

**THANK YOU FOR...**

**...Kennebec Banks**

Walter Hight  
Towne Motel  
Franklin Savings  
Skowhegan Savings

**..Friend of Parsons Family Preserve**

Michael Shirley  
Shirley Richardson  
Kevin Mack (in-kind)  
Jim and Barbara Van Dessel, Jr.  
Nancy Williams (in-kind)

**...Coburn Poulin Parcel**

Barbara Belliveau  
Anonymous  
Sam & Patricia Horine  
Carole Clement  
Stephen Tyks  
Randy Franck and Patsy Miller  
Christopher & Claire Perkins  
Dick and Mary Willette  
Sackett & Brake  
Robert & Donna Conkling  
Peter & Barbara Whitkop  
David Axelman & Ann Dorney  
Gust & Jan Stringos  
Roger & Deborah Poulin  
Roger Renfrew

**...Fall 2015 Appeal**

Michael & Elizabeth Hofmann  
Sam & Patricia Horine  
Henry & Mary Mollerus  
Pete & Ann Henderson  
Gust & Jan Stringos  
Steve & Marcia Meisner  
Sarah & Chip Carpenter  
Norman & Patricia Dickey  
Grace Fawcett  
Peter and Nancy Mills  
Dave Turcotte  
Steve & Lynn King  
Peter & Barbara W. Conkling  
Stephen & Jennifer Dionne  
Lou & Debbie Hight  
Skip Gates and Kathy Philbrick  
William Laney  
Robert & Gloria Nicholson  
James (Bud) & Georgiana Wright  
John & Kathy Gifford  
Elsa Sanborn  
Lester Kenway  
Warren & Jeanne Shay  
Roger & Deborah Poulin  
Eric and Sue Lahti  
Howard & Susan Sevey  
David Axelman & Ann Dorney  
Gail & Jack Gibson  
Brad & Patty Hager

**...Spring 2016 and Other**

New Balance Athletics, Inc.  
Susan Surabian & Alan Haley  
Warren and Helen Balgooyen  
Paavo & Mary Titherington-Carey  
Jeff and Sara McCabe  
Mary Lou and Franklin Ridley  
Peter Pfeiffer  
Percival & Constance Coggins  
Gust & Jan Stringos  
Steve & Marcia Meisner  
Peter Carey  
Lori & Seth Conway  
Andy & Sarah Davis  
Semper Fidelis  
Kim Huggins  
William & Margo Reid  
Dave Turcotte  
Pete & Ann Henderson  
Steve & Lynn King  
Anonymous  
Michael & Karyn Curran  
Delbert Franklin  
Kim & Joseph Kennedy  
David Calder & Maureen Delahanty  
Joy St. Ledger  
James (Bud) & Georgiana Wright  
Warren & Jeanne Shay

Somerset Woods Trustees  
P.O. Box 833  
Skowhegan, Me. 04976

**Fall Appeal Enclosed:! Your support builds trails and protects land. Please be as generous as you are able.**



**SWT FALL-WINTER  
2016  
NEWSLETTER**

**2016: THE YEAR OF MANY FIRSTS!**

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.





# PRESIDENT’S CORNER

## 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 for 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 in November 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.

What are your conservation visions for Somerset Woods Trustees? More trails? If so, where? More protected land? More educational programs?

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 Gibson, (President) Bob Haynes, Warren Shay, Davida Barter (Secretary) Joe Dembeck, (rear row) Kate Drummond, Ann Dorney, Roger Poulin, Ernie Hilton (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 Petey 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, Shylanda Price, Kyle Salley, Devin Reid, Alex Williamson, Josiah Dillingham, Thorne Buzzard, Jesiah Pomeroy and instructor, Mike Jones.

# VOLUNTEER WORK DAY



**Parsons U>Maine Farmington Students :**  
Catherine Dufault  
Danica Lamontagne  
Kyle Reynolds  
Colby Stevens  
Abbie Hartford  
Tessa Walsh  
Emily Hartford  
Michaela Wright  
Kelsey Dunn

Not pictured:  
Warren Shay  
Davida Barter  
In-Kind:  
Kevin Mack (rototilling)  
Nancy Williams (seeds)  
Doug Harlow (seeds)

**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 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 Gibson, President  
Ernie Hilton, VP  
Greg Dore, Treasurer  
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Kate Drummond  
Chris Young  
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## Honorary Trustees

Donald Eames  
Kirby Hight  
William F. Reid, Jr.  
Clinton Townsend

Nancy Williams,  
Executive Director

