

LANDMARKS



Outgoing Executive Director Doreen MacGillis and incoming Executive Director Amelia Nadilo tour the newly acquired property just off of Josiah Currier Road.

We are very pleased to announce that we recently protected 48 acres across three parcels of land located off of Josiah Currier Road in Cape Neddick. The property abuts a 45-acre parcel that YLT purchased back in January and is in close proximity to a 90-acre tract owned by Great Works Regional Land Trust, all of which sits within a 700-acre block of undeveloped land.

This property was previously owned by a timber company and was being marketed for development. By protecting it, we have preserved ecologically rich forested wetlands that are home to a

variety of wildlife including birds, mammals, and amphibians. The property also includes existing trails that we plan to improve and expand for public access.

Increasing development pressure in Cape Neddick threatens to degrade and fragment this vast intact landscape, which is why we have intensified our efforts to protect land in this region in recent years. By doing so, we are not only protecting important habitat and outdoor recreation destinations, but we are also helping to slow the rate of climate change by protecting land that is absorbing and storing carbon dioxide. The wetlands



NEW ADDITIONS TO YORK LAND TRUST

The York Land Trust is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving and protecting lands of ecological, historic, scenic, agricultural and cultural significance in the greater York, Maine area, for the benefit of all.

THE YORK LAND TRUST
1 LONG NECK MARSH RD.
YORK, ME 03909
Telephone: 207-363-7400
E-mail: info@yorklandtrust.org

For more information, please visit our website: www.yorklandtrust.org



The Mount Agamenticus to the Sea Conservation Initiative (MtA2C) is an effort led by a coalition of national, regional and local partners to protect a network of connected conservation lands and natural resources within a 48,000-acre focus area in Southern Maine for the benefit of people and wildlife.

The MtA2C Partners include: the US Fish and Wildlife Service/Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, The Nature Conservancy, Great Works Regional Land Trust, Kittery Land Trust, and York Land Trust.

For more information, please visit www.mta2c.org.

I am delighted to be taking on the role as YLT's new Board President, and would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My wife, Ann, and I have lived in York for nearly 25 years, splitting our time between our home here and Boston. I have had the pleasure and privilege of serving on the YLT Board for 9 years from 2012 until 2019, and also serve on the boards of Mass Audubon, New England Aquarium, and the Mass Land Trust Coalition. Land protection is my passion, and I am thrilled to be stepping into this position that allows me to help tackle conservation efforts within my very own community.

I am taking on this role during a period of new and exciting changes at YLT, and I am grateful to my predecessors for laying such firm groundwork for this transition. I would first like to recognize and thank Cliff O'Connor, who is stepping down as Board President after a 5-year term. Cliff has been a strong and committed leader, and his shoes will be hard to fill.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen MacGillis has also stepped down as YLT's Executive Director after 23 years of leadership, and will continue to provide her land protection expertise to YLT and other conservation organizations across the state as a Land Protection Specialist. All of us at YLT look forward to continuing to have access to Doreen's experience and wisdom for our land protection efforts. I would like to personally thank Doreen for all that she has contributed to the Town of York over more than two decades.

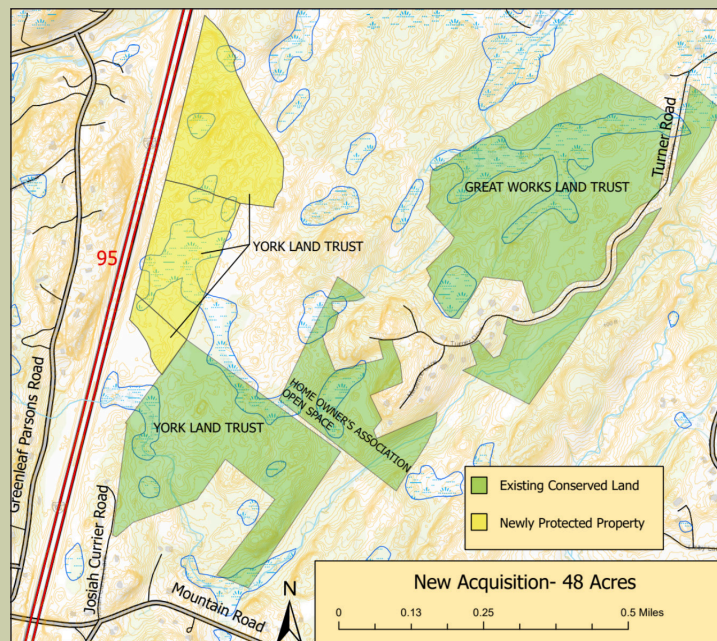
With all endings come new beginnings. On that note, I am

very excited to welcome Amelia Nadilo as the new Executive Director of YLT. Amelia most recently worked as the Director of the Catalina Environmental Leadership Program on Catalina Island in California, where she managed outdoor education programs for school-aged groups on topics including ecology, trail restoration and gardening. She has worked both domestically and internationally in environmental education, and brings with her a contagious energy for her work and a deep commitment to YLT's mission. I hope you'll join me in welcoming her to our team.

One thing that *hasn't* changed amidst all of these transitions is our deep appreciation for our members and all that you do to make our work possible. Thank you for being part of our community and for your ongoing support through this season of change.

Sincerely,
Jared Chase

48 Acres Protected - continued from page 1



on the property also behave as natural sponges, helping to prevent flooding and soil erosion during intense storms.

This acquisition would not have been possible without dedicated funds from a generous anonymous donor, along with a contribution from an abutting landowner. We look forward to opening up new public access trails in this very special part of town, and will keep you posted as we make progress on that front.

Reflecting on the First Growing Season in our Educational Garden

With colder weather settling in, it has come time to put our Educational Garden to bed for the season. Since installing our four raised beds back in June, we have managed to grow dozens of pounds of peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, cabbage, green beans, and herbs that we have donated to the York Community Service Association Food Pantry and the York Hospital. All of this food was grown organically and required relatively minimal maintenance, thanks to the guidance and expertise of a generous group of Maine Master Gardener Volunteers who have been instrumental in the garden's construction and upkeep throughout the season.

In addition to sharing our crops with members of the community, we have also been hosting a series of public programs in the garden, which include strategies for preparing gardens for the cold months and a monthly Garden Storytime designed for Pre-K children and their caregivers. Offered in partnership with the York Public Library, this storytime series has given young families the opportunity to get their hands dirty together and learn more about where their food comes from. Our last program in this series is coming up on November 28th, so mark your calendars!

We plan to continue to expand our garden programming during the 2023 growing season to cover topics for all ages, including how to install drip irrigation systems, how to build a DIY compost bin, easy ways to keep pests away, and more. If there are garden-related topics that you would like to learn more about through our programming, please let us know and we will take your suggestions into consideration as we develop our calendar for next year.

Our Educational Garden has had such a successful year thanks to the tremendous support of a dedicated group of volunteers who participated in the design, construction, planting, harvesting, and maintenance of the beds. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone who has been involved, and to Nathaniel Wheeler TUA York for providing funding to build this garden.

If you would like to get involved as a Garden Volunteer during the 2023 growing season, please contact Laura Poppick at lpoppick@yorklandtrust.org to learn more.



The vegetables harvested from our garden's first season have been donated to YCSA Food Pantry and York Hospital.



PreK children and their caregivers plant garlic during a Garden Storytime.

With Completion of Timber Harvest and Trail Work, Smelt Brook Preserve Has Re-Opened

Our 300-acre Smelt Brook Preserve on Rt. 91 has undergone considerable change over the past several months, and we appreciate your patience during the brief closure of this property in the late summer and early fall.

We have now completed our sustainable timber harvest that will improve the long-term health of the forest. We assure you that, while parts of the forest may now look somewhat barren, it will readily grow back far stronger than it had been before. Many of the pines that were cut down had fallen ill with a fungal infection called needle cast disease, which tends to proliferate in densely packed stands. We have left some of the dead or dying trees behind as wildlife habitat but have removed others to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor and help younger, healthier trees grow more easily.



Volunteers help construct bog bridging at Smelt Brook Preserve to protect trails vulnerable to erosion.

Another reason we conducted this harvest was to prepare for sea level rise along the banks of the York River. Pines tend to have relatively shallow root systems that are prone to damage from saltwater intrusion during coastal floods. The root systems of hardwoods like oaks, on the other hand, grow a bit deeper than those of pines so they are less sensitive to floodwaters. We're working to help shift the forest away from predominately pine to a more balanced mix of pine and oak that will more easily withstand environmental stressors linked with climate change.



The timber harvest conducted at Smelt Brook Preserve has helped prepare this coastal forest and marshland for sea level rise along the York River.

In addition to our timber harvest, we also completed the construction of new bog bridging on parts of trails that are particularly susceptible to collecting water. This new bridging improves the hiking experience and helps minimize the degradation of the trails during wet periods. Many thanks to the crew of volunteers who worked with our Stewardship Assistant, Liz Walworth, to build these new bridges!

The preserve has now re-opened, and we hope that you enjoy exploring it this winter. If you're looking for a more interactive hiking experience, visit yorklandtrust.org/explore and follow the link to our *Nature Guides + Activities* page where you will find our *Smelt Brook Preserve Scavenger Hunt* that you can download to your phone or print out as PDF.

Happy exploring!

Reminder: Hunting Season Has Begun *Active Through Dec. 31*

Please note that hunting season has begun and is taking place on a number of York Land Trust properties. We recommend preserve visitors and their pets wear blaze orange on all trails for the duration of the hunting season.

Hunters must comply with all state and local hunting regulations and possess a valid hunting license. To view the York Land Trust hunting policy, please visit yorklandtrust.org. For further questions and concerns, please contact Stewardship Assistant Liz Walworth at (207)363-7400 ext.6 or lwalworth@yorklandtrust.org.

HONORING DOREEN MACGILLIS, A DEVOTED, TALENTED, AND AMBITIOUS LEADER

Over her 23-year tenure as Executive Director that concluded on October 2, 2022, Doreen MacGillis helped York Land Trust grow from a small organization of one staff member to a robust, stable, and well-respected force for local and regional land conservation. Since 1999, she has worked to protect thousands of acres of undeveloped land that will support wildlife and people within our community in perpetuity.

The following are some highlights of Doreen’s many accomplishments with YLT:

- The acreage of York Land Trust’s conservation holdings has increased from a couple hundred acres to more than 3,000 acres. She also facilitated the protection of an additional 1,200 acres held by state, federal, and local agencies.
- The number of public access preserves has increased from 0 to 7.
- The extent of public access trails has increased by more than 18 miles.
- YLT membership has grown from 150 to more than 650 members.
- YLT’s annual operating budget has grown from \$60,000 to roughly \$500,000.
- Over \$50 million in land conservation funds have been raised including \$1.7 million through town referendums.
- YLT acquired and established a permanent headquarters and conserved all of the adjacent land around it.



Doreen recently received a painting by Michael Walek as a thank you gift from YLT during a celebration of her 23 years of service as YLT’s Executive Director.

To honor Doreen’s remarkable leadership, the York Land Trust Board of Directors has established the **Doreen MacGillis Land Protection Fund**. The Board could not think of a better way to recognize all that Doreen has achieved for this organization than to establish a dedicated fund that will facilitate the conservation of more land for the benefit of generations to come.

Members of the Board have provided more than \$50,000 to establish this fund. We invite you to join them and make a contribution to the fund to help carry on Doreen’s outstanding legacy of land conservation.

To learn more or to donate to this fund, please visit yorklandtrust.org/support or call Patty O’Connor at 207-363-7400 ext. 5.

APPRECIATION FOR THE IMPACT OF TWO OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Bernie Speers and Cliff O’Connor, two dedicated volunteers whose terms on the York Land Trust Board of Directors ended this fall.



Outgoing Board President Cliff O’Connor holds a plaque dedicating the YLT Community Room in his name, a gift honoring his exemplary commitment to this organization.

During her nine years on the Board, Bernie has brought tremendous generosity and kindness to her role and will be sorely missed for her warmth, intelligence, and good sense of humor. She offered a wealth of knowledge and a deep commitment to our mission that has left our organization stronger.

Cliff, who is stepping down from his five-year term as Board President and from his nine-year term as a Board Member, has offered extraordinary support for our organization during a period of significant growth and change. Under his leadership, we expanded our land holdings by hundreds of acres, established our permanent home at our headquarters, and held a number of successful fundraising campaigns, along with many other accomplishments. He routinely went above the call of duty, and we couldn’t be more grateful for all that he has done for YLT and for the community more broadly.

Please join us in thanking Bernie and Cliff for their outstanding commitment to YLT’s mission and the wellbeing of our local and regional environment.



As a token of thanks to outgoing Board Member Bernie Speers, we presented her with a framed painting of scenic Smelt Brook Preserve.



1 LONG NECK MARSH RD.
YORK, MAINE 03909

Forwarding service requested

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
MANCHESTER, NH
PERMIT #182

Your End-of-Year Gift Makes A Difference

Check the mail soon for your
2022 Annual Appeal or visit
www.yorklandtrust.org to
make your gift at anytime.
Thank you!

Invite your friends to connect
online: yorklandtrust.org



facebook.com/YLT.York.ME



@york_land_trust



UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn more and register at yorklandtrust.org/events, and follow us on Instagram and Facebook.

AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE ON OUTDOOR RECREATION IN MAINE

November 7 @ 6pm | Virtual Event, held over Zoom

Ann Pollard-Ranco is a citizen of the Penobscot Nation and works as a photographer, writer, and consultant. In this presentation, she will discuss her journey of reconnecting with ancestral places through photography and writing, and how this is an integral part of activism within the realm of the land back and food sovereignty movements.

BIRD WALK WEDNESDAY

November 16 & December 21 @ 9am - 10:30am | Highland Farm Preserve

In partnership with White Pine Programs, we're offering a monthly bird walk on the 3rd Wednesday of each month! Join us for a walk at Highland Farm Preserve to learn how to ID birds, recognize birdsong, and explore the habitats birds love most. Family friendly and beginner birders welcome.

GARDEN STORYTIME WITH YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

November 28 @ 10:30am - 11:30am | York Land Trust Headquarters

Join a youth librarian from York Public Library for stories, songs, and rhymes in the edible garden at YLT's headquarters. Dress for the weather and garden! Bring a blanket or picnic lunch to enjoy after storytime.

WINTER SOLSTICE YOGA CLASS

December 21 @ 5pm - 6:30pm | York Land Trust Headquarters

Celebrate the first day of winter with an evening yoga class at the York Land Trust Headquarters! Darcy Specker of Cider Hill Yoga will lead the class with a focus on vinyasa flow and the connection between breath and movement.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

Our 2022 Community Outreach Programs have been generously sponsored by the following businesses:

- Edward Jones Investments - Susan Heckaman
- Kennebunk Savings
- Veris Wealth Partners, Alison Pyott
- Stonewall Kitchen
- D.F. Richard
- Nola & Associates
- YFI Custom Homes
- Sentry Hill at York Harbor
- Ellis Insurance Agency - Tim Ellis

We extend our sincere thanks to these businesses for helping us connect our community with nature!