



ROYAL RIVER
CONSERVATION TRUST

Currents

Conserving land for people, wildlife, clean water, and the future

Major gifts protect lands in Pownal, New Gloucester

A land trust often depends on individual owners who decide to protect their own properties with conservation easements or outright gifts of land. Donating an easement can be a financial sacrifice, but for the donor there is the reward of knowing that a particular place is protected from unwelcome development.



Two properties in the Royal River watershed recently came under RRCT's protection: one as a large conservation easement in Pownal, the other as a gift from a developer in New Gloucester.

Bob and Lora Lee Moncreiff, who have lived on their Pownal farm for a decade, concluded that protecting a portion of their property would make sense; working first with the Pownal Land Trust and later with RRCT, they put 55 acres into a permanent conservation easement. The property consists of open meadows and a mixed hemlock and deciduous forest, with old trails and several hundred feet on the East Branch of the Royal River.

"Being 'from away' (California) we are quite aware of how unbridled development can degrade the environment for humans, animals and plants," Bob Moncreiff says. "For that reason, we were anxious to permanently protect this small part of Maine, with its diverse habitats and remaining biodiversity. We are therefore grateful to the Royal River Conservation Trust for helping us achieve that goal, and applaud their preservation work in this unique area of New England."

In New Gloucester, owner-developer Dennis Waterman worked with RRCT and the town planning board to protect 18 acres of a proposed multi-lot subdivision. The land straddles both sides of the Royal River, and has traditionally been enjoyed by hunters and fishermen. RRCT manages it as a preserve with the help of local stewards.

"We decided to name it 'Flowing North Preserve,' says RRCT executive Henry Nichols, "because the Royal River flows north here as opposed to its more normal southerly path."

The generosity of landowners like the Moncreiffs, Dennis Waterman and others makes much of RRCT's success possible, and we owe them many thanks.

RRCT Receives National Award



On October 4, 2007 at a ceremony in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Royal River Conservation Trust received a National Preservation Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in recognition of its efforts to protect 1,700 acres of the Sabbathday Lake Shaker property in New Gloucester / Poland and the 19 historic structures the comprise the Shaker Village. RRCT worked closely with the Shakers, the Trust for Public Land, Maine Preservation, the Friends of the Shakers and several committed volunteers over two years to complete this extraordinary project. Our thanks go to Maine Preservation for nominating RRCT for this prestigious award and to the Shakers for their vision and patience. RRCT will work with the New England Forestry Foundation, holders of the conservation easement, and the Shakers to monitor the conservation property annually.

Meet Our
New
Stewardship
Coordinator
on Page 3!



RRCT Welcomes New Board Members

Since our Spring edition of *Currents*, we have added three new volunteers to the RRCT Board of Directors.

Merrie Woodworth of Yarmouth joined the Board in May at RRCT's Annual Meeting and soon after agreed to help coordinate RRCT's volunteer program. Merrie has had many years of volunteer experience in the Yarmouth schools. She formerly worked at Maine Medical Center. Merrie's good nature, sense of humor and practical approach to solving problems are welcomed attributes to the Board. Merrie is an avid cross country skier and outdoors person.



Ed Gervais of NorthYarmouth joined the Board in July. Ed brings considerable organizational experience as an owner / founder of Cascon Inc., a custom pump manufacturer in Yarmouth. We met Ed when he served on the North Yarmouth Planning Board, a position he held for several years. Ed also loves the outdoors and can often be found fishing, paddling, skiing, or hiking in Maine and beyond.



Eugenie Francine of New Gloucester joined the Board in July. Eugenie is president and owner of esf environmental, providing ecological assessments to clients throughout Maine. Eugenie is as comfortable identifying natural communities as she is running her opponents ragged in any racquet sport. Eugenie missed her first board meeting this summer to land a 16-pound Atlantic salmon on the St. Paul River in Quebec.



Meet Our New Stewardship Coordinator

We are pleased to announce that we have hired Amanda Devine to fill our Stewardship Coordinator vacancy. She will be working with RRCT's Stewardship Committee and volunteers to shape our program to care for, improve and monitor our growing portfolio of conservation lands and easements throughout the Royal River region. Additionally, thanks to an agreement between RRCT and the Town of the Yarmouth, Amanda will be filling out her work week assisting the Town of Yarmouth's Parks and Land Management Committee with its stewardship needs.

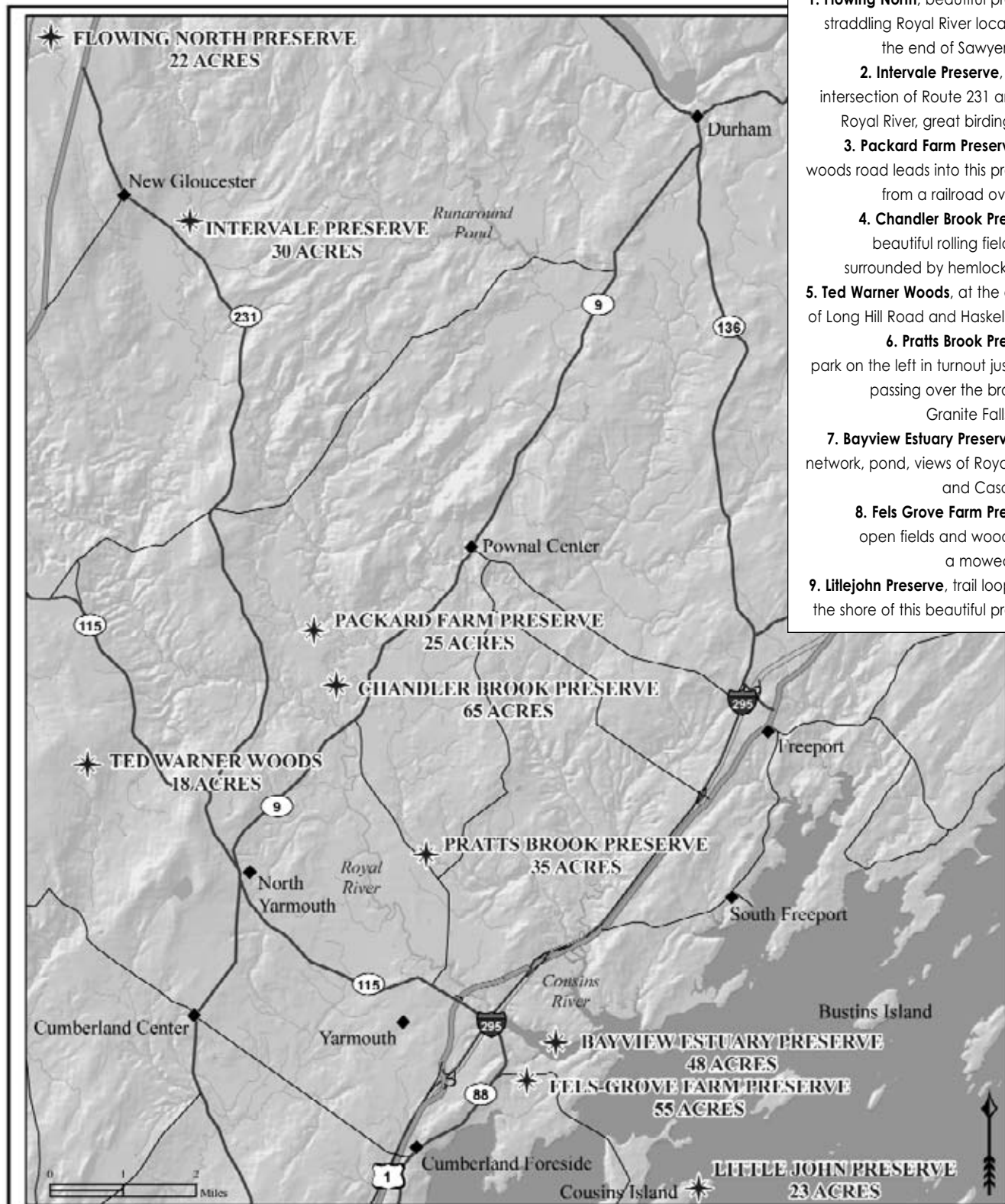


Amanda comes to RRCT from Denali National Park in Alaska, where she worked as a naturalist guide leading groups of people on backcountry trips this past summer. She has extensive field experience, having conducted a variety of biological research in the Northeast, Northwest, Alaska, and Canada. She holds an undergraduate degree from Bates College and a masters degree from the University of Vermont.

Please Vote YES on Question 4 on November 6th!

When we vote for the \$35.5 million natural resources bond, we'll be investing in programs that protect what is special about our lands and waters. Nearly half the funds (\$17 million) will provide new funding for the Land for Maine's Future Program which has helped towns, citizens groups and state agencies conserve land for water access, outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat and productive forests and farms. For twenty years and in every county, this program has secured public access for today and tomorrow.

Properties RRCT owns or holds easements on that are open to the public.



1. **Flowing North**, beautiful property straddling Royal River located at the end of Sawyer Road
2. **Intervale Preserve**, at the intersection of Route 231 and the Royal River, great birding area
3. **Packard Farm Preserve**, old woods road leads into this property from a railroad overpass
4. **Chandler Brook Preserve**, beautiful rolling fields and surrounded by hemlock forest
5. **Ted Warner Woods**, at the corner of Long Hill Road and Haskell Road
6. **Pratts Brook Preserve**, park on the left in turnout just after passing over the brook on Granite Falls Drive
7. **Bayview Estuary Preserve**, trail network, pond, views of Royal River and Casco Bay
8. **Fels Grove Farm Preserve**, open fields and woods with a mowed path
9. **Littlejohn Preserve**, trail loop hugs the shore of this beautiful property



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Publicly Accessible Properties with RRCT Interest

Data Sources: MEGIS, Royal River Conservation Trust

A YCC veteran recalls her learning experience

By Margaret Gerber

For the past two summers, I have worked for the Royal River Youth Conservation Corps out in the hot sun, the pouring rain, the misty mornings and the swarms of insects. It has truly been a rewarding experience that did not come from sitting on a stool for six hours a day, which was exactly what drew me to the job and what kept me coming back for a second year of employment.

The youth conservation corps has not had an easy time with funding or lining up projects, which (luckily for the crew members, though the pay may not have been quite what their friends were making) meant field trips to various sites and "play days" when we were able to really survey the watershed around us and do actual field work. Another great thing about the job was that not only were we given the chance



to apply it directly to our line of work, but we were given constant opportunities to teach others what we were learning each day. At the end of each summer season, friends, family, and potential collaborators gather for the annual tour highlighting major projects we worked on and completed. The tour is given and planned by the crew members, and it is an opportunity for us to educate others with knowledge we have gained.

The RRYCC is a great project that gives young people a chance to become involved and truly engaged with such a simple yet often ignored topic — protecting our clean water — that affects everyone. It is an opportunity that I am very pleased has been kept together for the past five years and hope can be solidified for another five, 15, or even 50 because there is much work to be done and it delves down into the roots of upcoming society with youths' involvement. Save our soil, save our YCC!

Margaret Gerber of New Gloucester worked with the YCC during the summers of 2006 and 2007.



David Miklovich

VOLUNTEERS!

Please consider joining our growing volunteer ranks by filling out our Volunteer Survey and sending it back to my attention.

You can find our survey at our website's Volunteer page. Visit www.rrct.org. Or if you would prefer we will send you one in the mail.

Just call us at 847-9399.

People of all ages are helping RRCT be successful. Together we can make a difference in our communities. Please join me and other volunteers this season.

Sincerely, Merrie Woodworth,
Volunteer coordinator

Upcoming Events

November 6th – all day

Election Day. Please do not forget to vote YES on ballot question #4, the natural resources bond, which will provide much needed funding to the Land for Maine's Future Program

November 19th – 6PM

RRCT Presentation to the Yarmouth Lions Club at the Downeast Village in Yarmouth

January 25th – 6PM

RRCT Annual Party and Potluck with music and plenty of good cheer

February 11th – 1:30PM

RRCT Presentation to the St. Mary's Garden Club of Falmouth

February 13th – 7:30PM

Owl Prowl and Snowshoe for kids and adults at one of our local preserves

If you provide us with your e-mail address, we will send you details on all of the above as the date draws near and alert you to other events we are planning.



Sabbathday Lake Shaker property in New Gloucester

RRCT introduces its new website at rrect.org



We plan on evolving our website to be a place where readers may learn about our activities, find information on how our communities are growing, and become inspired to help us conserve the Royal River region's special places.

Membership Card

Thank you for sustaining the Royal River Conservation Trust with a membership gift. Our success is directly attributable to membership support from people living, working and playing in the Royal River region. Please give according to your interest and ability (our current members have made membership gifts ranging from \$25 to \$500).

Name(s) _____ I wish to make my tax-deductible membership gift of \$ _____ by Debit Credit card

Street Address _____ Card type _____

City/Town/Zip _____ Card # _____ Name as it appears on card _____

E-mail address _____

Phone number _____

THANK YOU!!!

Expiration date _____

RRCT will not share your information with anyone. Member benefits include our biannual newsletter and invitations to special events.