

# Down East Sunrise Trail News

The newsletter of the Sunrise Trail Coalition  
May, 2012 ~ [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org)



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## \*\*\* A Time of Renewal! \*\*\*

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Sunrise Trail Coalition membership operates on a calendar year. We hope that you will renew your membership using the half-page membership application form included in this newsletter or online at [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org). We appreciate your support.

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### *Letter from the President – Steve Rees*

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Comprising the most northerly portions of the nearly 400 mile long East Coast Greenway in Maine, our 85+ mile Down East Sunrise Trail continues to be regionally and nationally recognized for its novel multi-use four season recreational opportunities and for its natural beauty with varying habitats and resident wildlife, and unique historic and cultural attributes. The Sunrise Trail Coalition received the Maine Association of Planners 2011 Project of the Year award. Further, our Trail was the subject of an extensive article published in Rails To Trails 2012 Winter Edition posted to [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org). More articles about our Trail appear in the Activities Guide of Maine and the Maine Sunday Telegram.

Several projects were completed this year:

- ⤴ Installation of Information Kiosks at Washington Junction, Machias and Ayers Junction
- ⤴ Installation of 16 picnic tables at selected accessible and scenic locations along the Trail
- ⤴ Placement of portable toilet facilities at Washington and Ayers Junctions
- ⤴ Installation of mileage distance signage and informational signage for Towns and Trail sites
- ⤴ Completion by Bangor Hydro of its new Down East Reliability Transmission System along and across several points of the Trail Our thanks to Bangor Hydro for minimizing rider conflicts, insuring safety and preserving the trail.

Completion by the Dennysville Snowmobile and ATV Club with financial assistance from the

Sunrise Trail Coalition a Trail extension from Upper Cross Road opposite Ayers Junction to US1(Perry) connecting with the paved non-motorized path on Pleasant Point Passamaquoddy Tribal Territory. We hope future coordination among affected landowners and governmental agencies will allow further Trail extension to Eastport.

The long discussed desired extension of the Trail from Washington Junction into Ellsworth is now in preliminary planning by Maine Department of Transportation. Our website provides maps and other information which will be updated as additional specific details become known.

Future projects under current planning consideration or recently approved include:

- ⤴ Installation of 6 additional picnic tables at selected locations along the Trail
- ⤴ Installation of new reflective mileage distance signage for visibility in the dark
- ⤴ Installation of additional portable or permanent toilet facilities at selected locations
- ⤴ Installation of additional Informational Kiosks at other existing or future Trailheads
- ⤴ Development by Parks and Lands staff of a Trail Guide which will be downloadable from our websites
- ⤴ Development by the Bureau of Parks and Lands of Bangor Hydro deeded parcels at the Route 183 / Tunk Lake Road trail junction and along US1 east of Cherryfield for additional parking, toilet facilities and picnic and camping sites.



[Over 700 friends and growing.](#)

We have new membership types and rates for individuals and businesses. A membership application form is included with this newsletter and on our website. We need to expand membership to sustain operating and matching funds, and to recruit new persons to serve on committees and the Board of Directors. If you have already made your 2012 Membership Dues payment, we thank you and encourage you to seek out additional persons and business owners to join also. Otherwise, please consider joining. Business members will be listed on a new Business Members Webpage, including phone numbers, email and web links. As news about our Trail spreads, more and more persons contact us about local food, lodging, camping, services and products. Help your business grow by becoming a new Member now!

In closing, I want to thank our past President, Bill Ceckler, and past Directors for their many contributions to the success of the Trail and to the Sunrise Trail Coalition, to HCPC for their support and to our Trail Manager, Charlie Corliss, for his daily tasks to maintain our Trail for our use and enjoyment. I hope that all who are reading this newsletter share our pride in our Trail and will at every opportunity this Season get out and enjoy our Crown Jewel.

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### ***Sunrise Trail Keeps Growing***

*Charlie Corliss, Trail Manager*

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While this day May 10<sup>th</sup> is a good day to be inside, it is raining hard outside and has been all night, thus requiring inspection of the trail and its numerous culverts. We have had several heavy rain storms in the past few weeks. One which wreaked some havoc on the trail in Township 7 SD, causing a washout more than two feet deep and about 30 feet in length across the entire width of the trail. Now this washout was going to be repaired today but with the rains that had been forecast it was decided to wait until Monday. Well after today's inspection, all I can say it is now deeper.

The root cause of this problem is one of mother nature's greatest engineers, the almighty beaver. It seems that over many years they have been building a dam at the outlet of Little Muckleberry Pond and



building and building until the water level is now affecting the flow or lack of at a four foot wide stone box culvert on the trail. So for the past week, I have been working at lowering the water level to be able to complete the repairs to the trail. Having secured a permit from the Maine Department of IFW to breach the dam, I have been diligently breaching the dam in four locations to lower the water. First of all you do not want to take out large sections because you do not want to cause problems downstream such as taking out culverts and roads. The trick to this I have learned, is that you breach the dam early in the morning at three to four different locations and let it drain all day, beavers don't generally work much during the day but come late evening and all night watch out, as they say busy as a beaver!! So the next morning you go back and remove what they have repaired the night before. It is usually much easier to remove their sticks and mud since it is a patch job. Then you lower the dam a little more. Now this ritual goes on daily until you get the water level where you need it. This site will probably get a culvert inserted into the dam with a cage around the inlet, which will be under water. It will be difficult for the beavers to plug the cage underwater and will control the water level. Eventually, the beaver will figure out how to stop the flow. At another similar site it took two years until they went down stream and built a bigger and higher dam which back flooded the culverts!!! Go figure.

Wildlife is in abundance. Today I saw four turkeys, a deer, several partridge, and numerous waterfowl including a pair of geese with one baby gosling that was nothing but a fluff ball. Last week I saw a large black bear at mile post 22. Yesterday someone reported seeing a moose in the same vicinity. I have seen numerous partridge, turkeys, and porcupines along the entire trail. If you pay attention on the trail in the Jonesboro area you may see a giant rabbit, a leopard and even an alien!!

Work planned for the trail in May will include grading and rolling more than seven miles from Unionville Road to Tunk Lake Road. If that goes well we may continue westerly to the Card Crossing Road in Franklin. This work has been paid for by the contractor that used the trail for the power line construction late last fall creating more potholes than normal. There has been some early mowing of bushes in the Machias and East Machias area. It is amazing how fast the brush and trees are growing up in some locations with that in mind we will be doing some trailside mowing in select locations this year. And of course there will always be the challenge between man and beaver. Until next time, see you on the trail.




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### ***Downeast Coastal Conservancy Two Rivers Campaign***

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“This community-led effort will conserve two remarkable properties on the Machias River and Middle River in the Machias Valley area totaling over 1,000 acres and 4.5 miles of shoreline. The project refocuses attention on the natural beauty and undeveloped resources that define this place and provides critical investment in ongoing community development and revitalization initiatives.”

“Located in close proximity to the hospital and local schools, the opportunities for long-term environmental education, outdoor recreation and community wellness are endless.” Details at [www.tworiverscampaign.org](http://www.tworiverscampaign.org).




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### ***Traveling the Sunrise Trail***

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Visitors frequently ask, “Where can I eat, camp, or find a hotel.” The Coalition is working on coordinating information about businesses and services along the trail. Your contributions are welcome.

For now we rely on Chambers of Commerce and Good Samaritan’s that share their travel experiences on blogs, emails, web pages and our Facebook page. You can find all of these resources at [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org). You will find the latest blogs from travelers and locals.



Andy Hazen: [Riding Maine's Sunrise Trail](#) Linked from our website!



Sarah Cushman – [Three People, Five Wheels, One Blankie](#)

Our webpage interactive map has many local businesses, with more being added every week. Icons indicate the type of business, and you can click on them and get contact information should you want to make a reservation. In Cherryfield the Englishman’s Bed and Breakfast, North Street Café and Mathew’s Grocery, for example, are happy to serve trail riders. Cable Pool (the green picnic table) is a great place to eat and play your next ride.



## Sunrise Trail Coalition Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation/Club \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)

\$ 15	Individual	\$ 50	Business Basic
\$ 25	Advocate	\$ 100	Business Bronze
\$500	Life	\$ 150	Business Silver
\$ 20	Family	\$ 200	Business Gold
\$ 25	Non-profit / Club	\$ 250	Business Platinum
\$	Other	Contact Us	Business Charter

Please mail this form with your check made out to Sunrise Trail Coalition to:

Ian Staub, Treasurer - Sunrise Trail Coalition  
PO Box 113 - Franklin, ME 04634

Learn more at [www.sunrisetrail.org](http://www.sunrisetrail.org)

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### Sunrise Trail Coalition Directors

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Bill Ceckler	Polly Ceckler Carol Cuddy
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Maggie Warren	Sally Jacobs David Whitney
Steve Salisbury	David Wood

*The Sunrise Trail Coalition is a publicly supported non-profit charitable 501(c)3 organization. Dues are tax deductible.*

### ***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.

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