The summer season of 2016 began with the dedication of a gift of a 27-acre field, the Parsons Family Preserve, owned by the Parsons family since the early 20th century. This lovely land, full of wildflowers, birds and butterflies, inspired the creation of the first donor supported "Friends of Parsons Family Preserve. We hope that those who wish to see this land developed to provide breeding habitats for grassland birds and butterflies will be inspired to join the Friends.

By August 20th we were all ready to celebrate a great summer and to thank our supporters. Our first Annual Conservation and Awards Celebration, held at the Canaan Farmers Hall, gave our first Conservation Awards to Clinton "Bill" Townsend and Will Reid and our first Volunteer Stewardship Awards to Patty Van Horn and Jeff McCabe. To complete a night of firsts, the Trustees recognized truly extraordinary voluntarism by the dedication of the red trail at Coburn Woods as the Roger Poulin Trail. Our guests sampled locally made cheeses by Crooked Cheese Creamery.

On September 18th The Forks was the perfect place to celebrate the beauty of Somerset County at our first North Woods Forks Activity Day. Our friends and trustees climbed Mosquito Mountain, canoed the Kennebec River, hiked to Moxie Falls, and walked along the future Kennebec and Dead River Trail. We ended the day with a barbecue at Great Northern.

On November 5th we held our first Volunteer Work Day at Parsons Family Preserve and Philbrick Preserve. Friends volunteered to pull weeds, plant seeds, cut trails and trees and construct water bars.

The trustees are planning next summer’s activities. You can be sure that our firsts of 2016 will be followed by the seconds of 2017! Thank you for a wonderful 2016.
A Walk in the Woods

I was thinking about vision the other day. Not the what-is-in-front-of-me-kind but the what-is-the-future-kind. Our Somerset Woods Trustees peers from yesteryear certainly had vision. They could see far into the future and visualize what they thought was important to preserve for future generations. They were concerned that the entrances to Skowhegan were kept attractive, hence our Kennebec Banks and Kennebec Pines properties were established. They were concerned that children should have a place to recreate, hence they established, what is now, The Bucky Quinn Ballfield and the Amanda Berry Playground. I don’t know if river access was a concern so long ago (given its polluted state, maybe not), but their preserved frontage has become Cleaver Landing and a great asset on the Kennebec.

As I have said in the past, we have a talented and diverse board of Trustees. A forester, archaeologist, legal professionals, healthcare professionals, teachers, Master Naturalists, an economist, and a fisheries biologist comprise our board. These folks have tremendous vision and concern for our county and our abilities to shape the future environs we all depend on.

What we are missing is more involvement from the general public. We need your support and, yes, vision. We have the good fortune to have Will Reid as long time steward for us. We have more recently gained Patty Van Horn and Jeff McCabe as stewards of Philbrick Woods and the Parsons Family Preserve, respectively. Our recent work day inNovember turned out some very helpful folks to aide us in trail improvements. All of these folks have a vision I am sure of what these parcels and trails should look like to generations to come.


Please find our electronic survey https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SQ77XZ2 or send in the enclosed paper copy so we will know your thoughts and vision. We value your input.

VOLUNTEERISM IS THE HEART, MIND AND BODY OF SWT

2016 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Front row, from the left) Jack Gibason, (President)
Bob Haynes, Warren Shay, Davida Barber (Secretary)
Joe Dembeck, (rear row) Kate Drummond, Ann Dorney,
Roger Poulin, Ernie Hillton (Vice President),
Chris Young, Will Reed, Greg Dore (Treasurer)
(Eric Lahti, not in picture)

Coburn Woods trail built by Roger Poulin and Bob Haynes.
Consultant is Brian Alexander. Gravel donated by Merle L. Lloyd and sons. Cedar logs donated by Peter Rowe of Rowe Logging.
Logs cut by Eric Lahti.
Not Pictured: Kennebec Banks: landscaping by Lynch Landscaping

KIOSK BUILDERS: Skowhegan High School students: Pictured, from left are students Rishi Findley, Shylana Price, Kyle Salley, Devin Reid, Alex Willamson, Josiah Dillingham, Thorne Buzzard, Josiah Pomeroy and instructor, Mike Jones.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY

Parsons
U.Maine Farmington Students: Catherine Dufault, Danica Lamonnette, Kyle Reynolds, Colby Stevens, Abbie Hartford, Tessa Walsh, Emily Hartfod, Michaela Wright, Kelsey Dunn
Not pictured: Warren Shay, Davida Barter, In-Kind: Kevin Mack, Kele Harlou

Philbrick Trails
Liza Russell, Tom Hendricks, Sam Horine
(Not Pictured) Wayland Magoon
Patty Van Horne, Liz Allen

Dorothy Cleaver
A Friend of SWT and the Kennebec River

September 15, 1925— October 24, 2016
Guardian of the Kennebec River and conservationist. "Her optimism, ingenuity, humor, kindness, passion for politics and an poetry inspired all who knew her.”

GRANT CORNER

- SWT thanks the Eastman Charitable Fund for $5000 for improvements to Coburn. And Norcross Wildlife Foundation for a grant of $2000 to purchase a printer, GPS and wildlife camera.

SWT WISH LIST

- High speed processor desktop computer and wide monitor suitable for GIS. Tools! Shovels, rakes, rototiller, brush mover, hammers, loppers

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jack Gibason, President
Ernie Hillton, VP
Greg Dore, Treasurer
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Kate Drummond
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Clinton Townsend
Nancy Williams, Executive Director

Not Pictured: Kennebec Banks: landscaping by Lynch Landscaping

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