
MAINE
HUTS & TRAILS
ANNUAL REPORT 25/26



Board members gathered at Flagstaff Lake Hut during our 2026 Board retreat.

BOARD of DIRECTORS

Fred Prescott - *Chair*
Bob Peixotto - *Chair Emeritus*
Ben Harding - *Vice Chair*
Liz McGlinn - *Treasurer*
Dan Walker - *Secretary*
Ron Bear - *Penobscot Nation Representative*

Emily Carville
Calen Colby
Rob Holmes
Stacie Johnston
Pete Mason
Patrick McGrady
Susie Peixotto

Patricia Rosi
Avery Schmeisser
Emily Smith
Jon Spelke
Nina Weyl
Charlie Zachau

Our mission is to connect people to nature, to one another, and to the enduring responsibility of caring for the land by expanding access to Maine's backcountry.

LOOKING UP

Dear Friends,

There's something about this time of year in Maine that invites us to pause. As the days grow shorter and fall settles in, we find ourselves looking back on another season of people, places, and moments that make Maine Huts & Trails unique.

Maine Huts & Trails is more than a collection of huts connected by trails. We are stewards of an extraordinary place, providing access to the outdoors, bringing people together, and introducing young people to experiences they might not otherwise have. Few organizations bring all of that together quite the way we do.

This past year we continued the hard work of building a more resilient organization, restoring confidence, strengthening our finances, investing in our people and infrastructure, and deepening relationships with our community of supporters. That work has let us shift more of our attention from "How do we sustain what we have?" toward "What can Maine Huts & Trails become?"

In this report, you'll find our year's accomplishments, numbers, and stories. We hope you'll also see an organization grounded in what makes it special, and increasingly ambitious about what it can contribute to Maine. There is a great deal of work ahead, and possibilities in front of us that didn't seem possible just a few years ago.

Thank you for helping us reach this point and for joining us on the trail ahead.

With gratitude,



Fred Prescott
Board President



Wolfe Tone
Executive Director

THE YEAR IN MILES & MOMENTS

A year at Maine Huts & Trails is measured in more than miles. *It's measured in people welcomed, trails cared for, meals shared, young people discovering the outdoors, and volunteers showing up for a place they love. Here's a glimpse of what we made possible together.*

OUR TRAILS

2K+ Field hours dedicated to trail care

750+ Linear miles of trail maintained

14 Safety & accessibility improvements

OUR HUTS

2,315 Annual overnight guests

36 Hut maintenance projects

25 Weekends welcoming day visitors

OUR PEOPLE

44 Youth & Community groups served

554 Volunteer hours

29 Community collaborators

WHERE THE SEASONS MEET

***The trail doesn't have an off-season**. From spring stewardship and summer trail work to fall gatherings and winter hut stays, every season brings new opportunities to connect with the land – and with one another. Behind it all is a community of staff, partners, landowners, and supporters helping keep the trails open, the huts welcoming, and access possible.*



The landscape changes. The connection continues.

WHERE THE TRAIL BEGINS...

Access comes with responsibility. *Keeping Maine's backcountry open takes constant care – from maintaining safe trails and welcoming huts to protecting the land and the connections that make this place special. That work is never finished, and it takes all of us to ensure future generations can discover the backcountry, connect with the landscape, and find their own place here.*

TRAILS

- Installed drainage culverts near Halfway Yurt, helping manage water and protect the trail.
- Replaced bog bridges on the Shore Trail, improving passage across wet ground.
- Partnered with High Peaks Alliance Recreational Rangers, bringing additional hands and expertise to trail maintenance.

HUTS

- Upgraded refrigeration at Poplar Stream Hut to improve food storage and reliability.
- Installed solar panels at Stratton Brook Hut, reducing reliance on grid electricity.
- Restored electricity at Grand Falls Hut with new storage batteries.
- Built a new boat rack at Flagstaff Lake Hut, making it easier for guests to get out on the water.







...AND STEWARDSHIP ENDURES

CARING FOR THE LAND

- Partnered with 13 landowners to sustain access across the backcountry.
- Worked alongside the Wabanaki Youth in Science and Forest Stewards Youth Corp on trail stewardship and improvement projects.

CARING FOR THE HUTS

- 47 students took part in hands-on community service projects to help with stewardship and seasonal transitions at the huts.
- 70 Volunteers contributed their time and skills to maintenance and hut improvements.

CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

- Offered seven free guided winter outings, welcoming 118 participants to explore the backcountry with naturalists and interpreters.
- Supported six local charity events through in-kind donations, extending MH&T's support into the surrounding community.







A WAY INTO THE WILD

We believe the backcountry should be a place more people can experience, regardless of their background or resources. *Through our Youth & Community Experiences program, Maine Huts & Trails partners with schools and community organizations to create opportunities to explore the outdoors, build connections, and discover what's possible beyond the trailhead. Funding to reduce trip costs helps make these experiences accessible to more groups and young people.*









44
Y&CE Program Groups
including 31 youth groups

$17,857
Funding Provided
to Reduce Trip Costs

916
Group Participants
including 676 youth participants

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



We are so grateful to Maine Huts and Trails for providing our youth with these amazing experiences that are different from anything they've done before.

- Apex Youth Connection

Flagstaff Hut was the perfect place to get young people outdoors, away from screens, and fully immersed in nature.

- Mount Desert Island Regional School System





The students always come back happy. We can't wait to return next February!

- Bates College Outing Club

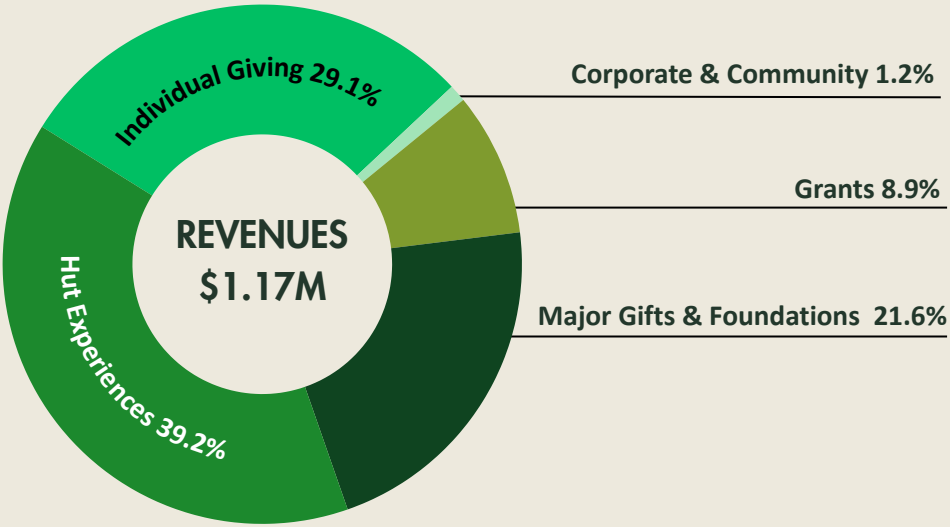
We had such a fantastic time on our adventure!! There have been actual tears about how much this trip meant to us.

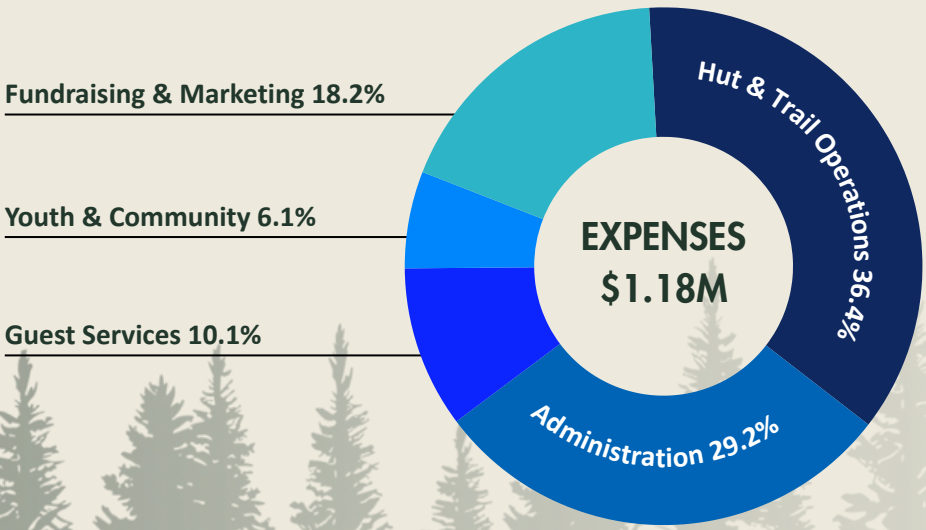
- Roots Academy



THE HUT LEDGER

Maine Huts & Trails brings together a range of resources to sustain our huts and trails, welcome guests, and advance our mission. Earned revenue, individual giving, grants, and community support all contribute to this work, while expenses reflect the people, infrastructure, and programs that keep it moving forward. Together, these numbers offer a snapshot of the organization behind the backcountry experience.

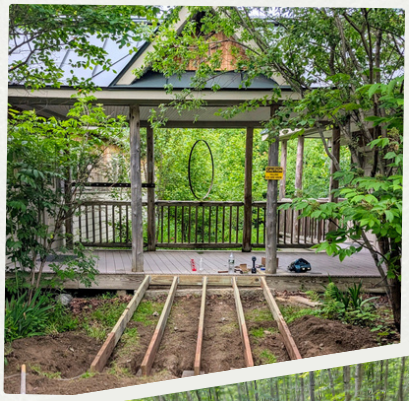




YOU MAKE THIS POSSIBLE

Your generosity helps care for the trails that lead us there, improve the huts that welcome us in, and equip the people who keep these places running. From investing in more reliable hut infrastructure to supporting the tools and trail improvements our crews depend on, you help make the work behind every backcountry experience possible.

This is what your support looks like on the ground.













THE TRAIL AHEAD

The next chapter of Maine Huts & Trails is about more than maintaining what we have. *It's about building a stronger foundation for the future: improving our huts and trail network, creating new opportunities for young people and communities, and making the backcountry accessible to more people. With the support of our community, we're turning renewed momentum into lasting progress. The map highlights key projects and priorities of the work ahead.*

A STRONGER TRAIL NETWORK

Footbridge completion and repairs, rebuilding bridges near Grand Falls, and clearer trail maps.



BETTER BACKCOUNTRY STAYS

Replacing mattresses and pillows, maintaining critical infrastructure, and preparing Grand Falls Hut to support trail crews.



WHERE WE STARTED

A backcountry experience.

Huts, trails, overnight stays,
and a place to reconnect with nature.

MAINE HUTS & TRAILS 2.0

We're known for our backcountry hut experiences, and they remain at the heart of who we are. But our vision for what these places can make possible is growing. We're creating opportunities for deeper community connections, more equitable access to the outdoors, and shared stewardship of the land. Through new partnerships and expanded programming, we're evolving beyond a destination into a resource for the wider community.

MORE WAYS TO GET OUTSIDE

Partnerships with gear hubs, reducing equipment and transportation barriers, and expanding opportunities for schools and community groups.



ACCESS FOR THE LONG HAUL

Designing trail improvements with adaptive users in mind, improving access roads, and investing in reliable equipment for winter operations.



WHERE WE'RE GOING
Beyond the overnight.
Expanding access, building community connections, and inspiring stewardship of the backcountry.

MANY HANDS, ONE TRAIL

Maine Huts & Trails is built on connection – *not just between huts and trails, but between people. Staff and volunteers care for the landscape. Landowners make access possible. Community partners help more people find their way here. From a day spent clearing trail to a first night in a backcountry hut, every part of this work is made possible by people who choose to show up. It takes all of us to keep the trail open.*





Volunteer trail maintenance @ Flagstaff Lake Hut

Staff at Snowbound Expo 2025



2025-26 Winter hut staff @ Flagstaff Lake



MH&T Alum Spencer Lee cooking at Harvest at the Huts

FOUNDATIONS

Apple Lane Foundation
Backcountry Fund
Central Maine Power Co.
Cotton Family Foundation
Essex County Community Foundation
Harold W. and Mary Louise Shaw Fdn.
Harry T. Wilks Family Foundation
Horizon Foundation, Inc
JTG Foundation
L.L.Bean Outdoor Access Fund
Maine DECD
Maine Timberlands Charitable Trust
Neilson Charitable Giving Trust
Onion Foundation
PW Sprague Memorial Foundation
Quimby Family Foundation
Seattle Foundation
The Betterment Fund
Town of Carrabassett Valley
United Way of Kansas City
UNUM

COMMUNITY BUSINESS SUPPORT

1820 Brewing Co.
Androscoggin Bank
Bissell Brothers Brewing
Carrabassett Coffee Company
ChappyWrap
Colby Engineering Company
Franklin Savings Bank
Main-land Development Consultants
Maine Solar Solutions
Ranor Mechanical
Vermont Rural Education Collaborative

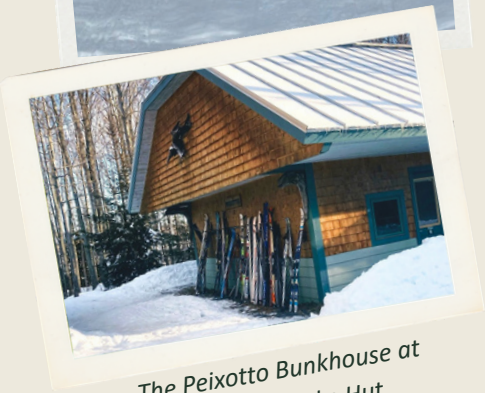
LANDOWNERS

Alpha & Danyl Williams
Brookfield Renewable
Bunting Family
Carrabassett Sanitary District
Central Maine Power Co.
David & Carolyn Small
Kevin Pratt
Penobscot Forest, LLC
Penobscot Nation
Skip & Kathy Gates
State of Maine
Tuffy Family
Weyerhaeuser Company

The Maine Huts & Trails experience is a journey through ancestral lands of the Wabanaki, and we are honored to collaborate with the Penobscot people in sharing and caring for these places. We invite all who journey here to do so with gratitude and respect for the land and its original stewards.

BELIEVING IN WHAT COMES NEXT





The Peixotto Bunkhouse at Flagstaff Lake Hut

"It is rewarding meeting and talking with people celebrating their outdoor experiences on the trails and in the huts. Our efforts now are in working to ensure that the access to Maine Huts and Trails endures for future generations"

Bob Peixotto, Board Chair Emeritus
Susie Peixotto, Board Member

For nearly two decades, Bob Peixotto helped guide Maine Huts & Trails as a board leader, advocate, and steadfast believer in what this place could become. Alongside his wife, Susie, he has also invested in the organization as a donor — helping create places for people to gather, explore, and find connection in the Maine woods.

Their generosity can be found in tangible ways, including the Peixotto Bunkhouse at Flagstaff Lake. But their legacy extends beyond any one building, rooted in a belief that Maine Huts & Trails is worth investing in for the long haul.

This year, Bob became Board Chair Emeritus, recognizing nearly 20 years of service and leadership.
In honor of their two decades of work helping lay the foundation for MH&T's future, our Board has named our fledgling endowment for them.

Their story is a reminder that lasting stewardship takes more than keeping something going. It takes people willing to believe in what a place can become – and to help make that future possible.

OUR DONORS

We're deeply grateful to everyone who invests in Maine Huts & Trails. Your generosity keeps our huts welcoming, our trails cared for, and our mission alive. Thank you for being part of this journey — together, you make our vision possible.

Peak Bigelow
Justin & Rachael Alfond
Calen & Sarah Emily Colby
Julie DiNapoli
Robert Greenhill
Alicia & Henry Heyburn
Bob & Susie Peixotto
Happy & Will Rowe

Peak Cranberry
Paul & Elizabeth Choquette
Tom Hildreth & Claudia Diller
Ben & Kimberly Harding
John & Carolyn Peixotto
Charlie Zachau

Peak Crocker
Sandy & Sissy Buck
Priscilla & Jon Linn

Hut Champion
William & Joan Alfond
Greg & Michelle Amoroso
Taylor Asen
Eliot & Mary DeSilva
Kenneth Ernstoff & Katharine Moody
Betsey Holtzmann & Abe Noyes
Stacie & Bryce Johnston
Peter Kane
Charles & Eliza Lee
Barb & Bob Luke
Sean Mahony
Ned & Allison Merrick
William & Margaret Morton
James & Michelle Rines
Janet & Thomas Ross
Peter & Delinda Smith
Jon Spelke
David & Jennifer Talmadge
David Weiss

Backcountry Explorer
Dr. Carrine Burns & Peter Bouman
Philip Cody
Tom & Margaret Downing
John & Meghna Eichelberger
Sara Ellison
Jeffrey & Margie Geiger
Gloria & David Guernsey
Chris Hawkins
Doug Hermann
Stephanie Javaheri
Fran Keene
Bud & Wendy Kellett
Brigitte & Hal Kingsbury
Pete & Trisha Mason
Liz McGlinn
Peter Millard & Emily Wesson
Susan Moody
Robert Moore
Jen Mrowka & John Kirkham
Fred Prescott
Patricia Rosi Santucci & Jaques Santucci
George Rowe
Ellen Simmons
Emily Smith

Carol & Thomas Vaughan
Benson Webster
Jon Whelan
Jean Wilson & John Roberts

Trail Keeper
Anonymous
Mike & Sheryl Appleby
John Benoit
Amy & Brian Bernatchez
Marcus Deck
Jay & Lynne Espy
James Gorman & Kim Bridgham
Julie Kavaliauskas & Andrew Dixen
Karen & Charlie Korn
Bruce & Teresa Malmer
Lisa & Frank McNamara
Brent Miller
Peter Milliken
James Pitney & Ginger Davis
Bud & Wendy Kellett
Sandi Rygiel
Nicola Sabin
Avery Schmeisser
Robert & Bonnie Story
Jack & Elizabeth Weir
Christopher Wells
Mary Williamson

Blaze
Kim Abell
Tammy & Mark Acker
Davies Allan & Nancy Shaul
Sam & Martha Altreuter
David Axelman & Ann Eileen Dorney
Chris & Dorothy Beeuwkes
Robert Bergman & Susan Strommer
Erich Bohrmann
Garrett Brann
Kevin Breen & Catherine Stehman-Breen
James & Catherine Brockelman
Emily & Greg Carville
Bethany & Tom Cass
Rosaria & John F. Chantrill
Phil Coffin & Susan Peck
John & Joanne Cole
Pete Didisheim & Leslie Hunt
Diane Doering
Jessica & Kelley Doran
Elizabeth Ehrenfeld
Bud & Liz Elliott
Sue Firlotte & Robert Sands
Benjamin Fuller
Russell & Lynne Hart
Linda & Tim Healy
Robert Herold & Joan Denise Sarles
Rob Holmes
Ann & Douglas Kaplan
Burton Knapp
Jon & Cindy Knowles
Caroline Kurrus
Mark Leathers
Valerie Levanos & Tom Esch
Amy Longsworth
Nathaniel & Sandi Margolis
Julie Meier & Gregg Smith
Ellyn Montgomery & Tom Bolmer
Kathleen Moore & Robert Nardi
Dave & Lis Murphy
Jim O'Brien & Pat Dugan
Wendy & Derek Osgood
Cynthia Rasmussen Dykes & Thomas Dykes
Henry & Susan Rauch
Russell & Abbie Read
Jared & Karen Rubin
Nancy Savage Marcus & George Marcus
Curtis Scribner
Lynne Seeley & Peter Lee
Ted & Sandie Silver
Ronald Smith & Kim Davis Smith
Elizabeth & James Taylor
John Thibodeau
Harold Vayo & Linda F. Woods

Dr. Edward Walworth
David & Nancy Weil
Nat & Eugenia Wheelwright
Jeremy & Amy Wintersteen

Trailhead

Richard & Debra Abbondanza
Ranjiv & Tari Advani
Laine Alexander
Alexandre Alfonsi
Patricia Bacon & Tappan Wilder
Paul Barringer
Mike & Theresa Barry
Bruce Becque
Jane Bertrand
Michael Bloom
Christine Brena-Cofsky & James Cofsky
Barb Briggs
Meredith Burgess
Sarah & Chip Carpenter
Adam Craig
Mike & Karyn Curran
Robin Doyle
Karen & Robert Eger
Joy Foster & Robert W. Kline
John & Phoebe Gause
John & Susan Geismar
Jim & Gliselia Goodine
David Gottlieb
Michael & Ann Grant
Lisa Guppy & Kerry Casler
Phillip Hanood
Bee Harvey
Bruce & Betsy Hermann
Dave & Francie Herring
Anneke & Patrick Hohl
Ronald Hyer
Tom & Laurie Hyndman
Sandra & Dennis King
Dr. John Koons & Diane Roderigue
Paul & Mary Labarre
Patricia Laube
Josephine Lekometros Moore
Benjamin Lund & Barbara Granville
Rob Manter
Patrick McGrady
Norman Minsky
Rosita Moore & Will Johnston
Willard Morgan & Jennifer Barton
Donna & Bill Moucka
George & Tammy Mulligan
Rob Nichols & Sally Harold
George Oberlander & Veronique Van Zandt
Susan O'Connell & Charles Bashaw
John Otey Smith & Nancy Egan
Carolann Ouellette
Kris Pitney
Pamela & Rich Prior
Lisa & Michael Ravicz
Paul & Martha Rogers
Nathaniel Rosenblatt
Rachel Rousseau & Joel Hinshaw
Jeff & Cathy Rowe
Cathy & Stephen Ryle
Michael San Filippo & Regina Regone
Ann Schoenthaler-Ervin & Edmond Ervin
John & Debbie Shirley
Barbara Siegel
Nate Snow
Ella Sobol
Charlotte Stetson
Nancy Tiernan
Betsey Timm & Ken Gray
Nina & Robert Trowbridge
Brit & Yasmin Vitalius
Geoff Wagg
Dan Walker
Nina & Jesse Weyl
Stephen Williams & Lisa Reece
TW & Laurie Williamson
Margaret Wilson & Lloyd Van Lunen
Gretchen Zopf & Bob Bass



Every step forward is fueled by friends like you. Please help us keep moving by scanning here:

496C Main Street Kingfield, ME 04947
(207) 265-2400 | info@mainehuts.org | www.mainehuts.org