



Winter 2017 newsletter—volume 6



*Permanently protecting the Pierce Pond watershed from development since 1989*

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## Not Your Average Land Trust

### MWWT's Unique Path

*Jerry Bley*

MWWT is certainly not the oldest, largest or wealthiest of the 84 land trusts in Maine. But we do stand out in a number of unique ways.

Land trusts are private nonprofit organizations that protect valued natural resources through the acquisition of land and conservation easements—permanent restrictions that keep lands undeveloped. Moreover, land trusts have the perpetual responsibility of managing the lands that they own, and monitoring and enforcing the conservation easements that they hold.

But not all land trusts are created equal. Here are some of the characteristics that set MWWT apart.

#### Remote location

Most land trusts are based in communities or developed regions of the state. MWWT's service area is the Pierce Pond watershed, which has zero year-round residents, at least of the two-legged variety. We are committed to protecting the

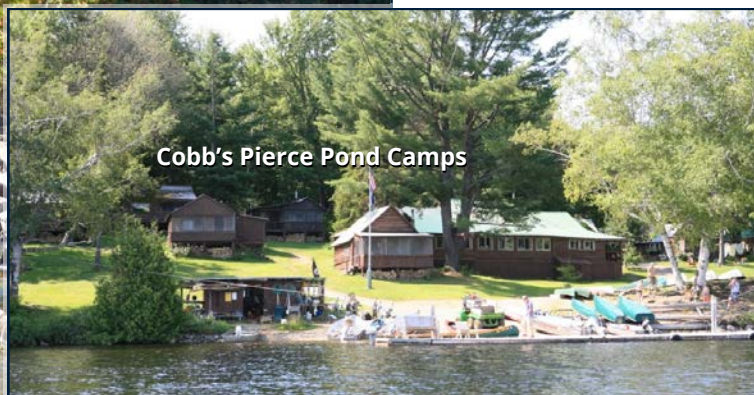
entirety of a remote and pristine location, not scattered open spaces interspersed with development. Our members are not, by and large, year-round or even seasonal residents—very unique among land trusts. Instead, we have a membership dominated by people who are “simply” visitors to Pierce Pond, but who have nonetheless made it their second home.

#### Connection with Maine's sporting camp tradition

Cobb's Camps and Harrison's Camps are an essential part of the history and culture of Pierce Pond. Not only have they played a primary role in bringing visitors to the area; they have also played an important role as stewards of the watershed, managing campsites, promoting catch-and-release angling, maintaining water levels, and much more. It is rare for a land trust's work to be so closely connected to the Maine sporting camp tradition, and even rarer for a land trust to make preservation of the sporting camp life a part of their mission. MWWT is the first land trust in Maine, and possibly in the country, to acquire conservation easements that seek to ensure that commercial sporting camps are available for future generations to enjoy. Both Cobb's Camps and Harrison's Camps have granted easements to MWWT that prohibit the conversion of the sporting camps to private enclaves. Furthermore, agreements with both sporting camp owners give MWWT the first right to purchase the properties if they are to be sold outside the owners' families. In addition, the Trust's conservation



**Harrison's Pierce Pond Camps**



**Cobb's Pierce Pond Camps**

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*“MWWT is the first land trust in Maine, and possibly in the country, to acquire conservation easements that ensure that commercial sporting camps are available for future generations to enjoy.”*

## Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust Board of Directors

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*Coordinator*

Kyle McCaskill, Unity, ME  
*Administrative Manager*

## Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

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## Message from the President

*Carl Freeman*

As we approach the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, I wonder where the last year has gone! We have expanded Trust activities with new initiatives while maintaining the momentum on existing projects developed last year. A few of the items that occupy the Board of Directors are the Annual Membership Meeting and Banquet, a new Auction event, a timber-harvesting operation on Trust land, a trails-planning project, and new signage in the watershed, as well as exploring cooperative habitat-improvement efforts with Trout Unlimited and the Ruffed Grouse Society, and addressing the ramifications of the new Weyerhaeuser ownership of watershed lands.

Three years ago, recognizing the desire of Pierce-Ponders everywhere to ensure the strongest possible long-term protection of the watershed, the Board set an ambitious new goal of eventually owning all of the large forest properties in the watershed. Currently, the Trust owns less than 20 percent of the 10,500-acre watershed. Although there are multiple parcels to consider, the obvious focus is the ~6,800 acres recently acquired by Weyerhaeuser from Plum Creek, and the evolution and impact of their commercial logging activities in the watershed.

Weyerhaeuser's Pierce Pond lands are part of their much larger ownership in the region, and are well-situated to provide wood to area mills, so the company is not anxious to part with these lands unless they can be replaced with other productive timberlands. Consequently, discussions between MWWT and Weyerhaeuser representatives have focused on a potential swap of watershed lands for similar woodlands elsewhere in the state. We have established a positive and open dialogue with Weyerhaeuser and have outlined the framework for a potential deal. I will be discussing this topic in more detail at the membership meeting on March 4.

Whenever the land acquisition is discussed, the inevitable and justifiable questions arise—when is it going to happen and how much is it going to cost? The fact that there are multiple landowners involved and the complexity of a swap deal with Weyerhaeuser makes it very difficult to accurately estimate cost and timing. What we can say is that MWWT has stepped up its efforts to aggressively search for suitable swap lands, having retained the services of two quality real estate firms to assist us. We are optimistic that some portion of the watershed can be secured in the next 12–18 months. In the end, if all of the large private landowners in the watershed (not just Weyerhaeuser) were prepared to sell their lands, we anticipate that the overall price of the total initiative, including land purchase, transaction and fundraising costs, as well as a stewardship endowment, is likely to be in the range of \$6 million.

As you might expect, such cost estimates have consumed many board meetings with deliberations on the ability of the trust to raise the necessary funds. Last fall, after an extensive search process, MWWT retained the services of Demont Associates, a highly regarded and experienced Portland-based group, to conduct a feasibility and planning study for a potential future fundraising campaign. Based upon the results of the study and our progress with land negotiations, the Board will decide the timing and amount of a capital campaign. The study is underway now and will extend into next autumn, involving many MWWT members throughout the country as a critical part of the process. The truth is that this study cannot succeed without participation and input from our members. Please be alert for opportunities to be involved.

Another significant project is the production of a 10–15 minute video that combines spectacular visuals of the watershed through the seasons with conversations and reflections of many



## Studies at High Pond Reveal Threats to Native Brook Trout Habitat

*Gary Burke, MWWT Board Member*

Since 2010, college students from the Geology Department at the University of Maine Farmington have been conducting research on the effects of climate change at fifteen subalpine and alpine small ponds above 2,000 feet in western Maine.

One pond that was selected for the study is High Pond, with a 2,079' elevation on top of Pierce Pond Mountain. High Pond supports a native brook trout population without stocking because of the existence of appropriate spawning habitat around the shoreline of the pond.

Water temperatures were continuously measured at High Pond from October 2010 until July 2016 with the use of data loggers anchored on a submerged line. One logger was placed just under the surface, another at three feet, and another at the bottom. When visiting the pond to collect the water temperature data, students collected dissolved oxygen profiles and measured secchi depths (a measure of the cloudiness or turbidity of surface water).

The findings from the data collected show an upward trend in water temperatures for a longer period of time throughout the year. Summertime temperatures can reach between 70 and 80 degrees at the surface. Moreover, because of the clarity of the pond, there has been an increase in the warming of the deep water through the summer, with 70 degree temperatures recorded at the bottom. Dissolved oxygen levels have also showed a decrease, with an abrupt drop near the bottom, probably owing to oxygen-consuming microorganisms.

Increased carbon dioxide levels in the earth's atmosphere are causing warmer temperatures



on earth. UMaine Farmington's study appears to demonstrate that High Pond is experiencing the effects of a warming climate. The impact could result in the loss of cooler water at depths required to sustain native trout populations.

How can Trust members make a difference? If the native brook trout population in High Pond is important to you, the best thing you can do is to reduce your carbon footprint. Eat locally produced foods, recycle, support clean energy, buy less bottled water, and plant a tree. The actions we take from many miles away may be the best way to help native brook trout populations.

There are no plans to collect any more data from High Pond for at least five years. At that time the university may return for two or three years. They will then compare a few years of data to their existing baseline.

The data has been shared with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to help them make management decisions about Maine's high ponds. Ultimately the data will be combined with some other research about changing environmental conditions in Maine's western mountains.

Pierce Ponders. The intent of the video is to educate potential donors about the reasons the Pierce Pond watershed needs to be protected and the critical role of the Trust and its members, while opening their eyes to the pristine beauty and fragility of the watershed. This video project is made possible by funding from Ben Gale and the Gale Foundation. We all owe Ben many thanks for his continued support of the Trust. The current version of the video (it's a work in progress) will be shown at the banquet and everyone will have an opportunity to share their comments to help us make sure the correct message is being delivered. This should be a fun time for all our amateur movie producers to demonstrate their talents!

We are adding a new auction event to Trust activities, which will be separate from the annual meeting/banquet. Board member Joanne Gallant has taken charge of creating an expanded and rousing fundraising auction with high-quality items, to occur later this fall. We have engaged Moxie Auctions, an experienced and successful firm, to help us plan and manage the event, which we expect will attract an audience extending well beyond the trust membership. The date and location will be determined before the March 4 annual meeting and there'll be plenty of discussion of this event at the meeting.

Finally, there will be a new look when you get to Lindsay Cove this year. We will be installing a kiosk on which both the trust and Weyerhaeuser will be posting watershed information. We will also be placing new MWWT signs at other prominent sites to let users know they're entering and using MWWT-protected lands.

These are busy and exciting times for the Trust. I look forward to sharing our progress with you in the coming months.

*Carl Freeman*

Please join us for MWWT's 28th Annual

### **MEMBERSHIP MEETING & Banquet**

Saturday, March 4, 2017  
Harraseeket Inn, Freeport, Maine

*We will be drawing the winning raffle ticket for the **\$10,000 Grand Prize** (a few tickets are still available)!*

#### **IMPORTANT:**

**Please arrive in time to attend the Annual Members Business Meeting at 5 PM!**

## MWWT Member List

- Abbe, Chris & Kathy  
 Abbe, Dudley & Elizabeth  
 Abbe, Jeffrey  
 Abbe, John  
 Abbe, Steve  
 Abbe, Susan  
 Allen, Douglas Jr.  
 Allen, Louise  
 Allen, Richardson  
 Allen, Sandy & Mary  
 Anderson, Clifford  
 Anderson, Eric & Geraldine  
   Schneider  
 Anderson, Robert & Dorothy  
 Arsenault, Don  
 Astbury, Art  
 Aten, Joseph  
 Austin, Mark & Carol Ann  
 Averill, Pete  
 Bahl, Maggie Drummond- &  
   Matt  
 Bailey, Larry & Jacqueline  
 Baker, Dale & Patricia  
 Baker, Peter  
 Baker, Robert Jr.  
 Barriault, Ronald  
 Barter, Albert  
 Bastien, Margaret  
 Bateman, Raymond  
 Bates, Linda, & Jeffrey Leo  
 Bauer, Barbara  
 Bean, Christopher &  
   Claudette  
 Belfiore, James  
 Bell, Daniel  
 Bell, Gordon  
 Betts, Cameron & Heather  
 Bickford, Jeff & Julia  
 Bien, Stephen  
 Blake, Alfred & Elaine  
 Blake, Kate & Family  
 Blake, Patrick  
 Blasenak, Ron & Sally  
 Bley, Jerry  
 Bormann, Kelly & Darrell  
 Bousquet, Paul & Sandra  
 Bousquet, Paul Jr.  
 Brasslett, Gordon & Patty  
   Clement  
 Brown, Gary & Ann  
 Brown, Peter & Karen  
 Buchanan, Donald III  
 Buckley, Paul Sr.  
 Burke, Gary & Deborah  
 Burnham, Charles & Ann  
 Burnham, Frederick  
 Burns, James & Gloria  
 Burns, Louis & Gayle  
 Burns, Robert, & Elizabeth  
   Spaulding  
 Calder, Thomas & Wanda  
 Campbell, Colin & Regina  
 Canada, Jeanne  
 Capofreddi, Matthew & Amy  
 Carlson, John  
 Case, Alan & Patricia  
 Charles, Ed & Elizabeth  
 Childs, Richard & Linda  
 Chipman, David & Kathe  
 Cobb, Andy & Patty  
 Cobb, Gary & Betty  
 Cobb, Ruth  
 Cobb-Hering, Jennifer  
 Cockburn, Robert & Jessica  
 Cook, Floyd  
 Corbett, John & Katherine  
 Corbett-Paterniti, Sara &  
   Mike  
 Cournoyer, Edmond, & Cheri  
   Patterson  
 Couture, Edward  
 Cozine, James & Betsy  
 Cronin, Mervell & Anne  
 Curci, Michael & Christine  
 Daboll, Roger & Barbara  
 Danker, Paul & Christine  
 Dart, Lawrence & Darlene  
 Davis, Joanne  
 Davis, Richard & Sheryl  
 Demaso, Bill & Marie  
 DeSisto, Richard  
 Dickinson, Gregory  
 Diprizio, Prisco & Phyllis  
 Dornish, Karl & Jane  
 Dougherty, Anne & Vince  
 Douglass, Cynthia Ayn  
 Douglass, David & Kay  
 Dow, Mac & Georganne  
 Drillen, Cyril & Kathlyn  
 Drummond, Eileen  
 Drummond, Greg & Patrice  
 Drummond, Kate, & Peter Elias  
 Dubois, Arthur & Bridget  
 Dugan, Sam & Diane  
 Eastman, Robert.  
 Ebbeson, Bruce & Beverly  
 Edmonds, Tom & Susan  
 Edson, Charlie & Ann  
 Elsaesser, Frederick  
 Engstrom, Leroy & Elizabeth  
 Enright, Richard  
 Estes, Stephen & Family  
 Ewing, John & Karen  
 Fagan, Christopher  
 Fagan, Kathleen  
 Fairley, Erin, & William Patz  
 Fales, Jerry  
 Farmer, Roy & Janne  
 Farris, Kenneth  
 Feitz, Nick & Pamela  
 Fenn, Ruth & Chris  
 Fenton, Nancy  
 Field, Peter & Alice  
 Flanagan, John  
 Flewelling, Bruce  
 Foss, Patricia  
 Fowler, Judith  
 Frantzman, Joel  
 Fraser, Constance  
 Frazee, Kenneth  
 Freeman, Carl  
 Freeman, Jeffrey & Ann  
 Gage, Bradlee & Rosemarie  
 Gage, Lynda  
 Gage, William  
 Gale, Benjamin & Deborah  
 Gale, Tyler  
 Gallant, Dennis & Joanne  
 Gallant, Gerard & Anna  
 Gardner, Warren  
 Gendron, George & Janie  
 Gibbons, John Jr.  
 Gibbs, Robert & Thirza  
 Gibson, Jack III & Gail  
 Gill, Charles & Linda  
 Gillis, Raymond & Joan  
 Gilman, Gerald  
 Gilpatric, William & Sally  
 Glockner, Al & Shelley  
 Glover, Hank & Lynzy  
 Goode, Andrew  
 Goode, Joanne  
 Goolden, Sandra  
 Goss, Kevin  
 Goar, Dudley  
 Govatos, Jean  
 Grigerek, Linda & Glen  
 Guibord, Russell  
 Gurley, Bruce  
 Hagan, Walter & Gracemary  
 Haines, Terry & Fran  
 Hall, John & Priscilla  
 Hallett, Pete & Carol  
 Hansen, William  
 Hardesty, Vaughn & Phoebe  
 Harmon, David & Mary  
 Harrington, Norman  
 Harris, Bud & Sue  
 Hart, Charles  
 Hashem, Daniel Sr. &  
   Carolyn  
 Haynes, Bob  
 Hebert, Dave & Jill  
 Henebry, Brendan & Molly  
 Herrmann, Paul  
 Herrmann, Peter  
 Hilton, Hope  
 Hiro, Sue  
 Hitchings, David  
 Holt, Derek  
 Holt, Timothy  
 Horn, Daniel  
 Hosmer, Calvin III & Cynthia  
 Howard, Gabriella  
 Howe, William  
 Hurtig Family  
 Hutchins, Betty  
 Hutchins, Eric & Madeleine  
 Hutchins, Scott & Laura  
 Hutchins, Wayne, & Rebecca  
   Gowen  
 Iannuccilli, Leonard  
 Jackson, Patrick & Christina  
 Jagger, C. Thomas  
 Jeffers, Georgia  
 Jennings, Rupert, & Carol  
   Robinson  
 Johnson, Peter & Mary Ann  
 Jordan, Richard  
 Julia, James  
 Kennedy, Robert & Jacqueline  
 Kennedy, Thomas  
 Kimball, Kerry  
 Kimble, Donald & Marilyn  
 Kittredge, Robert  
 Kizelewicz, Benedict  
 Klinkenberg, R.B. & Ann  
 Koss, Lauron & Mary  
 Krohn, William  
 Labbe, Normand  
 Labrie, Lawrence  
 Lake, Kenneth  
 Langburd, Alan & Lisa  
 Langille, Dolores  
 Latini, Anthony & Christine  
 Latti, Mark & Marybeth  
 Latti, Michael & Georgia  
 Lavigne, Janice  
 Learmonth, Jack  
 Lee, Bill  
 Leigner, Jr Frank  
 Leo, Chris  
 Lepage, Charles & Joan  
 Lepage, James  
 Lepore, Michael & Mary  
 Lepore, Michael & Megan  
 Leslie, John & Susan  
 Leslie, Michael  
 Leslie, Peter  
 Levesque, Richard  
 Libby, Leon & Ann  
 Lilljedahl, Robert  
 Lord, Brad  
 Lowell, Elwood, & Gloria Hall  
 Luczkow, John  
 Lund, Jo-Ann & David  
 Lussier, Gene & Linda  
 Lynn, Sarah & Henry  
 Lyttle, Peter  
 Macdonald, James  
 MacNary, Don & Julie  
 Mahoney, James & Louise  
 Manthorne, Bill & Jean  
 Marchant, Doyle  
 Marden, Judith  
 Marshall, Bruce & Linda  
 Matherson, Richard, Steve &  
   Tyler  
 Mathieu, Daniel, & Thomas  
 Potter  
 Matt, Dennis & Family  
 Mattar, Sarah & Titus  
   Wheatley  
 Matteson, Paul & Nancy  
 McCaskill, Kyle  
 McCollor, Jack & Merlene  
 McCollor, Reginald & Erdine  
 McCormick, Kyle & Diane  
 McKenna, Gene & Jane  
 McLaughlin, Robert &  
   Kristen  
 McPhee, Neal & Valerie  
 Meader, Bud  
 Meader, Heather  
 Meader, Robert & Polly  
 Mehaffey, William &  
   Margaret  
 Meisner, Stephen & Marcia  
 Merchant, John & Jeannie  
 Messinger, Ann  
 Messinger, Corrine  
 Messinger, Margaret  
 Michaud, Gary & Carolyn  
 Michka, Alan & Kay  
 Miles, Keith  
 Miles, Paul & Nancy  
 Miller, Buell  
 Milliken, Brian  
 Mitchell, Henry & Joan  
 Molloy, Brian  
 Molloy, Frederick  
 Molloy, Kevin & Erica  
 Molloy, Peter  
 Molloy, Todd & Merridith  
 Molzan, David  
 Moores, Blaine  
 Moretti, Frances  
 Morrell, Doug & Georgette  
 Morris, Allen & Barbara  
 Morse, Peter  
 Morton, Gerald & Jean  
 Moses, Bradley & Nancy  
 Murphy, Patricia  
 Murray, Charles & Amanda  
 Nazemetz, Michael & Ann  
   Lee Hussey  
 Neudel, Eric  
 Neudel, Peter  
 Nichols, Don  
 Nichols, Shane & Darcie  
 Nichols, Zachary & Courtney  
 Norris, James  
 O'Brien, Frederic & Patricia  
 Oliver, Richard  
 Olson, Gunnar Jr.  
 Orcutt, Amos & Lola  
 Park, Roger & Elizabeth  
 Parker, Donald & Marjorie  
 Parsons, Marcus III & Ellen  
 Patterson, William  
 Pauwels, Stanislas  
 Payson, Stanley  
 Payson, Stanley III  
 Peacock Family  
 Peacock, Carlton  
 Pechnik, Frank  
 Peluso, Mike & Robin  
 Peppard, David & Theresa  
 Peppard, Isaiah  
 Percival, David & Bonnie  
 Perkins, Payson & Toni  
 Peron, Fernand & Violet  
 Perry, Thomas & Yvette  
 Peterman, Robert & Debra  
 Pfirman, Richard & Martha  
 Pierce, David & Ruth  
 Pierce, Derek, & Anja Hanson  
 Pikaart, Christine  
 Pikaart, Edward Jr. & Margie  
 Plante, Bill  
 Planting, Charles Scott  
 Podkaminer, Jane & Nate  
 Podkaminer, Joshua  
 Porter, Janet  
 Powell, Nancy & Phil Blaisdell  
 Powell, Ruth  
 Purcell, Edward  
 Rand, Alice & Peter  
 Rappaport, Charles  
 Ray, Caroline  
 Reneson, Chet  
 Richter, James & Claudia  
 Rines, Dana & Lorraine  
 Robey, Jeff & Abby  
 Roelle, William & Shari  
 Ross, John  
 Rounds, Winifred  
 Salmon, Richard  
 Saunders, Eric  
 Saurman, Thomas  
 Sawyer, Peter  
 Schaefer, Cris & Blaine  
 Schenkel, Andrew & Randy  
 Schmidle, Heather  
 Schmidle, Heather Anne  
 Schmidle, Paul & Wendy  
 Schmidle, Robert  
 Schofield, Carl Jr. & Linda  
 Scott, Michael  
 Scribner, Carol  
 Scribner, Richard & Jo Ellen  
 Shaw, Harold & Suzanne  
 Sheresky, Steven & Tapley  
 Sheridan, Kevin & Barbara  
 Shields, Walker & Joyce  
 Shropshire, Ken & Linda



Shuter, Elizabeth  
 Sikorsky, Igor & Karen  
 Silbor, Hurley Jr.  
 Silva, John & Eleanor  
 Sirianni, Russell & Amy  
 Siscoe, Bob & Chris  
 Siscoe, Nancy  
 Skaling, Thomas & Roberta  
 Smaglia, Robert & Anne  
 Smith, Alexander  
 Soley, David, Tim, & Jack  
 Soley, Judy  
 Soule, David Jr.  
 Spalding, Ben  
 St. Pierre, Jym  
 St. Pierre, Teresa  
 Stallman III, Ben  
 Stallman, Alexander & Jutta  
 Stallman-Madden, Betsy  
 Staples, Stephen  
 Stauffer, Jo Ann  
 Steinhacker, Robert & Marianne  
 Stover, Jacqueline  
 Stowell, Patricia, & Peter Ver Lee  
 Stringos, Gust & Jan  
 Stuart, Ralph & Carol  
 Stupak, Joe Jr.  
 Sutherland, Leslie & Constance  
 Taylor, Mark & Sheila  
 Thomas, Kevin & Laura  
 Thomas, Kimberly E. Abbe  
 Thorp, Philips & Heather  
 Thunberg, Robert  
 Timmins, James  
 Torrey, David & Ann  
 Trachtenberg, Howard & Carol  
 Tracy, Mark & Barbara  
 Tripp, Bruce  
 Tully, Barbara  
 Turgeon, Allan & Suzanne  
 Uluatam, Al  
 Valentine, Charles & Annette  
 Valentine, Gertrude  
 Valentine, Lawrence & Mary  
 Van Husen, Ella Mae  
 Verrill, David  
 Verrill, Jeffrey  
 Vetelino, John  
 Vogt, James Sr. & Marcia  
 Voisine, Rene & Nancy  
 Wallace, David  
 Wallace, David & Linda  
 Wallace, Richard & Carol  
 Wallace, Richard & Christina  
 Ware, John  
 Ware, Roland Jr.  
 Warner, Seth C.  
 Waterman, Erik  
 Wellenbach, Patricia  
 Westphal, Christian  
 Westphal, Robert & Leslie  
 White, Donald  
 Whiting, Tim & Anne  
 Whitney, Doreen  
 Whitney, Winston  
 Williams, Gay & Brian  
 Winslow, Donnabeth  
 Wirth, Donald & Jean  
 Wright, James & Georgiana  
 Young, Lincoln  
 Young, Ron

## The Future is the Appalachian Trail

### Harrison's Camps

*Kyle McCaskill*

Tim Harrison, proprietor of Harrison's Pierce Pond Camps, says that the three-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail (AT) that runs alongside Pierce Pond Stream is known as one of its prettiest sections, with waterfalls and scenery second only to Gulf Hags. One travel guide describes the Pierce Pond Stream falls and gorge as "a hidden jewel."

"The hikers come from everywhere," said Harrison in a recent interview. "Australia, China, England, Germany, Switzerland—and they are all nice! They can't help but be happy because of where they are. And I'm happy, because they are all so interesting. Every morning I can't wait to get up and see my guests."

Harrison's Camps' peeled-log cabins overlook Pierce Pond stream, and can accommodate up to 20 people, "but 14 is comfortable," according to Harrison. The main lodge contains a dining room as well as a recreation and living room. The camps are open from May through Columbus Day, with most of the clientele either hiking or fishing.

"This year will be my 32nd season. I used to work as an insurance company actuary," recalled Harrison. "But I always wanted to be outside! I didn't belong in the city. This is MUCH better. I will stay here till I drop. I'm living my dream. How many people live their dream?"

Bud and Dori Williams, who in the mid-1970s restored and reopened the camps, probably didn't envision how things would play out when they began offering pancake breakfasts to AT hikers. "It was Dori who started the 12-pancake breakfast tradition," explained Harrison. "I continue it with my 'Patriotic Pancake Breakfast' (pancakes with apples, blueberries, and raspberries), which is well-known on the AT."



*Pierce Pond Stream*

I leave a note at the AT lean-to inviting hikers to come and hang out, and reserve breakfast if they want to." The popularity of Harrison's breakfast is not surprising in light of the fact that it is reputed to require 5,500 calories a day for an AT hiker to maintain body weight.

"There are many more thru-hikers now," Harrison observed. "And they are better-prepared; the equipment is better. Even so, many of them haven't anticipated how hard it is, how bad the bugs can be."

According to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), from 1936 to 1969 only 59 people hiked the entire trail. One of the ten people who completed the trail in 1970 was Ed Garvey, who then published *Appalachian Hiker: Adventure of a Lifetime*. The total number of thru-hikers increased more than ten-fold by 1980, and doubled again by 1990.

In 1998, Bill Bryson published *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail*, which caused AT hiker numbers to spike for a few years. On the Internet, social media posts and hiker blogs began to proliferate, and National Geographic put out an AT documentary in 2009. Then came the 2012 publication of Cheryl Strayed's *Wild*, an account of her thousand-mile solo trek along the Pacific Crest Trail. The movie followed in 2014. AT trail usage went from fewer than 900 thru-hikers in 2012 to 1,927 in 2015.

The fall 2015 release of the movie version of *A Walk in the Woods*, starring Robert Redford, pushed numbers into new territory, with 3,064 thru-hikers on the trail in 2016.

Overcrowding has now become a problem in some areas, and the ATC is developing management strategies to mitigate potential impacts.

*continued on page 6*



## Appalachian Trail

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Tim Harrison saw it happening on the ground. “I used to see about a half-dozen hikers in June. Last year, close to 100 hikers came through here in June. And there are many more women on the trail—50 percent as opposed to 10 percent. I attribute that to the movie *Wild*. All told I had somewhere around 1,000 hikers stop in last year.” Just a few miles downstream, the AT’s Kennebec River hiker ferry service documented transporting 2,640 AT hikers across the river.



Roughly 10 percent of thru-hikers begin their trek in Maine, with the bulk of hikers starting in Georgia in early spring and finishing in Maine in the fall.

Thousands of others complete shorter sections of the trail or do day-hikes. The ATC estimates that about 3 million people visit the AT each year. “Thousands of people start the hike in Georgia—way too many hikers. There have been proposals to charge for permits to hike the trail,” Harrison said. In fact, Baxter State Park has just imposed its first-ever permitting system that caps the number of AT hikers allowed to climb Mt. Katahdin. Even with the increasing numbers, Harrison feels that “there is still no other trail with this kind of camaraderie and community. That’s what attracts the hikers.”

The conservation easement that MWWT purchased on Harrison’s Pierce Pond Camps in 2009 specifies that the property be used only as a traditional Maine sporting camp, which suits Harrison just fine. “Wouldn’t it be an awful loss if this place were private and gated off—if the public wasn’t able to access it?” Harrison asked. “This place *has* to stay open to the public.”

“Thanks to the Internet and word-of-mouth, I don’t need to advertise. I think that because of the Internet, the AT will be extremely busy from now on. The future of Harrison’s Pierce Pond Camps revolves around its location on Pierce Pond Stream and the Appalachian Trail.”

## MWWT’s 2016 Timber Harvest

Bob Haynes, MWWT Forester



MWWT conducted two timber harvests last fall. On Black Nubble 121 acres were harvested, and 45 acres were harvested between Valentine and Weyerhaeuser land, south of the Otter Pond Cove Road. The sustainable harvest prescription had four components: 1) to preserve the long-term health of the forest by removing diseased timber, 2) to remove stems that would not produce at least a 12-foot log, 3) to remove mature wood that may not survive to the next harvest, and 4) on Black Nubble, small openings were created conducive to better partridge habitat. Much of the harvest tonnage was diseased beech.

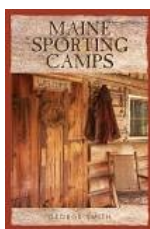
We used the services of SAPPI (which owns a pulp mill in Skowhegan) to execute FSC-certified sustainable harvests. SAPPI forester Bryan Savoy was instrumental in making the harvest arrangements, finding markets, and assuring quality work.

Two distinct systems were used. The south harvest used a mechanical harvester followed by a “cut to length” machine (processor), and

then the final products were moved to the landing with a forwarder. This process leaves the limbs and tops in the woods. The north harvest was a whole-tree conventional system composed of harvester, grapple skidder, delimber, slasher, and chipper. The quality of wood here was very low so we wanted to make use of the chips as well. The snow held off for almost all the duration of the harvest and the ground was partially frozen.

Those who drive in to Otter Pond Cove will notice a difference in the canopy. We removed all the popple (quaking aspen) that could be reached from the road. It was shading better-quality wood and would soon be falling into the road. The Otter Pond Cove Road from the Bowtown Road to MWWT land was improved significantly with shaping and cutting of side brush—a task that the Trust needed to undertake for continued public access. Weyerhaeuser had extended the old road part way up to Black Nubble. We extended it to the top and will be blocking it off after determining if we had any substantial wind-throw this winter. Weyerhaeuser donated gravel, and SAPPI donated the culverts. Roadwork costs came out of timber proceeds. The net income for the harvest was \$18,544, with 60 percent coming from the Nubble harvest and the remainder from the south end.

I am very pleased with the outcome and am available this summer for a woods walk for anyone interested. *Really*, MWWT is so much more than water and fish!



### Informative and Entertaining

Don’t miss *Maine Sporting Camps*, George Smith’s survey of 80 backwoods hospitality opportunities. Smith and his wife Linda wrote personal reviews of many of the facilities, and others were supplied by longtime guests and guides—

a delightful aspect of the book. Cobb’s Pierce Pond Camps is on Smith’s favorites list, and stories from David Peppard, Liva Pierce, and Jeanne Merchant make the Pierce Pond write-up particularly rich.

You will find details about the types of lodging available, the surrounding environs and nature of outdoor activities, and of course, where applicable, the food!





## The Story of a Boat

Gary Burke

Around 1956, Mr. Charles Metcalf, the Clerk of Courts in Salem, Massachusetts, came to Pierce Pond. An avid fly fisherman, “Charlie,” as he was known, fell in love with Pierce Pond. He returned for many years, often spending the entire summer at the Pond with his wife Greta. He also enjoyed fishing at ice-out and the end of September.

Charlie brought along with him to the Pond a Penn Yan Cartopper boat. The Cartopper was one of many models of rib-reinforced, round-bottomed “trout boats” that were built in the Finger Lakes, New York region when it became a destination for

sportsmen. Penn Yan Boats in Penn Yan, NY was the largest of the Finger Lakes boat-builders. Charlie’s well-crafted boat was wood with canvas, 12 feet in length with a 50-inch beam, cedar planking with oak ribs.

Charlie spent so much time during the fishing season at Pierce Pond that he left the boat at Cobb’s Camps during the off-season. There, the camp crew put the boat under cover, protected from the elements, for a long winter’s nap. Almost every year from 1956 until 2013 the old Penn Yan hit the water at ice-out, and was not put away until the last week in September.

In 1970, Charlie convinced a fly-fishing friend of his who lived in the same hometown to go to Pierce Pond. So in August of 1970 my father, Joseph Burke, embarked upon his first trip to Pierce Pond to meet and fish with



Pierce Pond, Joe would bring Charlie to the Pond and they would always fish out of the Penn Yan. When Charlie’s health failed him and he was unable to make the trip to Maine, he turned over ownership of the Penn Yan to Joe. In May of 1976 Charlie passed away.

Joe and his friend and fellow fisherman David Peppard made much-needed repairs to the old

boat on several occasions. The Penn Yan always returned to Pierce Pond in the spring for another year of fishing.

Then history repeated itself. As my father Joe got older, I would bring him to Pierce Pond every year for the fall fishing.

Together we spent many hours together in the Penn Yan, bonding as father and son while fishing.

Then, in 2007, ownership of the old boat changed once again as my father turned the Penn Yan over to me. In July of 2009 Joe passed away. I used the boat until 2013, and then handed the Penn Yan over to my sister Joanne, an avid fly fisher. Currently the old boat is undergoing a complete restoration by Salmon Falls Canoe, LLC of Shelburne, Massachusetts. When completed this coming

Charlie. He brought a friend with him—as well as 16 -year-old me, I’m happy to say. The rest is history. Joe Burke returned to the Pond every year after that until 2007, fishing at ice out, June, July, and the last week of September, and never looked back.

As Charlie Metcalf grew older and was unable to drive to

spring, the Penn Yan will be just as she was when she left the Penn Yan factory in 1954.

Over the course of 57 years, the Penn Yan saw only the waters of Pierce Pond. It covered the water from the Upper Pond to the Basin many times. However, there was one special spot in Lindsay Cove that the Penn Yan always seemed to end up at some time during the day—and many of you know just where that is.

As with any old boat there are many stories. The Penn Yan saw calm water and some violent storms over the years, always arriving safely back to camp. There were many fish caught on flies cast from the Penn Yan by several very accomplished fishermen. If the



Penn Yan could talk, I’m sure she would recount some interesting conversations, from what type of fly to use, to politics, and everything in between.

The Penn Yan’s restoration is just the latest chapter of the ongoing “story of a boat.” Sometime in the near future, Joanne will bring the fully restored Penn Yan back to the waters of Pierce Pond—the only home it has ever known—for at least one more trip.





Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust

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*A not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization*

## Make Pierce Pond a Part of Your Legacy

You can help protect the Pierce Pond watershed for generations to come by remembering the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust in your will or other estate plans. Bequests and planned gifts will allow MWWT to protect critical natural areas and ensure that Pierce Pond will be enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts for generations to come.

Planned gifts can provide:

- ◆ Income for the rest of your life
- ◆ Immediate income tax deductions
- ◆ Favorable capital gains treatment of appreciated securities
- ◆ Estate tax savings

To find out more about planned giving opportunities, please contact MWWT Coordinator Jerry Bley at (207) 685-3872.

## Your MWWT membership matters! Have you renewed for 2017?

Choose your membership level:

- Individual: \$35–\$99
- Family: \$100–\$249
- Sponsor: \$250–\$499
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Send your membership donation to MWWT, PO Box 5660, Augusta, ME 04332, or RENEW ONLINE at [www.mwwt.org](http://www.mwwt.org).

## Not Your Average Land Trust continued from page 1

easement on North Otter Pond allows for the re-establishment of a historic sporting camp, which is currently underway.

### Active forest management

MWWT owns almost 2,000 acres of forest land; 1,770 acres on the east side of the Pierce Pond watershed and 190 acres along the Dead River. These are lands that have a long working-forest history, supplying wood to the region’s paper and saw mills and providing jobs to residents of surrounding communities.

MWWT was able to acquire its Pierce Pond holdings with the help of the Forest Legacy Program, a federal land conservation program that seeks to preserve important environmental values while maintaining timberlands as working forest. As the permanent steward of these lands, MWWT has implemented a forest management program that aims to enhance wildlife habitat, protect water quality, benefit the region’s economy, and ensure a sustainable

supply of forest products. Few land trusts put as much effort into managing their woodlands. Our harvesting practices—not surprisingly—differ from large commercial forest land-owners in the region. We give high priority to improving the quality of the remaining stands and providing diverse wildlife habitat. Last winter, MWWT completed its third timber harvest on its Pierce Pond lands near Otter Pond Cove and Black Nubble (see p 6).

### Protection of an entire watershed

While many land trusts place a high priority on watershed protection, very few have accomplished what MWWT has around Pierce Pond. Over the course of a quarter century, MWWT has succeeded in permanently protecting the entire 10,500-acre Pierce Pond watershed from development—truly a remarkable achievement. Today, virtually every acre of the watershed is subject to a conservation easement (83 percent) or is

owned by MWWT (17 percent). MWWT has now set its sights upon acquiring watershed lands as opportunities arise, with the ultimate goal of owning all of the large forest tracts in the watershed. When this is accomplished, MWWT will be able to manage the watershed lands to ensure that water quality, wildlife habitat, and scenic views are preserved.

Twenty years ago, approximately 5 percent of Maine lands were under some form of conservation ownership. Today the area of conserved lands has more than tripled, now comprising about 18 percent of the state’s land area—largely accomplished through the leadership of Maine’s land trusts. Maine is at the forefront of the nation’s land trust movement. Within this vibrant Maine land trust community, we, the members of MWWT, have carved our own path—one unique to our mission, as well as to the natural and cultural heritage of Pierce Pond.

