

**Sunrise Trail Coalition
Membership Application**

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 E-mail: _____
 Phone: _____

Affiliation/Club _____
 (if applicable)

\$10	Individual/family membership	\$ 25	Sustaining member
\$25	Non/Profit and Club membership	\$ 50	Business membership
\$5	Club associate (Specify Club)	\$500	Lifetime membership

Please mail this form with your check made out to Sunrise Trail Coalition to:
 Dave Wood, Treasurer
 Sunrise Trail Coalition
 PO Box 67
 Hallowell, ME 04347

Sponsored with generous support from:



Sunrise Trail Coalition Directors
 Bill Ceckler, President Bill Cherry Carol Cuddy
 David Wood, Treasurer David Whitney Eleody Libby
 Stephanie Clement, Sec Gail Peters Jacob van de Sande
 Sally Jacobs, Liaison Jef Fitzgerald Kathleen Shannon
 Katherine Cassidy Polly Ceckler Tim Tunney
 Sandy Johnson

The Sunrise Trail Coalition is a publicly supported non-profit charitable 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible. Learn more at www.sunrisetrail.org

Mission

The purpose of the STC shall be to promote outdoor recreation, health and fitness, and economic development in Hancock and Washington Counties in the State of Maine through education and the development of an integrated on- and off-road four-season, shared-use trail system.



Down East Sunrise Trail News

The newsletter of the Sunrise Trail Coalition
 March, 2010 ~ www.sunrisetrail.org



Trail Cleanup Set For April 17!

The First Annual Down East Sunrise Trail Cleanup Event will be held on Saturday, April 17th, sponsored by the University of Maine—Machias Recreation Management Program. There will be a BBQ afterward at the Down East Salmon Federation in Machias. Volunteer registration forms (to reserve your lunch!) will be available in Machias at Coffin's True Value, Main St. Discount, and Archibald's and at the Mobile Station in E. Machias. Cleanup volunteers will meet at 8:30 a.m. on the Causeway in Machias where they will be divided into two teams. People who can bring ATVs to help with trash hauling, please call Jim Weston at 263-6966, who is organizing the event. Thanks also to Cadillac Mountain Sports for donating a door prize. Check www.sunrisetrail.org for more information and a complete list of sponsors. We hope to see you there!

Sunrise Trail Coalition Annual Meeting

More than 60 dignitaries and trail enthusiasts from all over Maine attended the Sunrise Trail Coalition (STC) Annual Meeting and Down East Sunrise Trail Grand Opening October 28, 2009. The meeting was held at the Lee Pellon Event Center in Machias, on Route 1, adjacent to Station 98.

President Bill Ceckler and Betsy Fitzgerald, Machias Town Manager, welcomed the crowd. Treasurer Dave Wood reported that the STC has 129 members and we hope to double that number now that the trail is open. Many new volunteers will be needed to help with management and work duties.

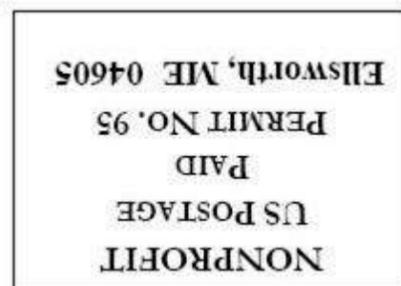
Elections were held and two new members, Katherine Cassidy and Gail Peters, were added to the Board. The Board Members are Bill Cherry, Jacob Van de Sande, Polly Ceckler, Tim Tunney, Kathleen Shannon (Class of 2010); David Whitney, Sandra Johnson, Carol Cuddy, Jef Fitzgerald, and David Wood (Class of 2011); Sally Jacobs, Bill Ceckler, Eleody Libby, Stephanie Clement, Katherine Cassidy, and Gail Peters (Class of 2012)



Machias Ribbon Cutting: Bill Ceckler, Sally Jacobs, Comm. Cole, Rep. Burns, Sen. Raye, Rep. McFadden, Comm. McGowan

Brochures were distributed with parking facilities marked and directions to them included. A new edition is needed now because they were so popular that we have run out! Dan Stewart and Kevin Riley at the MaineDOT are working on new ones and also on "break-out maps" showing details of individual sections of the trail. They provided great posters and large maps of the entire DEST for the Annual Meeting. Charlie Corliss, DEST Manager, has placed maps and brochures in the new kiosk in Machias. They are also posted on our website.

A discussion was held on whether to seek East Coast Greenway designation for the Ayres Junction to Whitneyville section of the Downeast Sunrise Trail. The East Coast Greenway (ECG) is a 2800-mile trail which runs from Key West, Florida, to Calais, Maine. The DEST could be the longest off-road section of the entire greenway route. Designation would mean that DEST would be included in ECG publicity and we would put its sign on our banner and mount signs along the trail. The East Coast Greenway would follow the DEST from Ellsworth to the Ridge Road before Ayers Junction and divert there to continue to Calais. We voted unanimously to seek this designation for the entire 85-mile route. Subsequently, the ECGA Board voted to officially accept the DEST as sections are completed



Sunrise Trail Coalition
 C/O Hancock County Planning Commission
 395 State Street
 Ellsworth, ME 04605

Letter from the Manager

Charlie Corliss

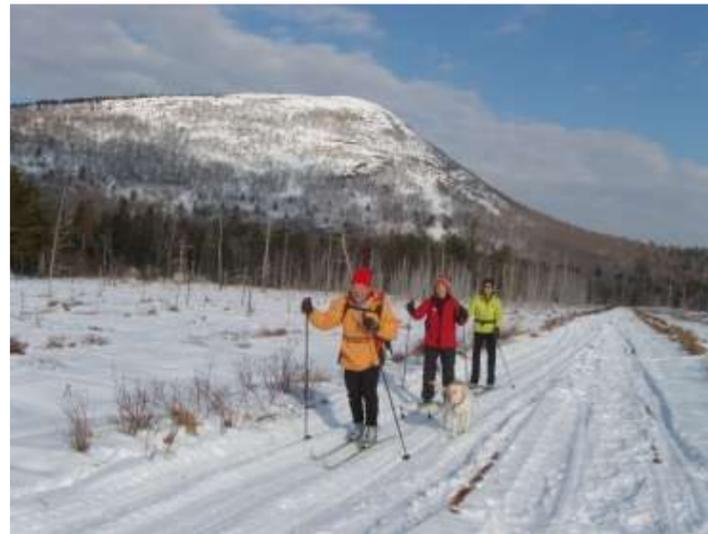
As of this writing (1/25/2010), the entire 85 miles from Washington Junction to Ayers Junction of the Down East Sunrise Trail has been turned over to the Department of Conservation for winter use. This year there are five snowmobile clubs involved in grooming. I want to thank all of those clubs and their members who are volunteering their time so that all winter sports enthusiasts can enjoy the trail: Thanks to the Dennysville SC, Downeast Trail Riders, Ridge Riders Trail Club, Narraguagus SC, and Ellsworth SC. If you see someone from those clubs working on the trail, give them a big thank you.

The trail east of Cherryfield has been used and groomed for a while now, but west of Cherryfield was delayed while the construction crew finished bridges; the Narraguagus Bridge was the last to be finished on January 19th. While there are many other folks who have volunteered their time, I would be remiss in not thanking one particular individual, Merilee Dennison of East Machias. She painted more than 50 signposts in her garage and then went out on the trail in the East Machias area and painted all the unpainted posts that were installed. Note: There are still hundreds of posts to be painted for the remaining 58 miles. If you can help with this project, please contact me.

Now for an update on the entire 85 miles. All rails and ties have been removed and bridges completed; however, from Franklin to Washington Junction railroad ties are stacked along the edge of the trail. In September 2009, 30 miles from Machias to Ayers Junction was accepted as complete and is open for all allowed uses. From Machias westerly to Columbia Falls, final surface material has been placed but requires some additional grading as well as some guard rails to be placed along the dike in Machias.

From Columbia Falls to Cherryfield most culverts, buildup, and ditching are complete and are ready for final surface material. From Cherryfield to Franklin, many culverts have been installed, some ditching done, and numerous locations built up due

to poor soils. Work in the Schoodic Bog area (we have left 2,700 feet of rail and are going to fill in over the rails) did not get done due to a flooding problem in the fall from a large beaver dam. From ME 182 in Franklin to Washington Junction, very little work on the trail has been done other than removal of rails and ties with the exception that the bridges have been completed. Work will restart in mid-April to early May depending on conditions. The project is schedule to be completed by September of this year.



We rely on users to make this trail a success. Please take a minute to pick up and carry out litter and contact me (Charlie.Corliss@maine.gov) if you encounter any problems using the trail. You can visit our website www.sunrisetrail.org for regular updates and special trail events. Until next time, see you on the trail.

Maine State Wardens Giving Great Support

The Maine State Wardens are great supporters and guardians of the Down East Sunrise Trail (DEST), its users, and its neighbors. They patrol at all hours. As with any new public facility of this magnitude, the DEST has generated many questions from abutting neighbors. The first responders to their concerns on the trail are the Wardens.

Warden McBrine reports seeing hundreds of snowmobilers this year, along with skiers, snowshoers, and walkers on the trail before the recent rains. Merchants have been reporting a remarkable increase in business since the trail opened. Warden McBrine says wardens have been very pleased with the compliance of operation and registration by snowmobilers on the Sunrise Trail. He says the few problem snowmobilers they are dealing with are not typical

of trail users in general. Wardens have planned some details to raise awareness and educate trail users. Their belief is that an early and continued strong presence on the trail will promote a safe and pleasant experience for all. In general they are very pleased with how responsible the majority has been.

Warden McBrine dealt with the safety and rescue concerns in a proactive practical way and applied for a grant from the Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) to pay for rescue equipment. We are delighted to report that he received \$7,500 from the OHF. He is waiting to have final confirmation of a grant from Polaris for \$10,000, which would pay for a Polaris Ranger side by side ATV. The entire project that will cost \$39,000 includes a rescue trailer being built in Maine. It has wheels and skis and can accommodate two people. Some of the funds will go for training. The equipment will be housed at the East Machias Fire Department. Congratulations, and thank you to the Wardens.



Photo from Left to Right: Warden Joey Gardner, Webster couple, Dave Wood, Warden Joe McBrine, Gary Hanscom, Robert Carter.



Dept. of Conservation
Commissioner McGowan



Department of Transp.
Commissioner Cole

Tread Lightly Announces Training Program

Tread Lightly is national organization with local representatives offering training programs for motorized and mechanized trail and water recreation. Participants learn the principles of responsible recreation, outdoor ethics and how to minimize adverse impacts on trails. For more information, visit www.treadlightly.org or call Steve Salisbury-827-2980.

Great Maine Bike Swaps

The Bicycle Coalition of Maine will host annual bike swaps on April 18 from 9 – 2 at the Student Recreation and Fitness Center at UMO and April 25 from 10 – 2 at the Sullivan Gym at USM. Details are available at www.bikemaine.org or by calling 623-4511.

Parting Shots



State Representative
Burns Speaks at the
2009 Annual Meeting



Multi-use includes
Golf Carts!



The Down East Sunrise Trail was represented at the Washington County Tourism Event at the Hall of Flags in the Capitol Building in Augusta on February 17th. It was a great success!