

Preserving, connecting and sharing the natural beauty of Freeport

Freeport Conservation Trust

FALL 2023

Update

A Small But Mighty Parcel of New Conservation



Lester and Mary Hurd with FCT at the property closing..

In 1949, Lester and Mary Hurd purchased this parcel, part of a 6-acre property on the banks of the Cousins River in Freeport. In 1958, the Maine DOT constructed Route 295 south by taking part of the property using eminent domain laws. They altered the course of the Cousins River so they could build a bridge for the road. They divided the property in half leaving the east portion accessible only through gates in the state boarder fences. Then in 1982, the state DOT once again came and took more of the property using eminent domain laws to divide what was left in order to change the south bound lanes to travel north bound and build a new road to travel south bound. This action took all the property that the family home was on but left approximately 2+ acres of inaccessible, undeveloped property on the shore of the Cousins River's west branch. This property was deeded over to Lester and Mary's youngest son David in February of 2006. With limited access the real value is as conserved land because it abuts 193 acres of FCT conserved land along the Cousins River Marsh. Thank you to David and his wife Mary, whom recently decided to donate it to FCT hoping to keep it natural as it is today with the dream of a recreational trail.

In 1949, Lester and Mary Hurd purchased this parcel, part of a 6-acre property on the banks of the Cousins River in Freeport. In 1958, the Maine DOT constructed Route 295 south by taking

Help us reach our end of the year goal!



Trail Challenge awards and results

The 2023 Freeport Trail Challenge achieved another successful year. Running from August 12th to October 16th, this year's trails were carefully selected to showcase various Freeport regions and emphasize specific aspects of Freeport's conservation initiatives. Despite reducing the event's duration by 15 days, we exceeded last year's participation figures, with well over 200 enthusiastic participants who were rewarded with a coupon for a Ben & Jerry's ice cream. Along with the ice cream coupon we awarded one adult and two child participants with a gift basket.

Frost Gully Restoration Celebration

On Thursday, October 19th, the Freeport Conservation Trust joined forces with the neighboring communities to commemorate the restoration of Frost Gully Dam. The celebration commenced with an uplifting chronological slideshow, vividly documenting the project's various stages. Subsequently, we showcased a locally produced video documentary that delved deeper into the project's story. The gathering concluded with boundless enthusiasm, culminating in a lively question-and-answer session.



Frost Gully Dam removal celebration.

Big Thanks to the Boy Scouts



Boy Scouts enjoy their hard work.

appreciates the public benefit of having comfortable benches from which to enjoy nature. The boy scouts constructed eight benches based on a bench design used by Wolfe's Neck Farm. After construction they installed benches in various locations including Rachel's Cove, Frost Gully Woods, Gibby's Trail, Calderwood, and Simpson Woods. These benches are part of a larger FCT goal of improving accessibility to some of our trails.

Thank you- Jared, and all the scouts for partnering with FCT on this important project! When you see one of these benches, we hope you stop for a moment, take a deep breath and enjoy nature!



Kelly Sink stopping to enjoy one of the new benches!

A big thanks and congratulations to Freeport High School senior Jared Antl and the Freeport Boy Scout Troop for their great work in partnering with FCT to build benches for strategic locations on FCT's preserves and trails. Jared has earned his Eagle Scout honor and FCT

Volunteer Highlight

Special thanks to Kellen Devine from Yarmouth! Here are Kellan's thoughts at the end of the summer:



"I am now a freshman at Yarmouth High school and used the summer of 2023 to start my 40 hours of community service at Freeport Conservation Trust. The time that I experienced working with the Conservation Trust was so great because I ended up learning lots of new things about invasive plants, different habitats, and how this work helps the environment. I chose to do this type of work because I like to be outdoors and helping clean up and maintain plants and trails just like what I did in Freeport. I also liked that I got to explore many Freeport trails that I have never walked on before. There were many awesome people that I worked with, I also noticed that the community is kind and works very hard to try and make Maine more enjoyable for the people that explore it."

Sorry we missed you!

Sorry we missed you! We noticed these generous gifts in 2022 were omitted on the donor list. All of these members are an integral part of our community, and we sincerely apologize for this oversight.

Catherine H. Fisher Giving Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Colin Baker Charitable Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Dara Jeanne Kaufman Fund of Maine Community Foundation
Empey Family Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Joe and Carol Wishcamper Fund of MCF
John Gleason & Katrina Van Dusen Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Kathryn Biberstein Family Fund of Vanguard Charitable
Laura and Cliff George Giving Fund of Fidelity Charitable

Leonard Family of Fidelity Charitable
McDonald/Caron Family Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Tobermory Fund of Fidelity Charitable
Victoria Calabro Zavasnik Scholarship Fund of Vanguard Charitable

Special thanks to Freeport Community Services Thrift Shop for selecting FCT as the recipient of their monthly purchase round up and Amy Kusta for donating proceeds from her art show Wild Mercy!