly.

Conservation Easement:

Place legal restrictions on your property to protect its natural, agricultural, scenic, or recreational values—while still maintaining private ownership. This ensures your land's story endures forever.

Life Estate:

For landowners who wish to donate their property but continue living on it, a life estate allows you to retain residency while donating the remainder interest to ALT. You maintain responsibility for property care, taxes, and insurance until the Land Trust assumes full ownership upon your passing or a specified date.



Through a conservation gift, you can:

- **Protect your land's character forever** — keeping it undeveloped and true to your vision.
- **Support your community** — preserving wildlife habitat, working forests, and farmland that benefit everyone.
- **Create lasting impact** — your conservation easement becomes a living legacy, honoring your values and connection to the land.

Stewardship Contribution:

When ALT acquires a fee property, we assume significant stewardship responsibilities. Contributions help maintain a stewardship reserve and legal defense fund, ensuring we can uphold these responsibilities far into the future.

Leaving a legacy isn't just about what you give—it's about what you preserve. By donating land or a conservation easement, you create a lasting legacy of clean water, healthy forests, thriving wildlife, and open spaces that will never be lost to development.

Your gift reflects your values and vision for the future—a Maine that remains wild, beautiful, and connected to the people who love it most. Whether your land is farmland, forest, or shoreline, your decision to conserve it is one of the most meaningful gifts you can give.

Your land. Your legacy. Forever.





**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.

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Thank you for your continued support of ALT and the work we do. ALT celebrates 35 years of commitment to preserving and protecting the lands and waters in the Androscoggin River watershed. As we look ahead, we are dedicated to creating an inclusive network of trails and natural spaces, ensuring everyone can appreciate the value of nature and outdoor experiences. Our commitment to protecting natural spaces includes safeguarding lands and waters within the Androscoggin River watershed. We collaborate with landowners to ensure the preservation of these vital resources. Please consider supporting our mission by donating, helping to ensure the ongoing protection of the Androscoggin River watershed and fostering a love for nature among all communities.

Scan for membership
information



Ask us about our 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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