



SINCE 1989

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

Summer 2022 newsletter—volume 11



S. Goss Photo

Cobb Family Donates Pierce Pond Islands to PPWT

—Jerry Bley

Doc's Rocks, Fox Island, Mayor's Island, Gull Rock, Crow Island, Ledge Island, Bonsai Rock, Long Island . . . all part of Pierce Pond lore and fond memories of camping, a guide's cookout lunch, or a favorite (yet very secret) favorite fishing spot. All told, there are about thirty islands in Pierce Pond. Some are not much more than a pile of rocks while others, like Big Island, take up a substantial chunk of the Upper Pond. Together, they are an essential part of the tapestry of the Pierce Pond landscape and its magic allure.

Thanks to the tremendous generosity of the Cobb family, we can all rest assured that these island gems will forever be preserved. In July, the Cobb family donated all of its island holdings to Pierce Pond Watershed Trust. This included all of the islands in Pierce Pond except for Big Island (owned by the Valentine family) in the Upper Pond, Abbe Island (owned by the Abbe family) in

the Lower Pond, and a small island owned by the National Park Service (also in the Lower Pond). In addition, PPWT shares ownership of Bruce's Island jointly with the Valentine family.

"We are incredibly appreciative to the Cobb family for this wonderful gift," said Anne Dougherty, PPWT president. "A decade ago, the PPWT Board set a goal of owning as much of the watershed as possible, and this acquisition represents a major step forward in that direction," she said. As a member of the Abbe Family (owners of Abbe Island), Anne is well acquainted with the wonders of Pierce Pond islands.

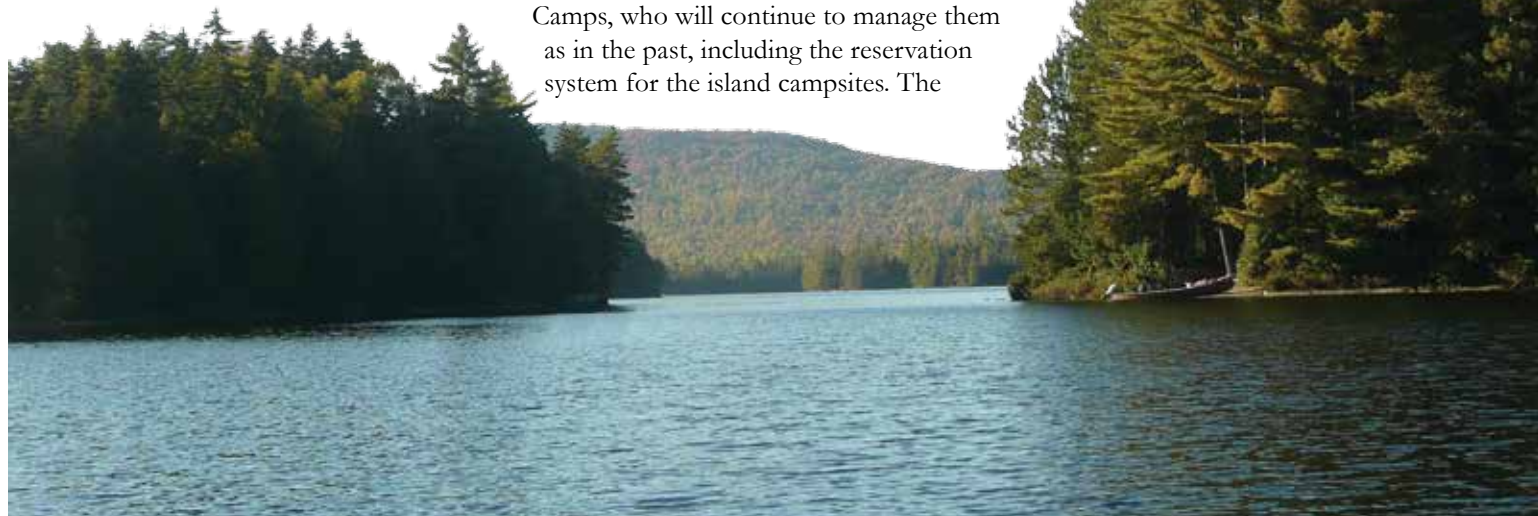
"When you next visit Pierce Pond, nothing will be different—which is the whole idea!" commented Dougherty. The island donation includes an agreement to lease back the camping islands (Fox, Mayor's, and Ledge Islands) as well as the picnicking islands (Long and Crow Islands) to Cobb's Camps, who will continue to manage them as in the past, including the reservation system for the island campsites. The

remainder of the islands are to be preserved as forever wild.

"The Cobb Family felt that it was important that the islands be left as wild as possible," said Betty Cobb. "It is best for the watershed that it isn't possible for hordes of people to camp there; heavy use wears things down. It really is a privilege for people to be able to stay on the islands. It is good to be able to use the islands, but *gently*; they are fragile," she commented.

"Gary and I had talked about it . . . we had plenty of opportunities to get our questions resolved. It seemed like a

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Message from the President

The recent donation by the Cobb Family of the Pierce Pond islands to PPWT is an incredibly generous and important gift—one that will be appreciated by current and future generations of Pierce-Ponders.

And for me, forever-protecting the islands of Pierce Pond is especially significant. My grandfather, Charles “Dutch” Abbe, started coming to Pierce Pond in the 1930s and

acquired the lease to Abbe Island in the 1940s. The extended Abbe family has been enjoying Abbe Island ever since. Dutch’s three children, Charlie, John, and Sue, purchased the island in the early 1990s and passed ownership to the next generation through a trust. Charlie was one of the founders of the Maine Wilderness Watershed Trust (now PPWT) and was a strong voice on the board of directors for years.

The island donation completes one more piece of the Trust’s ambitious goal of acquiring all of the major land ownerships in the watershed. We still have more work to do, but this is an important step.

The acquisition of the islands also adds to the Trust’s expanding stewardship responsibilities in the watershed, which are demonstrated by our work during 2021.

Trails

Our 2021 effort focused on rehabilitation of the traditional Burnham Trail from Lindsay Cove to High and Helen Ponds, including the spur trail to the Landslide Overlook on Pierce Pond Mountain. The trail had been substantially damaged about a decade ago by a timber harvest, and consequently fell into disuse. Now, hikers can once again make their way from Cobb’s Camps or Lindsay Cove to two beautiful ponds and the spectacular view from Pierce Pond Mountain.

This year we will be finishing off the Gale Trail alongside the Thoroughfare, while connecting it with the Three Ponds Loop Trail, creating an easy loop hike. We will be also improving the spur trails to Split Rock and King Ponds to offer better vantage points.

Easement Restrictions Honored

PPWT holds seven conservation easements covering hundreds of acres of land. Every year, the Trust must monitor each easement property to ensure that the terms of the easement have been followed.

2021 showed just how challenging conservation-easement monitoring can be. In early summer, there was a tragic fire that burned down the historic Otter Pond camp on one of PPWT’s easement properties. The owner wanted to rebuild before winter. The Trust worked together with the owner and the Land Use Planning Commission to come up

with a development plan that was consistent with the terms of the conservation easement and state regulations. This was particularly challenging because the original camp was a grandfathered structure that had been built long before the state-imposed regulations on shoreland development. After many weeks of discussions, we came up with a plan that worked for everyone.

Testimony on CMP Corridor

Last fall, a court decision negating CMP’s lease across a parcel of state land led CMP to look for ways to re-route a portion of their 53-mile-long transmission corridor through the Maine Woods. One of the alternative power-line routes CMP suggested crossed lands along the Dead and Kennebec Rivers where PPWT holds conservation easements along the two rivers. Consequently, the Trust submitted testimony to the Maine Department of Environmental Protection stating that the alternative route would violate the terms of the Trust’s conservation easement.

The proposed transmission corridor was rejected at the ballot box in November. CMP is challenging that vote in the courts and the project is on hold awaiting the court’s decision.

New Dock at Lindsay Cove

PPWT finished off 2021 working together with Cobb’s Camps to replace the dock at Lindsay Cove. Thanks to PPWT’s successful matching-gift campaign, which was kicked off by a Frank Leigner’s generous match gift in honor of Frank Leigner, Jr. and Philip Garoon, PPWT was able to provide the funds for dock construction materials. A hardy group of volunteers from Cobb’s Camps and PPWT braved late fall weather to construct the ruggedly built new dock, which should ensure ready access to the waters of Pierce Pond for many years to come.

Our 2021 accomplishments reflect the Trust’s growing responsibilities as steward of the watershed, which will continue to expand. We intend to build our stewardship capacity to ensure that the watershed will be well cared for in the years ahead.



ANNE STALLMAN DOUGHERTY

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Sampling Reveals Salmon Growth Improved, Brook Trout Generally Healthy

—Kyle McCaskill



Maine IF&W Photo

Regional Fisheries Biologist Elizabeth Thorndike spent 13 days last fall sampling salmon and trout in Pierce Pond. Each fall biologists throughout Maine sample salmon and trout populations in various waters to evaluate their growth and condition. Collection and analysis of biological data is one of the most important responsibilities of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's fisheries staff. The data gathered inform fisheries management, including stocking levels.

"We are closely monitoring Pierce Pond because it's a popular fishery," said Thorndike. Sampling methods can vary: Thorndike employed trap nets in Pierce Pond. "We last did this in 2018, now 2021. We'll probably trap-net again in three years."

Trap-netting is done in the fall as landlocked salmon and trout move into shallow waters in search of spawning areas. Trap nets have a long net or "lead" set at right angles to the shoreline, with two other nets branching off like wings: from above they resemble an arrow pointing to the deeper part of the lake. A large box net sits at the tip of the arrow.

Thorndike and assistant tending a trapnet



Maine IF&W Photo

"When the salmon and trout are trying to locate a place to spawn," explained Thorndike, "they typically will work shorelines. Then they hit this lead, and when they try to swim around it they get funneled into the suspended mesh box. Up to 80 to 100 fish can be in the box; at Pierce Pond we averaged 30 to 50 fish every other day."

Working in small batches, the fisheries staff place fish in a tub of water that has a mild sedative added so the fish relax. Then they begin collecting data. "There's a big zipper on top of the box net," Thorndike continued, "We net the fish into the tub of water, weigh them, and measure their length. If the fish is wild we will scrape off a few scales, which will tell us the fish's age and how fast it's growing.

"We target salmon because we stock salmon; we want to be sure we're not stocking too many and overloading the system. The stocked salmon are clipped [the hatchery marks each fish by clipping a fin], allowing us to determine what percent of the salmon are wild, meaning that they are naturally reproducing in the pond. If we see wild numbers increase, we'll stock fewer salmon.

"Salmon stocking is purely for the anglers. In collecting data we are trying to balance fish health and happy anglers. The data give us a good idea of the body condition and health of the fish."

The Pierce Pond brook trout population is wild and self-sustaining. Salmon and brook trout use different forage and habitat and therefore tend to work well together with little competition, diversifying the pressure on fish. Their spawning areas do overlap a little: salmon like moving water around inlets and outlets, while

brook trout will cruise the shoreline looking for upwellings and natural springs.

About a third of the fish sampled by Thorndike and her assistant were brook trout: they sampled 106 brook trout and 321 landlocked salmon, 24 percent of which were of wild origin. The salmon growth showed overall improvement from the 2018 trap-netting survey, with an average length of 17.3 inches and average weight of 1.7 pounds. The brook trout looked healthy despite a slight reduction in average length (15.4 inches) and weight (1.3 pounds). And in spite of nets set specifically in locations to target lake trout, no lake trout were captured.



Maine IF&W Photo

Thorndike, who grew up in a fishing and hunting family and was mentored by former Regional Fisheries Biologist Forrest Bonney, admitted that Pierce Pond is a personal favorite, owing to the undeveloped shoreline and the unique shoreline structure. "There are few places where you dry-fly fish for so long. There is a unique combination of higher catch rates and larger fish. Great hatches May, June, and late-season. Pierce Pond's size also makes it unique—larger than other such ponds."

However, Thorndike noted that water levels and hatches have been down throughout the Western Mountains, with several years of low rainfall and low snowpack starting to compound. "In Pierce Pond, there are also issues with the dam. Low water levels lead to unfavorable higher water temperatures, and the de-watering of shoreline areas affects aquatic life."

PPWT Member List (as of 5/10/22)

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Abbe, Hannah	Carlson, John & Jane	Fuller, Ridgely	Klinkenberg, RB & Ann	O'Brien, Frederic & Patricia
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Bean, Diane	Drillen, Cyril & Kathlyn	Harmon, David & Mary	Massey, Donna Lee	Reed, Sarah & Ryan
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Berman, Jean	Drummond, Kate, & Peter Elias	Heichel, James	Mathieu, Ronald	Rollins, Jon
Berry, Irene & Bill	Dubois, Arthur & Bridget	Henebry, Brendan & Betsy	Matt, Dennis	Salmon, Richard, & Mary Jane Reed
Berry, Nan E.	Dugan, Sam & Diane	Hering, Jennifer & Lionel	Matteson, Paul & Nancy	Sands, Robert, & Susan Firlotte
Betts, Cameron & Heather	Ebbeson, Bruce & Beverly	Herrmann, Peter B.	McCaskill, Kyle	Saurman, Thomas
Bickford, Jeff & Julie	Edmonds, Chris	Hildreth, Daniel, & Lillian Harris	McCollor, Reginald	Scott, Michael V.
Bicknell, Bruce	Edmonds, Tom & Susan	Hiro, Sue	McCormick, Kyle & Diane	Scott, Ted & Georgeanne
Bien, Stephen	Edson, Ann	Hitchcock, Bob & Connie	McDonald, Deanne-Lake & Emilie	Scott, Ted & Georgeanne
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Bousquet, Paul R. Jr.	Elsaesser, Frederick	Holsapple, Rex	Meisner, Stephen & Marcia	Sczerba, Thomas & Andrea
Bradshaw, Bruce	Engelhard, Mary	Horner, Carl A	Meurer, Glenn & Barbara	Sears, Cathy
Brisbois, Richard	Enright, Richard J.	Howard, Alice & Phillip	Mickelson, Joan Bennett	Shaw, Harold & Suzanne
Brown, Gary	Estes, Jason & Pam	Howard, Gabriella	Mike, Nicholas	Shields, Walker & Joyce
Brown, Peter & Karen	Estes, Stephen & Jo-Ann	Hubbe, Peter & Mary	Miles, Keith & Wendy	Shropshire, Ken & Linda
Bullen, Dana & Heidi	Ewing, John	Huber, Margaret, & Bob Bittenbender	Miles, Paul & Nancy	Sikorsky, Igor & Karen
Burke, Gary & Deborah	Fagan, Christopher T.	Hutchins, Betty	Miller, Buell & Ann	Silbor Jr., Hurley & Jean
Burnham, Charles	Fagan, Kathleen	Hutchins, Eric & Madeleine	Mitchell, Henry & Joan	Silva, Eleanor
Burnham, Frederick H.	Fahr, Ali	Hutchinson, Leigh	Molloy, Brian	Sirianni, Amy
Burns, James & Gloria	Fairley, Erin, & William Patz	Jagger, C. Thomas & Judith	Molloy, Kevin & Erica	Siscoe, Chris
Burns, Louis	Falender, Elaine, & Gordon Gayer	Jeffers, Georgia	Molloy, Peter M.	Skelton, John & Jody
Burns, Robert, & Elizabeth Spaulding	Farris, Kenneth & Nancy	Jennings, Rupert, & Carol Robinson	Molloy, Todd & Merridith	Smaglia, Robert & Anne
Calder, Wanda	Feitz, Aaron	Johnson, Peter & Mary Ann	Molzan, David	Smart, Jack D.
Cameron, Evan & Janet	Feitz, Nick & Pamela	Jordan, Calvin	Morazzini-Vandegrift, Glenn & Pam	Spalding, Ben
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Campbell, Keith & Genine	Flanagan, Dolores	Kalloch, Norman R	Morris, Barbara	Stallman III, George L
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		Kimball, Kerry & Jeanette	Nichols, Don	Taylor, Mark & Sheila
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 Tripp, Bruce
 Tully, Barbara
 Turgeon, Allan & Suzanne
 Valentine, Charles & Annette
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 Verrill, Jeffrey D.
 Vogt Sr, James B & Marcia
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 Waterman, Erik
 West, Brent
 Westphal, Christian
 Westphal, Robert & Leslie
 Westvold, Scott & Beth
 White, Donald & Teresa
 Whiting, Bruce & Michelle
 Whiting, Tim & Anne
 Whitney, Doreen
 Williams, Gay & Brian
 Winslow, Donnabeth
 Wirth, Donald & Jean
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 Young, Ron
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 Allen, Douglas F. Jr., & Marie-
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 Baker, Peter C.
 Barrow, Heather & Christopher
 Blake, Dennis
 Blake, Patrick R.
 Bley, Jerry
 Capofreddi, Matthew & Amy
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 Curci, Michael & Christine
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 Dougherty, Anne & Vince
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 Foss, Patricia
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 Glover, Lynzy
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 Hosmer, III Calvin & Cynthia
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 Hutchins, Wayne, & Rebecca
 Gowen
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 Messinger, Corrine E.
 Messinger, Margaret
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 Milliken, Brian & Patsy
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 Nicholas, Jos & Electa Sevier
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 Oliver, Richard W.
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 Podkaminer, Jane & Nate
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 Powell, Sam Neudel
 Rand, Alice H. & Peter W.
 Reynolds, Steve & Kathy
 Robey, Jeff & Abby
 Saunders, Eric
 Sawyer, Peter
 Schmidle, Paul & Wendy
 Scott, Richard & Mary
 Sheresky, Steven & Tapley
 Siscoe, Nancy
 Soley, Judy
 Soley, Tim, David, & Jack
 Soule, David B. Jr., & Patricia
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 Steinhacker, Robert & Marianne
 Stuart, Blake
 Stuart, Ralph & Carol
 Tolley, George & Naomi
 Valentine, Lawrence & Mary K.
 Vetelino, John Frank
 Vogt, James
 Vogt, Jeffrey & Sarah
 Wallace, David & Linda
 Wallace, Richard & Carol
 Wallace, Richard Jr., & Boggs,
 Lynda
 Wellenbach, Elliott
 Wellenbach, Lilly
 Wellenbach, Patricia
 Wells, Joshua
 Whiting, Steven
 Whiting, Tim & Family
 Whitney, Winston S
 Zamoic, Michael & Rhonda

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 Abbe, Peter
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 Brooks, Eleanor
 Clegg, Ainsley
 Cowan, Bryce
 Cowan, Wyatt
 Crawford, Caitlin
 Crawford, Zack
 Cullion, Leo
 Dulany, Ryleigh
 Edmonds, Calum
 Edmonds, Fiona
 Edmonds, Harry
 Edmonds, Maeve
 Goss, Bingham
 Goss, Lauren
 Goss, Stewart
 Harrington, Harper
 Joseph, Jayden
 Leslie, Harry
 Leslie, Jake
 Lis, Dylan
 Lynn, Ethan
 Lynn, Isaac
 McDuffee, Jackson Abbe
 McDuffee, Lyndin Abbe
 McLaughlin, Johnathan
 Pikaart, Colgan
 Pikaart, Elizabeth V.
 Pikaart, Margaret
 Pikaart, Marinos
 Pikaart, Sylvia
 Potts, Clara
 Robinson, J.P.
 Robinson, Liam
 Ryan, Elin
 Ryan, William
 Simonton, Elise Abbe
 Simonton, Jade Abbe
 Stallman, Lukas K.
 Swarmstedt, Elijah
 Toth, Bobby
 Wallace, Henry
 Wallace, Theo
 Yabuta, Mila

Pierce Pond Islands

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no-brainer to me, carrying on in the same direction. Everything will stay the same for Cobb's Camps as far as managing the islands. It just seemed like the right thing to do," she said.

PPWT will collaborate with Cobb's Camps on stewardship and maintenance of the island campsites and picnic sites. This year, a microburst hit Fox Island, toppling trees everywhere (see page 8). The Trust will work with Cobb's Camps to help restore the island.

"Our recent collaboration with Cobb's Camps on replacing the Lindsay Cove dock provides a good model for working together on the island sites," observed Dougherty. "We look forward to working with the Camps to ensure wise stewardship of the Pierce Pond islands."

Andy Cobb, who manages Cobb's Camps, summed up the island donation as follows, "Basically, this ensures that the islands stay the same, no matter what happens at Cobb's Camps years into the future. It's extra protection for the islands."



GIFTS WERE RECEIVED IN HONOR OF:

Ann Burnham
 Audrey & Scott Hutchinson

GIFTS WERE RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF:

Bruce Bates
 James Beck
 Ann Burnham
 Gary Cobb
 Floyd & Maudie Cobb
 Richard Fagan
 Carl Freeman
 Bradlee E. Gage, Sr.
 Ben Gale
 Russell Guibord

Albert Martin
 Bob and Mae Schmidle
 Robert Schmidle
 Roland Scribner
 John Silva
 Roland Ware
 Philip G. Whitney

Remembering Carl Freeman

1941–2022

—Kyle McCaskill

Carl Joseph Freeman was a man of contrasts and contradictions. He was described as impatient, impetuous, and irascible . . . as well as kind, committed, and soft-hearted. Some remember him as private and a bit of a loner, while others remember him as outgoing and social. I will always remember him as determined, devoted, tenacious, occasionally infuriating—but above all, a self-effacing man of generous deeds.

Director and former PPWT president Charlie Burnham remembers, “Every year from 1990 until 2002, Carl and I went to Montana to fish. Each night we’d decide where to fish the next day, and then every morning at breakfast Carl would change his mind. I remember finally thumping my fist and saying, “We decided this last night!”



When the PPWT Board of Directors was faced with a vacant president’s seat in 2015, Burnham and fellow director Ben Gale suggested Freeman, a longtime director. “We knew that he sometimes rubbed other directors the wrong way,” said Burnham, “but we also knew that he had the experience, the ability, and the connections. I knew from experience that Carl was not a patient man, and I thought, ‘This is a time when we need someone like Carl.’ And indeed, Freeman would bring the Trust “as close as anyone could have to closing a land deal” on the commercial timberlands in the watershed.

Mike Peluso, who was a fellow director when Freeman’s name came up for the presidency,

remembered that “I wasn’t the only one who was concerned that he was too cantankerous. He could be like a bull in a china shop.” After serving as Freeman’s Treasurer, Peluso freely admits that he was wrong about Carl’s suitability to lead the Trust (“although he *was* impetuous!”).

Peluso said that Freeman’s greatest asset to the Trust was his ability to keep his foot on the accelerator. “He pushed for a capital campaign; he pushed for professional fundraising counsel; he pushed for educational programming; he pushed for the Trust’s name change. He developed connections with other organizations including the Sportsman’s Alliance of Maine, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and Trout Unlimited. Tenacity was his hallmark.

“It wasn’t until I joined him on a fishing trip to Quebec in 2018,” Peluso continued, “that I really learned about Carl’s educational and business achievements, as well as his service in the U.S. Marines. He was shot down, suffering second-degree burns, and spent a night in the bush surrounded by Vietcong. He was an American hero but rarely spoke of it.

“He duped people into thinking he was a tough guy,” said Peluso, “but it was a ruse.” Freeman was a talented classical pianist who engaged in intensive practice and study. Long-time friend Bruce Marshall recalled, “Carl and my daughter had the same birthday, and every year he would call her on their shared birthday. And he sure loved those dogs of his.”

Betty Cobb remembered, “Many of the Cobb’s staff remember Carl’s piano-playing in the dining room. Then he’d come into the kitchen, sniffing the air hopefully—and I think he liked the company. He especially liked turkey dinner with all of the fixings. He was cheerful, pleasant, good-natured, and very social; he always greeted people.”

One time during our six years of working together, Carl allowed me to record an interview with him in preparation for revisions to

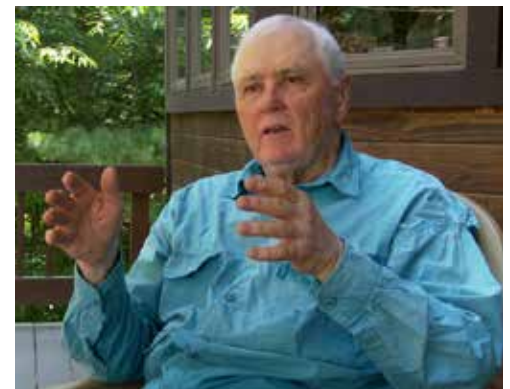


the *Pierce Pond Forever* video. I will never forget the emotion in his voice and his face as he talked about what Pierce Pond meant to him:

“I started going to Pierce Pond in 1983. I found everything I needed at Pierce Pond. It became like a home, it became that escape to me, of going back to something I’d never had. In the beginning it was all about the fishing.” He laughed, “Now I go on Sundays for turkey, and don’t even bring my fly rod.

“I think everyone leaves something behind when they go there. When you go past the gate house and the gate closes behind you, keeping things out . . .

“When you get ready for a trip to Pierce Pond, you start to separate yourself. Then you finally get to North New Portland, and you get on that bumpy paved road, and you’re getting closer. You finally get to the dirt road, and you say, ‘Man, I’m seven miles away . . .’” At this point in the recording Carl’s voice started to break. “This is what I can’t even explain . . . you come over that final ridge and you see the pond, and it’s just . . . just . . . like coming home.”



PPWT Coordinator Jerry Bley observed, “In the later years of his life, when most people would just want to kick back and take it easy, Carl worked tirelessly to secure the future of Pierce Pond. It says a lot about the devotion that Pierce Pond engenders in people, but even more, it says a lot about Carl.”

PPWT & Cobb's Camps Collaborate on New Lindsay Cove Dock



Last fall, a badly needed new dock was constructed to provide safe access at Lindsay Cove, thanks to a collaboration between Pierce Pond Watershed Trust and Cobb's Camps. The finished dock is 21 feet wide by 34 feet long, with a 12-foot ramp. Funds for construction materials came from PPWT's 2020 matching-gift campaign, which was



kicked off by a generous match gift from member Frank Leigner.

Many dedicated Pierce Ponders donated skills, time, equipment, and more to this project. PPWT

Treasurer Mike Peluso did the engineering specs, drafted the blueprints, ordered materials, and assisted with oversight and construction. Dave Peppard donated and transported the 25-foot-long cedar logs for the dock's superstructure, navigating snow-covered and washed-out access roads. He also transported the ballast tanks and provided his tractor and equipment. Dave and Mike oversaw the efforts of workers over three weekends, finishing the last weekend of November after clearing away a fresh snowfall.

PPWT Director Bud Meader brought in a 28-ton crane from his construction company in New Hampshire to maneuver the sections of dock into place. Andy Cobb provided decking as well as accommodations, staging, materials deliveries, and a motivated work crew. Kristen Mclaughlin prepared fabulous meals, and Kristen's father Robert Mallet donated cedar decking. Bob McLaughlin used his carpentry expertise to wrangle the uneven logs into a square and straight framework. He and Chris Fenn managed to hunt up some grouse, which

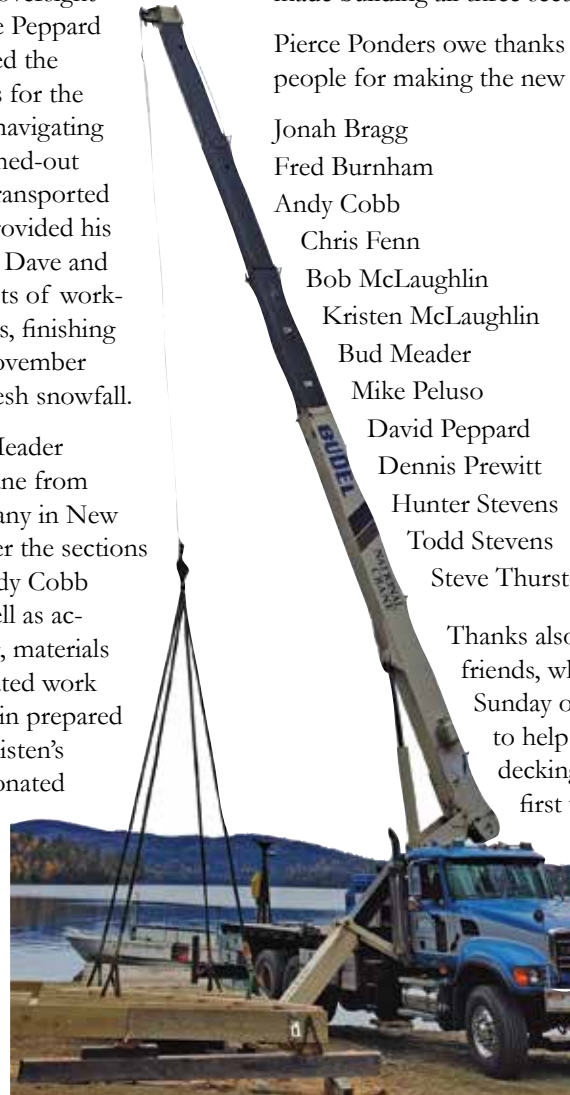
Kristen turned into a delicious appetizer. Todd Stevens' framing skills and energy made building all three sections a breeze.

Pierce Ponders owe thanks to the following people for making the new dock possible:

- Jonah Bragg
- Fred Burnham
- Andy Cobb
- Chris Fenn
- Bob McLaughlin
- Kristen McLaughlin
- Bud Meader
- Mike Peluso
- David Peppard
- Dennis Prewitt
- Hunter Stevens
- Todd Stevens
- Steve Thurston

Thanks also to Mike Peluso's friends, who gave up a Sunday of scouting deer to help lay down the decking. It was their first visit to PP and will not be their last:

- Dave Carpenter
- Lenny Carpenter
- Roger Pinet



New Watershed Maps Are Here!

It has been eighteen years since PPWT (then MWWT) first printed recreational maps of the Pierce Pond Watershed, and it was time for an update! Many Pierce-Ponders still have their trusty folded watershed maps among their gear—or perhaps the flat versions on their walls.

The new maps were created with GIS mapping software, and include updated water depths and elevations, as well as campsites, picnic sites, trails and trailheads, scenic overlooks, boat launches, and roads. The text is high-contrast and easy to read. The back side of the map provides descriptions and enlarged maps of watershed hiking trails. The maps are printed on water-resistant paper and folded to a convenient 8" x 3.75" size.

Maps cost \$15 each and can be ordered on PPWT's website at piercepondwatershed.org/maps, or by sending a check for \$15.83 (including tax) per map to PPWT, PO Box 5660, Augusta, ME 04332. Maps can also be purchased at Cobb's Pierce Pond camps.





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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.



R. Kittredge Photo



R. Kittredge Photo



R. Kittredge Photo

Microburst Devastates Fox Island

Trust member Bob Kittredge reported that he was at Cobb's Camps when a thunderstorm hit late at night on Saturday, May 22. The next morning they learned that a microburst had hit Fox Island and "essentially flattened" the campsite and much of the island. Kittredge said, "As I made my way to Upper the next morning, the devastation I saw was incomprehensible. It looked as if a giant came through and lifted trees right out of the ground; others were snapped off midway up the tree."

PPWT Director Chas Gill advised that there was also some damage to Valentine Family

property on the east shore, as well as to Long Island.

The couple who'd been camping on Fox had a "hair-raising night," according to Kittredge, and were "extremely lucky that the trees didn't crush them in their tent."

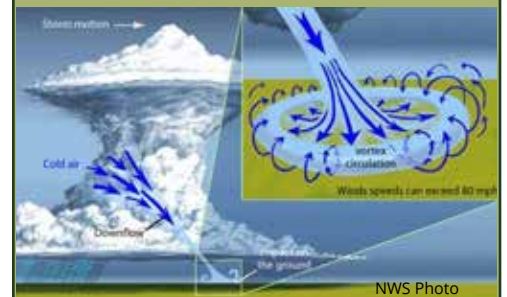
A crew from Cobb's Camps began cleanup the Monday after the storm, cutting up trees and hauling off slash by barge. Andy Cobb said that enough work has been done to allow the island to be used as a picnic site, but he was not sure how long it might be before there is camping on Fox Island again.



R. Kittredge Photo

What is a microburst and how can it do so much damage so quickly?

According to the National Weather Service, a microburst occurs when evaporative cooling creates a column of sinking air within a thunderstorm. This causes a large core of rain and/or hail that has been held aloft to plummet to the ground, spreading in all directions as it hits and creating wind speeds of up to 100 mph or more—equivalent to an EF-1 tornado.



NWS Photo



"Wet Microburst"—NOAA Legacy Photo