

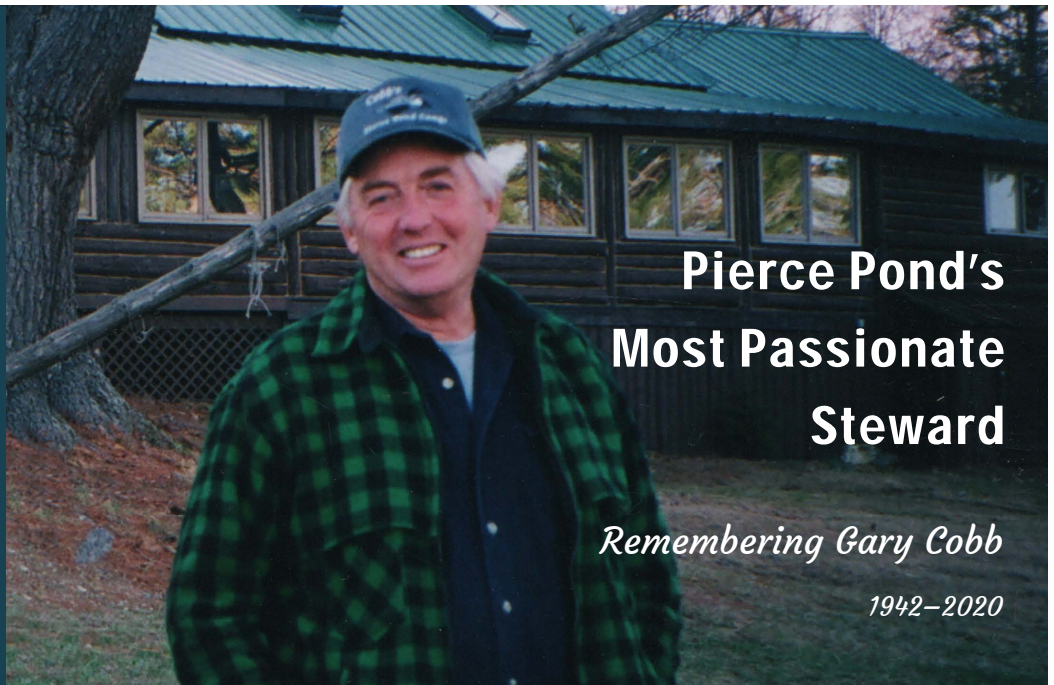
# Pierce Pond Watershed Trust



SINCE 1989

*Protecting the Pierce Pond watershed for thirty-one years*

Winter 2021 newsletter—volume 10



## Pierce Pond's Most Passionate Steward

*Remembering Gary Cobb*

1942–2020

—Kyle McCaskill

**I** FIRST MET GARY AND BETTY COBB in the early 90s, when I was running a sporting camp, at a meeting of the newly formed Maine Sporting Camp Association. Gary, who was president, struck me as quiet and gracious, but I noticed that when he spoke, everyone listened. He proposed something that, to a bunch of sporting camp owners, was revolutionary. Instead of thinking of one another as competitors, he said, we could be stronger together. With Gary's leadership, we gradually learned to collaborate, and his proposition was proven true.

This capacity to quietly collaborate and lead might be what PPWT Coordinator Jerry Bley was referring to when he wrote about Gary's "quiet wisdom": "with few words, he could guide a conversation, or a meeting, or in the case of the Pierce Pond Watershed, a movement."

The movement that Gary started would save Pierce Pond from the fate that

overtook many other wilderness lakes in Maine. In the 1980s Maine was experiencing unprecedented subdividing of remote forest and lakeshore, and Gary was paying attention. Housing prices in southern New England and New York were soaring, and many people headed north with cash or equity, looking for a piece of the remaining backcountry. Thousands of acres, cleared of timber, were sold off in bits. Remote lakeshores were prime targets for large subdividers like the Patten Corporation.

### Development is Coming Your Way

Longtime Board member and former Trust president Charlie Burnham still remembers the day in late September of 1988 when Gary announced that there would be a lunchtime meeting in the lodge. A representative from the Trust for Public Land was there to talk about the threat of development on the east shores of Pierce Pond.

"Gary had probably been thinking about the lands on the east shore for a while," said his wife Betty. She remembered camping with Gary in Upper Pond when they were newlyweds. "It was complete wilderness," she said, "There were no roads, no way to get there but through the Thoroughfare." But as the years went by, they would start to hear tractors and chainsaws and skidders. "We were exploring the woods one day and ran into a brush pile as big as our house, from a cutting operation. I'll never forget how terribly upset Gary was. It seemed like they were going to haul the woods away."

When the Patten Corporation put 40-acre lots up for sale in the nearby Flagstaff Overlook area, Gary was powerless to stop the subdivision. "So Gary went out and persuaded his friends to buy lots, and bought three lots himself," recalled Betty.

All of which helps explain why the message at that first meeting at Cobb's was "development is coming your way and you'd better do something." So Gary set about gathering a group of people to do something. Charlie Burnham remembered telling him, "This will not be easy."

### Laying Groundwork Through Relationships

Longtime Cobb's staffer Fred Burnham commented, "The greatest thing Gary ever did was to lay the groundwork for starting the Trust. What he did was amazing. Otherwise we'd be looking across the lake at a bunch of private camps on the east shore."

Founding Trust vice-president Rick Wallace talked about the way Gary's personal relationships often moved things forward. "Something had to be done quickly. Fortunately, Gary had a personal relationship with the [east shore] landowners and persuaded them to place a conservation easement on the land and to give him time to find a suitable buyer. He put together a small group of like-minded Pierce Ponders . . . which led to the creation of the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust, now known as the Pierce Pond Watershed Trust. And it

*continued on page 6*



Pierce Pond Watershed Trust

## Board of Directors

**President:** Carl Freeman, Hampden, ME

**1st Vice Pres:** Bud Meader, Rochester, NH

**2nd Vice Pres:** Eric Saunders, Cumberland, ME

**Treasurer:** Mike Peluso, Oakham, MA

**Secretary:** David B. Soule, Jr., Wiscasset, ME

### Directors:

Charles Burnham, Strafford, NH

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Chas Gill, Bowdoinham, ME

Chris Jackson, Yarmouth, ME

Gene McKenna, Bowdoinham, ME

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Jim Norris, Winthrop, ME

David Peppard, Eddington, ME

Derek Pierce, Portland, ME

Jane Podkaminer, Jamesville, NY

### Advisory Committee

John Cashwell, Bangor, ME

Andy Cobb, North Anson, ME

Greg Drummond, Highland Plantation, ME

Yasmin Fahr, New York, NY

Robert Haynes, Skowhegan, ME

Larry Valentine, Norton, MA

### Contracted Services

Jerry Bley, Readfield, ME

*Coordinator*

Kyle McCaskill, Unity, ME

*Administrative Manager*

## Pierce Pond Watershed Trust

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Augusta, Maine 04332-5660

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www.piercepondwatershed.org

## Message from the President

—Carl Freeman

2020 was a year of both challenges and successes for the Pierce Pond Watershed Trust. We learned about social distancing, masks, and Zoom meetings—all of which disrupted our lives to varying degrees. Nevertheless, many PPWT members did get to spend time at Pierce Pond, fishing, kayaking, and generally enjoying the watershed.

Other 2020 developments included the following:

- ◆ Two new trails were opened: the Three-Ponds Loop trail and the Elephant Rock Overlook trail. A successful trail-work day was held, even with the need to add masks, wipes, and hand sanitizer to the usual tools, work gloves, and bug spray. Twenty-three volunteers, working in socially distanced pods, clipped and cleared shrubs and branches, raked trail beds, painted blazes, and installed trail signs.

- ◆ I am very pleased to note that we have recruited and nominated six new directors—currently being voted on by the membership—who will bring new perspectives, youth, and energy to the PPWT Board of Directors.

- ◆ We ran a successful fundraising match in which money was raised for a new dock at Lindsay Cove, an educational-programming planning project, and stewardship responsibilities. A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the success of this effort!

- ◆ You may notice some changes at the Pierce Pond dam. Pierce Pond camp owner Steve Estes and Andy Cobb deserve everyone's thanks for patching the leaking dam, which will certainly help improve water levels and spawning conditions.

- ◆ PPWT contracted and worked with outdoor-education consultant Anna Hunt to produce an in-depth outdoor-education programming planning report. Hunt conducted interviews with a wide variety of Pierce-Ponders as well as outdoor-education partners around the state, and we look forward to hearing her final report this month. Our goal is to develop the next generation of people who love Pierce Pond and will support its protection.

- ◆ COVID concerns resulted in the cancellation of the Annual Meeting, Banquet, and Auction. Undaunted, we are in the midst

of planning our first virtual Annual Meeting and are optimistic that next year we'll be shoulder to shoulder at the Harrseeket.

We cannot speak of 2020 without acknowledging the loss of three iconic figures in the continuing efforts to protect the watershed:

- ◆ Roland Ware was a passionate defender of the land and ecology of the watershed, an original member of the Trust's board of advisors, and a generous supporter. He owned a camp and land along the Thoroughfare and around Pickerel Pond, which he and his brother permanently conserved.

- ◆ Ben Gale is easily remembered by his love of life and of Pierce Pond. He was a primary benefactor of PPWT operations and activities, with a relentless drive to keep the Trust viable and the watershed protected.

- ◆ Gary Cobb – without whom none of this would be happening. He recognized the need for an organization that would pursue and champion the stewardship of the watershed. He gathered the people who had “the right stuff” and in 1989 the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust was born, with a mission to protect and preserve Pierce Pond and its watershed.

I will be stepping down this month after having served as PPWT's board president for six years. I am pleased to announce that Anne Stallman Dougherty has been nominated and agreed to serve as next PPWT president. Anne brings with her a robust skill set as an attorney specializing in trusts and estates law, as well as a long history in the watershed. Anne's grandfather, Charles Abbe, purchased the lease on Abbe Island in the 1940s (converted to ownership in the 80s), and many generations of Abbes have enjoyed Pierce Pond ever since.

While the watershed land acquisition we have so long anticipated has not yet been achieved, the trust has positioned itself very well for this event. Our developing fundraising capacity, along with completed and ongoing projects, and new people and ideas, ensure that the trust will be ready to take on the new responsibilities accompanying a future land acquisition.



info@piercepondwatershed.org

# One Man's Legacy

## A tribute to Ben Gale 1938–2020

—memories from Ben's PPWT colleagues



**B**ENJAMIN GALE, ALONG WITH HIS family foundation, was Pierce Pond Watershed Trust's largest benefactor, assisting the Trust with the many conservation deals that we successfully completed. But Ben's impact on the organization went far beyond dollars and cents.

Jerry Bley remembered meeting Ben in 1993 at Cobb's Camps, when Gary suggested that he talk with a camp guest who was interested in the Trust's conservation efforts. "Little did I know that this meeting would shape the future of the Trust and the Pierce Pond watershed.

"Late that afternoon I sat down at a picnic table with a somewhat gruff fellow who grilled me with questions about what the Trust had done and planned to do. He mentioned that his family had a foundation that could help us. I was not quite sure what to make of this Ben Gale character.

"But I followed Ben's directive to submit a funding request to his family foundation. And from that point forward, Ben became part of the fabric and the lifeblood of the organization."

Ben loved Maine and he really loved the Pierce Pond water-

shed. When he was at the pond he talked endlessly of the beauty and uniqueness of the watershed. When not at the pond he would continue to talk about the uniqueness of the watershed to anyone who would listen.

David Peppard, who served on the PPWT board with Ben and also guided him for more than 20 years, remembered that "Ben liked people and respected diverse opinions. (Of course, his opinion was the right one!)

"He would talk to anyone and everyone as he walked down to get into the boat in the morning. He was talking as he got into the boat, he talked all day long, and he was talking as he got out of the boat. What did he talk about? Everything. People used to ask me what we talked about in the boat all day. I would reply, 'All I do is listen.'

"One rainy morning," Peppard recalled, "Ben asked, 'What are we going to do today? I don't want to sit in a boat and get soaking wet.'

"So I said, 'Ben, let's ride around the watershed and check out what's going on.' He loved it. We watched tree harvesters and skidders in action, and he asked many, many questions about the equipment and the cutting.

"On another rainy day, when Ben once again didn't want to fish in the rain, I asked him if he had any ideas. He said, 'Yes, let's go check out your farm.' So away we went. He was extremely knowledgeable about cattle-raising and offered suggestions. He checked out the critters in my small herd and offered input such as, 'those two are good ones; that one might make it. Get rid of that one.'"

Ben Gale served on the Trust's Board of Directors from 2005 until his death. Bley described how, in 2012, Gale threw down



the gauntlet to his fellow directors. "The Trust had received a donation of a conservation easement on the Ware family property, providing the last puzzle piece required to protect the watershed from future development. While most board members were celebrating this milestone,

Ben stood up and challenged the board to set a new goal for the organization—to acquire all 10,500 acres of land in the Pierce Pond watershed. And today, because of Ben's vision and drive, we are working hard to do just that."

"Ben loved life and his knowledge was endless," said Peppard. "He has gone to the big trout pond in heaven, but his influence on me will always be in my heart." As Ben's longtime PPWT colleague and friend, Director Charlie Burnham, said, "The pond will not be the same without him."

Left to right: Charlie Burnham, David Peppard, Ben Gale, Gary Cobb



## PPWT Member List (as of 12/31/20)

### INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY MEMBERS

Abbe, Hannah  
 Abbe, Jeff & Judi  
 Abbe, John  
 Abbe, Susan  
 Allen, Richardson B.  
 Ames, Calvin & Cathy  
 Anderson, Clifford John  
 Anderson, Eric S. & Schneider, Geraldine  
 Anderson, Robert & Dorothy  
 Anderson, Ronald J.  
 Anderson, Tom & Peggy  
 Arsenault, Don  
 Astbury, Art  
 Aten, Jeff & Eileen  
 Aten, Joseph E.  
 Averill, Andrew & Catherine  
 Baker, Dale and Patricia  
 Baker, Robert W. Jr.  
 Barriault, Ronald F.  
 Barrow, Heather & Christopher  
 Barter, Albert & Davida  
 Bartlett, William and Julianne  
 Bates, Linda, & Jeffrey Leo  
 Bean, Christopher and Claudette  
 Beck, Katherine  
 Bell, Daniel O.  
 Betts, Cameron & Heather  
 Bickford, Jeff & Julie  
 Bicknell, Bruce  
 Bien, Stephen  
 Blake, Alfred & Elaine  
 Bormann, Kelly & Darrell  
 Bousquet, Paul R. Jr.  
 Brasslett, Gordon R. & Clement, Patty  
 Brown, Gary & Ann  
 Brown, Peter & Karen  
 Buchanan, Donald W. III and Johnnie  
 Burke, Gary & Deborah  
 Burnham, Charles & Ann  
 Burnham, Frederick H.  
 Burns, James and Gloria  
 Burns, Louis & Elijah  
 Burns, Robert P., & Elizabeth Spaulding  
 Calder, Wanda  
 Cameron, Evan & Janet  
 Campbell, Brock Alan  
 Campbell, Colin & Regina  
 Canada, Jeanne G.  
 Capofreddi, Matthew & Amy  
 Capofreddi, Peter & Janice  
 Carlson, John & Jane  
 Carver, Chris & Mary  
 Charles, Ed & Elizabeth  
 Childs, Richard & Linda  
 Chipman, David W. & Kathe  
 Cobb, Jaysen Merrill  
 Cobb, Ruth  
 Cockburn, Robert, & Jessica Bustin  
 Cole, Russell G.  
 Collazzo, Paul David

Collette, Rod & Judy  
 Cook, Floyd A.  
 Corbett, John & Katharine  
 Corbett-Paterniti, Sara and Mike  
 Cozine, James & Betsy  
 Cronin, Mervell & Anne  
 Daboll, Roger & Barbara  
 Danker, Paul & Christine  
 Dart, Lawrence & Darlene  
 Davis, Joanne  
 Davis, Richard & Sheryl  
 DeLorenzo, Michael, & Katherine Thornton  
 Demaso, L. William & Marie  
 Demont, Robert D  
 DeSisto, Richard  
 Dickinson, Gregory J.  
 Dillon-Jones, Carla  
 DiPrizio, Prisco & Phyllis  
 Dornish, Karl & Jane  
 Dow, Georganne  
 Drillen, Cyril & Kathryn  
 Drummond, Eileen  
 Drummond, Kate, & Peter Elias  
 Dubois, Arthur & Bridget  
 Ebbeson, Bruce & Beverly  
 Edmonds, Tom & Susan  
 Edson, Ann  
 Ekstrom, Elizabeth A.  
 Elsaesser, Frederick  
 Engelhard, Mary  
 Estes, Stephen & Jo-Ann  
 Ewing, John & Karen  
 Fagan, Christopher T.  
 Fagan, Kathleen  
 Fahr, Ali  
 Farris, Kenneth & Nancy  
 Feitz, Nick & Pamela  
 Fenn, Ruth & Chris  
 Flanagan, Dolores  
 Flewelling, Bruce & Susan  
 Foster, David  
 Fowler, Judith  
 Fraser, Constance  
 Frazee, Kenneth E.  
 Gage, Bradlee & Rosemarie  
 Gage, Lynda  
 Gage, Mackenzie  
 Gage, Sr Bradlee E.  
 Gage, William & Anne  
 Gale, Tyler V.  
 Gallant, Dennis & Joanne  
 Gendron, George & Janie  
 Gibbons, Jr John F.  
 Gillis, Raymond and Joan  
 Gilman, Gerald W.  
 Gilpatric, William & Sally  
 Goar, Dudley C.  
 Goldman, Miriam  
 Goode, Andrew  
 Goolden, Sandra  
 Guibord, Russell Palmer  
 Gurley, Bruce  
 Haines, Terry & Fran  
 Hall, John W. & Priscilla D.  
 Hallett, Lucius & Carol  
 Hardesty, Vaughn & Phoebe

Harmon, David & Mary  
 Hashem, Daniel Sr. & Carolyn  
 Haynes, Bob  
 Heichel, James  
 Henebry, Brendan & Betsy  
 Hering, Jennifer & Lionel  
 Herrmann, Karen  
 Herrmann, Peter B.  
 Hildreth, Daniel, & Lillian Harris  
 Hill, Chamberlain  
 Hilton, Hope  
 Hitchcock, Bob & Connie  
 Horn, Daniel  
 Horner, Carl A  
 Howard, Gabriella  
 Hubbe, Peter & Mary  
 Hussey, Ann Lee  
 Hutchins, Betty  
 Hutchins, Eric E.  
 Hutchins, Scott & Laura  
 Jeffers, Georgia  
 Jennings, Rupert, & Carol Robinson  
 Johnson, Peter & Mary Ann  
 Julia, James D.  
 Kay, Ronald & Barbara  
 Kennedy, Rev. Thomas & Joanna  
 Kennedy, Robert & Jacqueline  
 Kimball, Kerry & Jeanette  
 Kittredge, Robert J.  
 Kizelewicz, Benedict  
 Klippenberg, R.B. & Ann  
 Koss, Lauron & Mary  
 Krohn, William B  
 Labrie, Lawrence  
 Lagios, Lisa & Eric  
 Latini, Anthony & Christine  
 Learmonth, Jack  
 Lee, William  
 LeMaire, Brett Alan  
 Leo, Chris & Heather  
 Lepage, Charles & Joan  
 Lepage, James & Debbie  
 Lepore, Michael & Mary  
 Lepore, Paul  
 Leslie, John & Susan  
 Leslie, Michael W.  
 Levesque, Richard H.  
 Libby, Leon & Ann  
 Lowe, William & Susan  
 Lund, Jo-Ann & David  
 Maciejowski, Jay  
 MacNary, Don & Julie  
 Madden, Betsy & John  
 Mahoney, Louise  
 Marchant, Doyle & Stephanie  
 Marden, Judith  
 Massey, Donna Lee  
 Matherson, Richard, Steve & Tyler  
 Mathieu, Allison  
 Mathieu, Daniel, & Thomas Potter  
 Matt, Dennis  
 Matteson, Paul & Nancy  
 McCaskill, Kyle  
 McCollor, Reginald  
 McCormick, Kyle & Diane  
 McDonald, Deanne Lake & Emilie

McLaughlin, Robert & Kristen  
 Meader, Bud  
 Meader, Heather  
 Mehaffey, William & Margaret  
 Meisner, Stephen & Marcia  
 Messinger, Ann  
 Mickelson, Joan Bennett  
 Miles, Keith & Wendy  
 Miles, Paul & Nancy  
 Miller, Buell & Ann  
 Mitchell, Henry & Joan  
 Molloy, Brian  
 Molloy, Frederick & Patti  
 Molloy, Kevin & Erica  
 Molloy, Peter M.  
 Molloy, Todd & Merridith  
 Molzan, David  
 Moretti, Frances  
 Morris, Allen & Barbara  
 Morton, Gerald & Jean  
 Moses, Bradley & Nancy  
 Murphy, Patricia  
 Murray, Charles & Amanda  
 Neudel, Eric, & Alison Gilkey  
 Neudel, Peter M.  
 Nichols, Don  
 Nichols, Shane & Darcie  
 O'Brien, David Matthew  
 O'Brien, Frederic & Patricia  
 O'Brien, Matthew F.  
 Olson, Jr. Gunnar  
 Olson, Sr. Gunnar  
 Orcutt, Amos & Lola  
 Park, Roger & Elizabeth  
 Patterson, William J.  
 Pauwels, Stanislas  
 Payson, III Stanley L.  
 Peacock, Carlton & Jane  
 Pechnik, Frank & Joan  
 Pendleton, Deborah  
 Peppard, Isaiah & Stephanie  
 Percival, David & Bonnie  
 Peterman, Robert & Debra  
 Pierce, David  
 Plante, Bill  
 Planting, Charles Scott  
 Plourde, Ken  
 Plumer, Paul Edward  
 Podkaminer, Joshua  
 Post, Benjamin & Sharon-Lake  
 Powell, Nancy & Blaisdell, Phil  
 Purcell, Edward  
 Pyne, Lawrence  
 Rand, Alice H. & Peter W.  
 Rappaport, Charles  
 Ray, Carolyn  
 Reed, Sarah & Ryan  
 Roelle, William & Shari  
 Salmon, Richard, & Mary Jane Reed  
 Sands, Robert, & Susan Firlotte  
 Saurman, Thomas  
 Schenkel, Andrew 7 Randy  
 Schmidle, Hillary  
 Scott, Michael V.  
 Scott, Ted & Georgeanne  
 Sheridan, Kevin  
 Shields, Walker & Joyce  
 Shropshire, Ken and Linda

Sikorsky, Igor & Karen  
 Silbor Jr., Hurley & Jean  
 Silva, Eleanor  
 Sirianni, Amy  
 Siscoe, Bob & Chris  
 Skelton, John & Jody  
 Smaglia, Robert and Anne  
 Smallidge, David & Victoria  
 Spalding, Ben  
 St. Pierre, James A  
 Stallman III, George L  
 Stallman, Alison Michelle  
 Stallman, Christian Kyle  
 Staples, Stephen  
 Stauffer, Jo Ann  
 Stover, Jacqueline L.  
 Stowell, Patricia, & Peter Ver Lee  
 Stringos, Gust & Jan  
 Stupak, Joe, & Suzanne Trussell  
 Sullivan, Lynn  
 Sutherland, Leslie & Constance  
 Taylor, Mark & Sheila  
 Thomas, Kimberly E. Abbe  
 Thorp, Philips & Heather  
 Thunberg, Robert G.  
 Timmins, James A.  
 Torrey, David & Ann  
 Toth, Mark  
 Trachtenberg, Howard & Carol  
 Tripp, Bruce  
 Troy, Jonathan F  
 Tully, Barbara  
 Turgeon, Allan & Suzanne  
 Valentine, Charles & Annette  
 Verrill, David & Suzanne  
 Verrill, Jeffrey D.  
 Vogt Sr, James & Marcia  
 Vogt, Jeffrey & Sarah  
 Volpi, Robert P  
 Wallace, David & Linda  
 Ware, John  
 Waterman, Erik  
 West, Brent  
 Westphal, Christian  
 Westphal, Robert & Leslie  
 Whiting, Bruce  
 Whiting, Tim & Anne  
 Whitney, Doreen  
 Williams, Gay & Brian  
 Winslow, Donnabeth  
 Wirth, Donald & Jean  
 Wright, James M. & Georgiana  
 Yabuta, Sterling & Marcus  
 Young, Ron  
 Zimmerman, Michael

### SPONSOR, BENEFACTOR, & SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Abbe, Chris  
 Abbe, Dudley & Elisabeth  
 Allen, Andrew & Mary  
 Allen, Douglas F. Jr. & Marie-Louise Fulweiler  
 Bailey, H. Whitney  
 Bailey, Lawrence E.  
 Baker, Peter C.  
 Bastien, Margaret  
 Blake, Patrick R.  
 Bley, Jerry

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Cardozo, John                    | Margie                                   |
| Cobb, Gary & Betty               | Pikaart, Elizabeth V.                    |
| Cournoyer, Edmond                | Podkaminer, Jane & Nate                  |
| Curci, Michael & Christine       | Powell, Ruth                             |
| Dougherty, Anne & Vince          | Powell, Sam Neudel                       |
| Douglass, David & Kay            | Reynolds, Steve & Kathy                  |
| Fahr, Ashley                     | Robey, Jeff & Abby                       |
| Fenton, Nancy H.                 | Saunders, Eric                           |
| Foss, Patricia                   | Sawyer, Peter                            |
| Frantzman, Joel                  | Schmidle, Paul & Wendy                   |
| Freeman, Carl J.                 | Schmidle, Robert E.                      |
| Gale, Benjamin                   | Scott, Richard & Mary                    |
| Gee, Thomas & Michele            | Sheresky, Steven & Tapley                |
| Gibbs, Thirza                    | Siscoe, Nancy                            |
| Gibson, Jack & Gail              | Soley, Judy                              |
| Gill, Charles & Linda            | Soley, Tim, David, & Jack                |
| Glover, Lynzy                    | Soule, David B. Jr., & Patricia O'Reilly |
| Grigerek, Linda & Glen           | Stallman, Alexander & Jutta              |
| Hagan, Walter & Gracemary        | Steinhacker, Robert & Marianne           |
| Haynes, George P.                | Stuart, Blake                            |
| Hiro, Sue                        | Stuart, Ralph & Carol                    |
| Hosmer, III Calvin & Cynthia     | Tolley, George & Naomi                   |
| Howard, Alice & Phillip          | Valentine, Lawrence & Mary K.            |
| Hurtig Family, The               | Vetelino, John Frank                     |
| Hutchins, Wayne, & Rebecca Gowen | Vogt, James                              |
| Iannuccilli, Leonard & Claudia   | Wallace, Richard & Carol                 |
| Jackson, Patrick & Christina     | Wallace, Richard Jr., & Boggs, Lynda     |
| Langburd, Alan & Lisa            | Wellenbach, Elliott                      |
| Latti, Michael & Georgia         | Wellenbach, Lilly                        |
| Leigner, Frank                   | White, Donald & Teresa                   |
| Leigner, Nanci Garoon            | Whitney, Winston S                       |
| Lepore, Michael & Megan          | Young, Lincoln                           |
| Lord, J. Bradley                 | Zamoic, Michael & Rhonda                 |
| Lowell, Elwood, and Gloria Hall  |  |

**YOUTH & STUDENT MEMBERS**

- |                               |                       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Lyttle, Peter T.              | Abbe, Hannah          |
| Manthorne, Bill & Jean        | Abbe, Peter           |
| McKenna, Gene & Jane          | Clegg, Ainsley        |
| Messinger, Corrine E.         | Cowan, Bryce          |
| Messinger, Margaret           | Cowan, Wyatt          |
| Meurer, Glenn & Barbara       | Crawford, Caitlin     |
| Michka, Alan & Kay            | Crawford, Zack        |
| Milliken, Brian               | Cullion, Leo          |
| Moore, Blaine D.              | Dulany, Ryleigh       |
| Morrell, Doug & Georgette     | Edmonds, Calum        |
| Morse, Peter                  | Edmonds, Fiona        |
| Moxham, Todd                  | Edmonds, Harry        |
| Nicholas, Frederick Snow      | Edmonds, Maevae       |
| Nicholas, Jos & Electa Sevier | Goss, Bingham         |
| Nichols, Zachary              | Goss, Lauren          |
| Norris, James P               | Goss, Stewart         |
| Oliver, Richard W.            | Harrington, Harper    |
| Parker, Donald S.             | Joseph, Jayden        |
| Peacock Family                | McLaughlin, Johnathan |
| Peluso, Mike & Robin          | Ryan, Elin            |
| Peppard, David & Theresa      | Ryan, William         |
| Perry, Thomas & Yvette        | Wallace, Henry        |
| Pierce, Derek, & Hanson, Anja | Wallace, Theo         |
| Pikaart, Christian V          | Yabuta, Mila          |
| Pikaart, Christine            |                       |
| Pikaart, Edward Jr., &        |                       |

**GIFTS WERE RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:**

- |                                  |                           |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephen Rowell Abbe              | Bill & Beth Gage          |
| Robert Baker, Sr.                | Benjamin Gale             |
| Bruce Bates                      | Philip Garoon             |
| Steven Beachy                    | Frank Leigner Jr.         |
| Iral Bean                        | Robert A. Gibbs           |
| James Beck                       | Charlie & Dodie Abbe      |
| Gordon Bell                      | Mark Hedtler              |
| Dick & Kate Blake                | Paul Herrmann             |
| Kathleen "Kate" Sullivan Blake   | Cheryl Horn               |
| Gary Floyd Cobb                  | Elwyn "Hutch" Hutchins    |
| Kate Corbett                     | Scott & Audrey Hutchinson |
| Morgan Daboll                    | Patrick T. Jackson IV     |
| Cynthia Ayn Douglass             | John Jeffers              |
| Richard Fagan                    | L. Robert Kittredge       |
| Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth G. Flewelling | Ken Lake                  |
| Harry Fowler                     | Susi Learmonth            |
|                                  | Ruth Meader               |

**GIFTS WERE RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:**

- |                              |
|------------------------------|
| Ann Burnham                  |
| Floyd & Maudie Cobb & Family |
| Gary & Betty Cobb            |
| The Cobb Family              |
| Frank Leigner                |
| Derek Pierce                 |

- |                                 |
|---------------------------------|
| Arthur F. Miller, Jr.           |
| MWWT                            |
| Midge Parker                    |
| Stanley Payson                  |
| M.J. "Chic" Powell              |
| Chris Schaefer                  |
| Leon "Smokey" Stover            |
| Robert, Evelyn, & Henry Winslow |

**PIERCE POND GUARDIANS**

We are pleased to recognize the following members for generously including Pierce Pond Watershed Trust in the estate planning:

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Dudley & Elisabeth Abbe | Alice & Phillip Howard |
| Constance Fraser        | Mrs. Payson Perkins    |
| Peter B. Herrmann       | Kevin Sheridan         |

**In Memory of Dr. Roland Ware**

1932-2021

**D**R. ROLAND WARE SERVED ON the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust's advisory board from the very beginning. Roland had a genuine knowledge, love, and respect for the natural world. Most of all, he had a deep and abiding love and appreciation for Pierce Pond and its watershed.

In 1983 Roland and his brother John Ware acquired a 211-acre parcel in the watershed. It is an extraordinary property, with more than a mile of frontage along Middle Pond and Upper Pond. It includes the entire western shore of the Thoroughfare, which provides critical fish passage and spawning grounds for brook trout, salmon, and smelt. The parcel surrounds the entirety of Pickerel Pond as well as the southern shore of Horseshoe Pond. A major wetland supports a variety of wading birds and waterfowl, and vernal pools (temporary ponds) provide critical habitat for certain amphibians.

Roland loved to explore and photograph the watershed woods and waters, as well as to



spend time quietly fishing. He was a self-taught carpenter and built a log cabin on the property—carefully screened from the lake—from hand-hewn and notched logs. An avid fly fisherman, he liked to tie his own flies.

Roland and John had been consummate stewards of their spectacular property for many years when they decided to forever-protect this pristine wilderness area in 2011. They donated to the Trust a conservation easement prohibiting subdivision and future development on the entire property, permanently preserving this wilderness gem with such critical access to Pierce Pond.

In fact, the Wares' donation was the final piece of the watershed conservation puzzle—extinguishing the last of the development rights in the watershed and assuring that the shores of Middle and Upper Pond will forever be pristine. What a wonderful legacy.

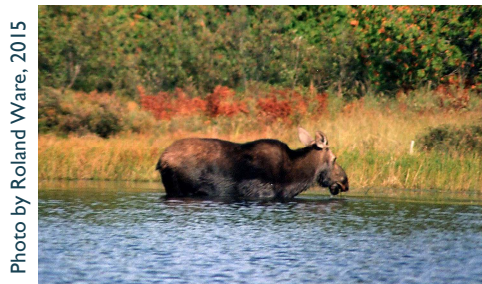


Photo by Roland Ware, 2015

## Gary Cobb *continued from page 1*

was Gary's personal relationship with two of his guests that resulted in a friendly purchase of the east shore and further conservation actions by the owners, which virtually eliminated all development rights.

"The ensuing years saw the Trust extend its protection of Pierce Pond and adjacent lands with the purchase of a large tract from Central Maine Power Company, and the placing of conservation easements on most of the remaining watershed land, as well as sensitive areas surrounding the Otter Ponds, the Kennebec and Dead Rivers, and Harrison's Camps. In each instance Gary's knowledge, judgment, and personal relations helped facilitate the transaction."

Andy Cobb said that his father always stressed the importance of the Cobb family serving as advisors to the Trust rather than sitting on the Board—the importance of keeping the proper distance between the two. Gary took his advisory role seriously, and didn't miss a single Trust meeting until 2019. He was a tremendous source of information for the Trust regarding the history of land ownership and other issues in the watershed.

Betty recalled that "Gary liked things to be peaceful. He liked to be kind to people and he expected people to be kind to him. He would definitely look for the best in people. I don't know that I ever saw him really angry." His good nature served him well in what he saw as his liaison role with the local community. "He didn't want New Portland people to think that they were unwelcome. He did business locally as much as possible, and built relationships."

### Keeping an Eye on Things

"Gary was truly a steward of the land," emphasized Rick Wallace, "and more than anyone, was responsible for the creation and

enduring success of the Trust, thereby protecting Pierce Pond for future generations to enjoy.

"Gary's influence in preserving Pierce Pond was also felt in more subtle ways," Wallace continued. "He was able to persuade the timber companies to spare cutting some rare old-growth stands of timber. He monitored the happenings throughout the watershed and alerted the Trust whenever there was a potential problem or issue that had to be addressed. He and Betty conveyed to the Trust conservation easements on their land, which guarantee that their camps will remain operating as they are now."

Andy Cobb remembers that a few years after Gary and Betty took over Cobb's Camps, Gary started encouraging his anglers to practice catch and release, before it became a widespread practice. He realized that people were killing a lot of fish, bringing them in to be weighed and measured to try to qualify as "board fish" (at the time, catchers of the biggest trout and salmon were awarded a free week at Cobb's). "In 1987 for the first time we allowed released fish to be qualify as board fish, using the honor system, and we began donating the free trips to the Trust.

"Dad would pay attention to everything going on in the watershed, asking questions of the guides and guests. He paid attention to fish health and stocking numbers so he could advise state biologists. He once got permission to dig out the stream running out of

Lindsay Cove to restore the salmon spawning habitat. Unfortunately a hurricane caused it to fill in again."

Friend Don Wirth remembers spending late-summer and fall days with Gary in his plane, flying over the local country in order to, as Gary put it, "see what the neighbors were doing." He liked to keep an eye on things.

Hunting season gave Gary another way to keep his finger on the pulse of the watershed. Both Betty and Andy Cobb attested that Gary "became a different animal during hunting season. He'd go out all day every day." Fred Burnham remembers Gary teaching him to hunt during the first fall he worked at Cobb's. "His knowledge of, and respect for, nature was unbelievable. He didn't hold with unethical or inhumane hunting. He didn't hunt moose—never applied for a permit. I think he thought it was better to have everyone appreciate the sight of a moose. I believe he loved hunting because he got to be alone in the woods—which was what he loved the most."

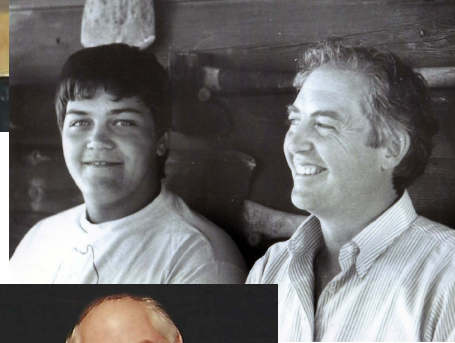
### Conservation Through Community

Charlie Burnham remembered that in the Trust's early years, Board members were told by Dick Spencer of Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust that they would have trouble raising money, because Trust members weren't watershed land owners. They were "just a group of

Addressing Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust members, Annual Meeting 1991



Gary and Andy Cobb



Gary and Betty Cobb



Gary and grandson Lyle

## Mystery Photo ID



Longtime PPWT Director Charlie Burnham asks, "Who knows where this is?" Send your answers to [info@piercepondwatershed.org](mailto:info@piercepondwatershed.org).

## Gary Cobb

*continued from page 6*

people going to a sporting camp. None of you own a single acre on Pierce Pond." As Burnham explained, "In 1989, no one owned an acre—not even the Cobbs—they all leased their land." What Dick Spencer couldn't have known is the way in which Gary Cobb had created within his guests a family atmosphere and a feeling of ownership in the watershed. A feeling of coming home.

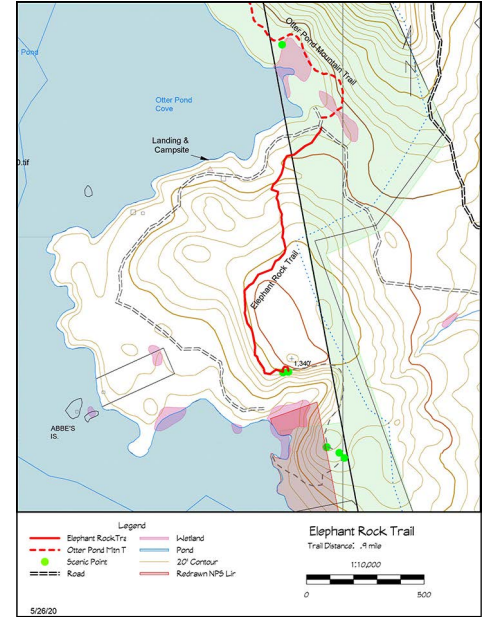
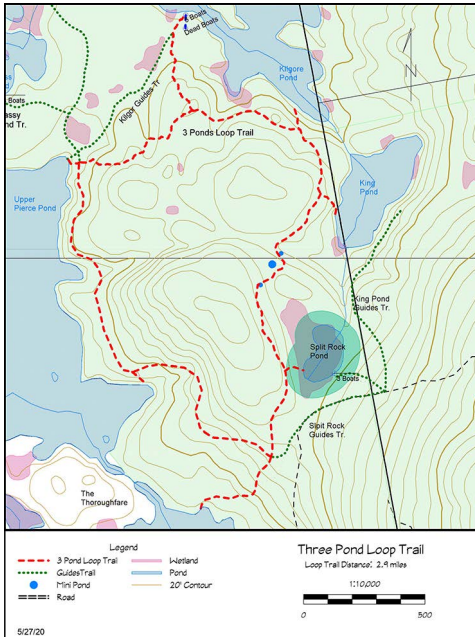
Jerry Bley wrote, "The fact that I am writing this today, after working with the Trust for more than 30 years protecting lands in the watershed and beyond, is just one of the many testaments to the quiet wisdom of Gary Cobb. Gary cultivated the concept of 'community conservation'—focusing not only on protecting land, but on the communities that depend upon it—before it became a thing in the land-trust world. He and his family provided the magic of creating and sustaining a fiercely loyal Pierce Pond community that was intimately intertwined with the efforts to preserve the watershed. The Trust's accomplishments are in large part due to Gary's foresight and his ability to quietly inspire and guide others."

As former Wilderness Bound camper Igor Sikorsky wrote about Gary, "Here was a man who knew the right way to live a life—and to be, as a person, part of a family, a place, a community."

# Pierce Pond Watershed's Two New Trails

## Three Ponds Loop Trail

This trail leads to Kilgore, King and Split Rock Ponds. The loop itself is about three miles; closer to four when you add in side trails to the ponds and overlooks. The terrain is gentle, and it is a highly scenic hike with outlooks over the ponds, interesting rock formations, diverse forest types, and a lot of interesting plant and animal life.



## Elephant Rock Overlook Trail

The .9-mile trail (1.8 miles round-trip) begins at the Otter Pond Cove Road immediately across from the Otter Pond Mountain trailhead. It climbs steadily to a pair of lookouts to the south and west providing dramatic views of Elephant Rock, Lower Pierce Pond, and the Bigelow Range. It offers a great opportunity for a short hike with a spectacular view.

A huge thank you goes out to all of the Pierce Pond volunteers who showed up in July to help with the clearing, blazing, and leveling—in socially distanced pods! Next year's Volunteer Trail-Work Day is tentatively planned for the weekend of July 24-25, 2021. Mark your calendars!

## Hand-Crafted Trail Benches Donated to PPWT

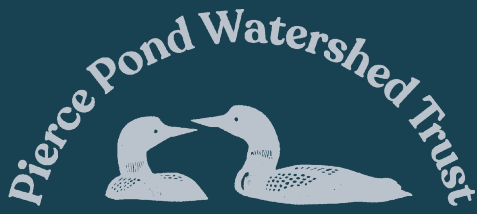


Bench on scenic overlook



Gene McKenna and Frank Leigner try them out!

Longtime PPWT supporter Don Wirth deserves a big shout-out for the donation of two handmade rustic trail benches. He said, "I came across a bench design developed by *Sand County Almanac* author Aldo Leopold, that spoke of trying to design with nature. The simplicity of the concept appealed to me." Wirth transported the benches to Pierce Pond, and our trail volunteers installed them last July. You can find and enjoy them on Elephant Rock Overlook and the first scenic lookout on the Otter Pond Mountain trail. Thank you, Don!



SINCE 1989

PO Box 5660, Augusta, Maine 04332-5660  
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The Pierce Pond Watershed Trust is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to protecting the wild character, natural resources, and scenic beauty of the Pierce Pond watershed and preserving traditional public recreational use of the area.

### Become a Pierce Pond Guardian

Make a gift to the future of Pierce Pond! It's easy; just remember the Pierce Pond Watershed Trust in your will. To find out more, e-mail [info@piercepondwatershed.org](mailto:info@piercepondwatershed.org) and ask to receive information on planned giving.

*Editor's note: Original content for this issue was put aside in order to pay tribute to the Pierce Pond heroes we have lost.*

## Trust to Receive Land Donation next to Appalachian Trail

—Jerry Bley

**T**HE PIERCE POND WATERSHED TRUST WILL BE RECEIVING the donation of a small parcel of land that abuts the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) and Harrison's Pierce Pond Camps. The Maine Appalachian Trail Land Trust (MATLT), a land trust dedicated to acquiring and protecting the land surrounding the Appalachian Trail in Maine, acquired the one-acre property in 2005 to ensure the protection of the A.T. from encroaching develop-

National Park Service boundary marker



ment. MATLT's executive director Simon Rucker said that MATLT offered to donate the land to PPWT because of its conservation efforts in the Pierce Pond area. "It became clear to us that PPWT would be an excellent steward of this property," stated Rucker.

The property is bounded by the A.T. Corridor (owned by the National Park Service) on two sides and Harrison's Camps elsewhere. PPWT holds a



Frontage on Pierce Pond Stream

conservation easement on the 9-acre Harrison's Camps property, as well as a right-of-first-refusal to purchase the property should it be offered for sale outside of the Harrison family.

PPWT Coordinator Jerry Bley noted that the importance of the property far exceeds its small size. "It includes frontage on Pierce Pond Stream, a spectacularly beautiful and pristine stream, and is surrounded by conservation land," said Bley. "It represents a valuable addition to the Trust's conservation holdings and we are extremely appreciative of MATLT's donation."