



Tracts & Trails

Newsletter of the Scarborough Land Trust

AUTUMN 2025

VOLUME 49 : ISSUE 1

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Photo Credit – Nancy Erb

CONSERVING NATURAL AREAS FOR PEOPLE, FOR WILDLIFE — FOREVER.



The Scarborough Land Trust Board of Directors approved our five-year strategic plan last year, making 2025 the first full year of the plan rollout. As the year nears an end, it is time to take stock of what has already been accomplished and what is coming

up for SLT. You can read more about the last fiscal year's accomplishments in the Annual Report section of this newsletter.

Already, we are making great progress and hired our first Development Director in January and a Marsh Scientist and Restoration Director in July. Our Board of Directors has a new president in Christine Labaree. In addition, we have thirteen other dedicated directors on the Board, bringing a wealth of knowledge and skills. We recently hired a new Office Manager who will start at the end of October. Jennifer Fries is bringing some fantastic experience to this position and we look forward to her joining the staff.

Your SLT team is focused on protecting the best remaining natural and agricultural lands in the Greater Scarborough area. We have protected over 2,000 acres, with SLT managing most of this acreage. Our work is accelerating as we need to act quickly to protect additional lands, control invasive plant growth, connect more people to the natural world, and ensure Scarborough Marsh will be sustainable for the long-term.

We have aggressive goals over the next four years. Many of you will start to hear more about some of these plans in the next few months as we seek your input on moving forward. This is both a challenging and exciting time to lead the Scarborough Land Trust. I feel confident in our effort with such an amazing team and the strong support of our community. Together, we will strive towards a livable community with healthy natural and agricultural systems benefiting our residents and visitors. 🍁

PROPERTY UPDATE

New Wildlife Blind Installed at Blue Point Preserve

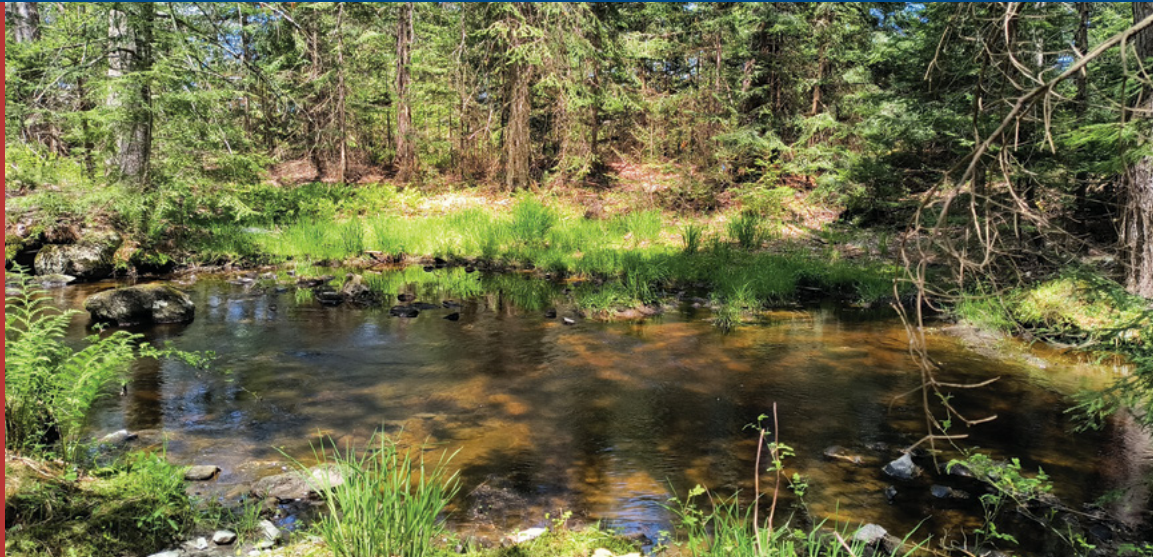
This fall a new wildlife blind was constructed and installed on the marsh observation spur trail at Blue Point Preserve. The blind was built as an Eagle Scout project by Tor Dahlmann Gothlin of Boy Scout Troop 47, Scarborough.

Scarborough Land Trust (SLT) selected the location to provide additional wildlife watching opportunities for the public. This is a good location because of wildlife use of the Marsh, including bird species such as: Glossy Ibis, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Bald Eagle, Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Willet, and Black Duck. The blind design allows for individuals to set up spotting scopes or camera lenses.

SLT is grateful to Tor for this great addition to Blue Point Preserve.



The Creation of Silver Brook Preserve



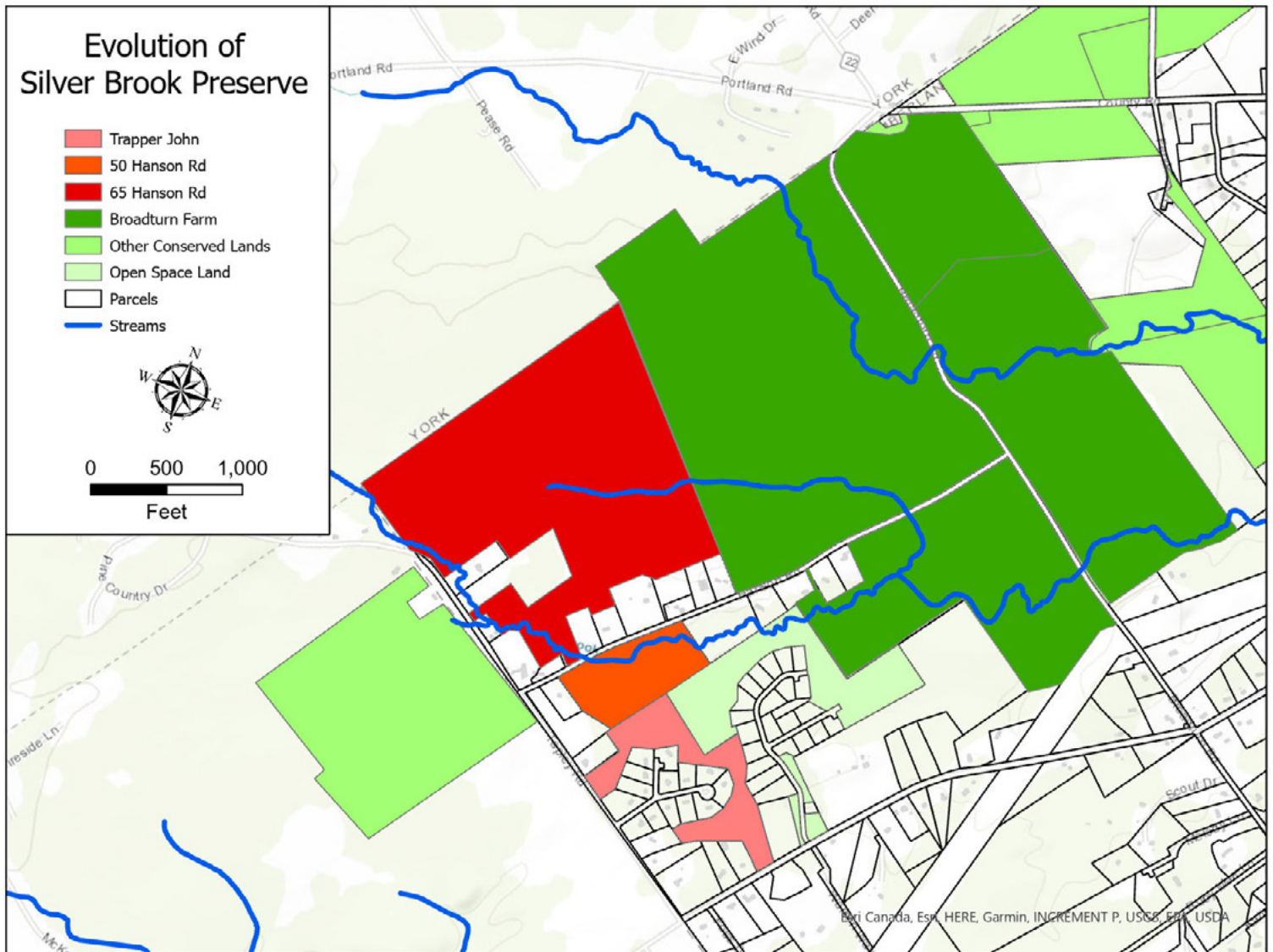
On May 1, 2001, it was an overcast and chilly day reaching only a high of 42°F, when the president of the board of directors for the Scarborough Land Trust (SLT), Laurene Swaney, signed to accept the transfer of 19.1 acres in western Scarborough. The property was transferred by Lee Adams, Jr. as part of an open space requirement from an adjacent subdivision. It would be another three years before SLT acquired the Broadturn Farm property near this 19 acres.



At this point in time the SLT Board of Directors could not have known what chain of events would follow this property transfer. From this humble beginning would arise SLT's newest preserve – Silver Brook. For many years, SLT named this 19.1 acres after the subdivision, Trapper John. The property was not connected to other SLT conservation parcels. The next acquisition for SLT was in 2004, our jewel, the 434-acre Broadturn Farm. With the protection of Broadturn Farm, there was a wildlife corridor to Trapper John through a parcel protected by a homeowner's association from another subdivision.

Fast forward to 2023 and SLT Conservation Director, Scott Kunkler, started working with Roland and Rhoda Libby who owned a large amount of acreage in the area. The Libbys raised their family on their property and farmed it for many years. The first parcel SLT purchased from Roland and Rhoda was 18 acres adjacent to the Trapper John parcel. The sale was completed in January 2024 and helped protect additional frontage along Silver Brook, wetlands and upland forest. The funding for the project was granted by the Town of Scarborough's Land Bond, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Fields Pond Foundation, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust, Bass Pro/Cabelas, and dozens of generous donations from individuals and businesses.

Continued on page 4



The Trapper John parcel and the 18 acres acquired from the Libbys created SLT’s Silver Brook Preserve. With Broadturn Farm and other conserved land nearby in Buxton and Saco, this created a conservation block of almost 800 acres protecting habitat for brook trout, black bear, fisher, American eel, river otter, little brown bat, bobcat, and many more species.

SLT did not stop here. After closing on the first Libby parcel, Scott started work on the main parcel owned by Roland and Rhoda, 130 acres on the other side of Hanson Road from the initial Silver Brook Preserve. Roland and Rhoda were diehard in their desire to see this land conserved forever. This parcel is a mix of habitats including a hay field, forests, wetlands, and additional frontage along Silver Brook. “Protecting this

land not only safeguards vital habitats and biodiversity but also supports our community’s long-term goals for open space, recreation, and climate resilience,” said SLT Executive Director Andrew Mackie. “It highlights the importance of land conservation to help ensure a sustainable future for the region.” Future management of the property will include public access for hiking, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, nature observation, environmental education, scientific research, and hay production. SLT closed on the property in August 2025. Funding came from the Town of Scarborough Land Bond, Land for Maine’s Future, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Davis Conservation Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, William Wharton Trust, Bass Pro/Cabela’s Outdoor Fund, Maine Community Foundation Donor Advised

Fund, Margaret Burnham Charitable Trust, the John Sage Foundation, and many individual donors. The acquisition of this parcel brings Silver Brook Preserve to 167 acres.

The origin of Silver Brook Preserve highlights what a small, non-connected parcel can become with a large enough vision. This is a common strategy with SLT, start small and build over time creating an interconnected network of natural lands that benefits wildlife and people. SLT owns over 600 acres in this corner of Scarborough and with adjacent conserved lands the total is approaching 1,000 acres, a wonderful accomplishment. However, SLT is not done, plans are in the works to reach out to other landowners in Scarborough and Buxton and possibly in Saco. The hope is to make sure that there is a permanent corridor of protected land that will be able to support large ranging species such as black bear and river otter, and species that need large intact blocks of habitat, such as Ovenbird, Wood Thrush, Bald Eagle, Little Brown Bat, and many more.

Stewardship of Silver Brook Preserve

SLT will manage Silver Brook Preserve for watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and public access. In addition, the Libbys will manage a hayfield on the property in cooperation with SLT. The long-term plan is to build a trail system on a significant part of the property that ties into the Maple Sugar Trail at Broadturn Farm. The future trail network will be around five miles in length, creating SLT's largest trail system.

Much of Silver Brook Preserve is in good condition with few invasive plants. There are areas that will need to be managed to control certain invasive plants and this will be a high priority for SLT. Volunteers are also needed to help in this effort. Contact Sami Wolf, SLT Stewardship Director at swolf@scarboroughlandtrust.org if you want to find out more about volunteering. SLT also needs to purchase a tractor and brush mower, larger shed space, and a trailer to manage the increased preserves that have been added in the last few years. If interested in finding out how you can help contact Lisa Detweiler, Development Director at ldetweiler@scarboroughlandtrust.org.



Ways to Support Scarborough Land Trust

There are many ways to be a part of conserving the beautiful landscape and wildlife in Scarborough!



Make a Gift

Your gift helps **care for trails, restores habitat & protects new land.**

A gift of stock, donor-advised funds, or in-kind donations (tools, expertise, materials) all make it possible for SLT to protect and care for conserved land.

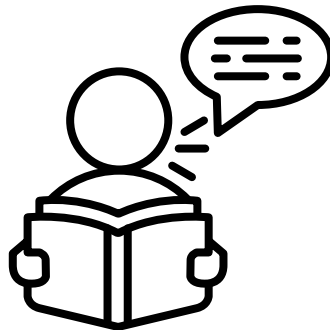
Join Us at Events

Grab a friend and **join us** at one of our many monthly programs or host a gathering to **spread the word** about conservation in Scarborough.



Share the Story of Conservation

Follow us on social media, invite a friend to experience a SLT property, and share why you support local land conservation. **Your voice** helps to amplify the message.



Leave a Legacy

Join others who are **making a lasting difference** by including SLT in your will, trust, or life insurance beneficiary.

Corporate & Workplace Giving

Encourage your workplace to get involved through SLT's **Business Community Partner** program, matching gifts, and volunteer workdays.



Volunteer Your Time

From trail workdays to a few hours in our office, there are many ways to **roll up your sleeves & get involved.**

Gift of Land

By donating land, placing a conservation easement, or selling your property at a reduced price, **you make a powerful impact**

to protect Scarborough's natural legacy. It's because of our incredible community of supporters that we have public trails, educational programs, and a growing number of acres protected for future generations.



Become a Monthly Supporter

Monthly support provides reliable funding that keeps our work strong year-round. A gift of **\$10 a month** keeps trails accessible by paying for two new bog bridges.



Thank you!

Visit www.scarboroughlandtrust.org to learn more or reach out to us at info@scarboroughlandtrust.org.



SCARBOROUGH LAND TRUST Annual Report

July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025



Photo Credit – Stacey Huth



Photo Credit – Paul Stratis

Total acres protected since SLT was established – 2,062.4

Snapshot



Acres protected last year – 219.51



Total funding raised for land acquisition projects - \$2,789,913



Conservation funding from the Town of Scarborough Land Bond - \$1,410,000



Volunteers giving their time - 105



Miles of trail improved - 5



Number of Native Plants sold - 500



Number of Native Plants planted at SLT Preserves - 150



Number of programs conducted - 42



Number of events - 11



Acres impacted to control invasive plants - 30

Accomplishments towards the Strategic Plan

Goal –

Land conservation and stewardship

- Protected 130 acres as the third phase of Silver Brook Preserve
- Protected 30 acres along Mitchell Hill Road, spanning Scarborough and Gorham
- Added 25 acres to Pleasant Hill Preserve
- Accepted 2 acres along Chamberlain Road
- Completed the purchase of 32 acres along Beaver Brook
- Started boardwalk project at Pleasant Hill Preserve
- Built a new bridge along the Bird Trail at Fuller Farm Preserve
- Conducted second prescribed burn at Fuller Farm Preserve
- Initiated field and early successional habitat work at Warren Woods and Fuller Farm Preserves
- Created new entry signs for nine SLT preserves
- Continued Scarborough Land Trust Day with a town-wide volunteer clean-up effort

- Hired Alyssa Thorp as the summer stewardship intern

Goal – Protect the Scarborough Marsh

- Started a blue crab monitoring program in the Marsh
- Continued the water quality monitoring program
- Awarded three internships to University of New England students for research in the Marsh
- Finalized the contract with NOAA for \$1.4 million grant award to study restoration potential in Scarborough Marsh
- Initiated two contracts for work under the NOAA grant
- Cohosted the Scarborough Marsh cleanup

Goal – Connect people to the natural world

- Partnered with the Scarborough Library on a story walk at Fuller Farm Preserve
- SLT volunteer created a kid's nature book club held each month
- Continued our Get Outside and Make Gen Z/ Millennial Friends programs
- Presented the SLT's Conservationist of the Year award to Becky Warren Seel
- Continued the popular Women's Walk at various preserves
- Carried out the third annual Native Plant Sale at Broadturn Farm
- Created the Marsh Madness photo contest with more than 150 entries
- Partnered with Scarborough Adult Education on two program offerings
- Hosted the National Association of Foresters
- Conducted a bioblitz at a property under contract



Photo credit – Dan Kehlenbach

- Hosted an open house at SLT's new office
- Offered programs on birds, wildflowers, forest bathing, yoga, snowshoeing, seed sowing, Maine's butterflies, trees, bats, and more
- Hosted the Maine Outdoor Film Festival (MOFF) in Scarborough
- SLT volunteers created a short film, "SLT's Founding Story" that was selected and added to MOFF offerings
- Hired Emma Righter for the summer education and communication specialist
- Scarborough 7th grade students joined SLT and Maine DEP for a water testing field experience
- Pleasant Hill kindergarten students joined SLT staff and volunteers for several classroom and field experiences

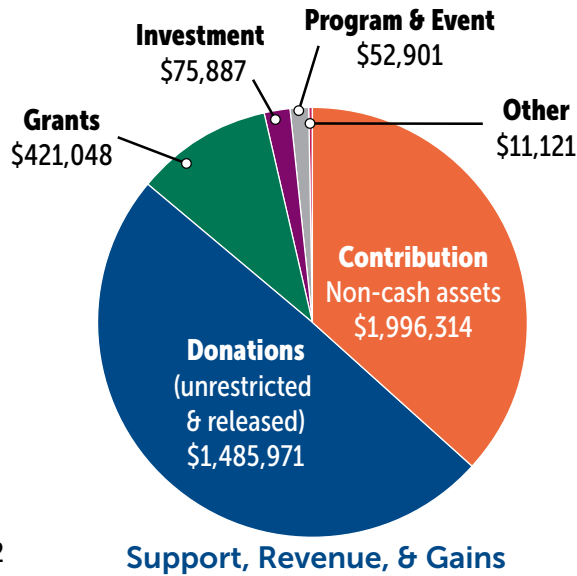
Goal – Financial sustainability

- Hired SLT's first Development Director, Lisa Detweiler
- Completed fundraising efforts for three land acquisitions
- Expanded annual giving in support of increased work
- Revamped the Broadturn Bash with a new format and successful night
- Increased the Scarborough Marsh Fund
- Supported the Town's Land Bond ballot initiative with incredible support from the community

2024-25 FINANCIAL REPORT (Year Ending June 30, 2025)

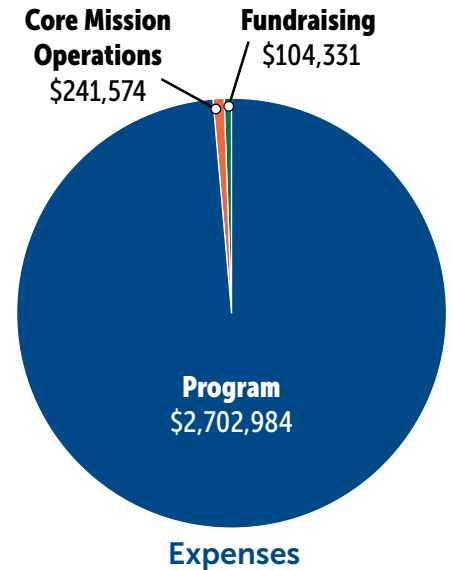
Support, Revenue, & Gains

Donations (unrestricted and released)	\$1,485,971
Grants	\$421,048
Investment	\$75,887
Contribution - Noncash assets	\$1,996,314
Program & Event	\$52,901
Other	\$11,121
Total	\$4,043,242



Expenses

Program	\$2,702,984
Fundraising	\$104,331
Core Mission Operations	\$241,574
Total	\$3,048,889

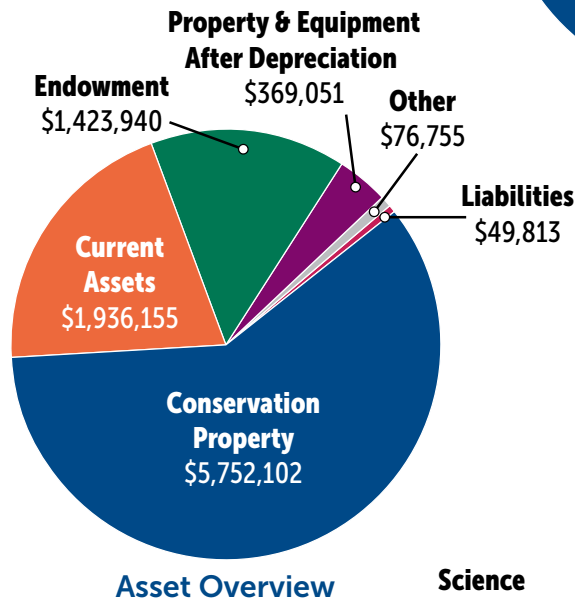


Net Assets

Beginning of Year	\$8,126,211
Net Assets End of Year	\$9,508,190
Net Asset Growth	\$1,381,979

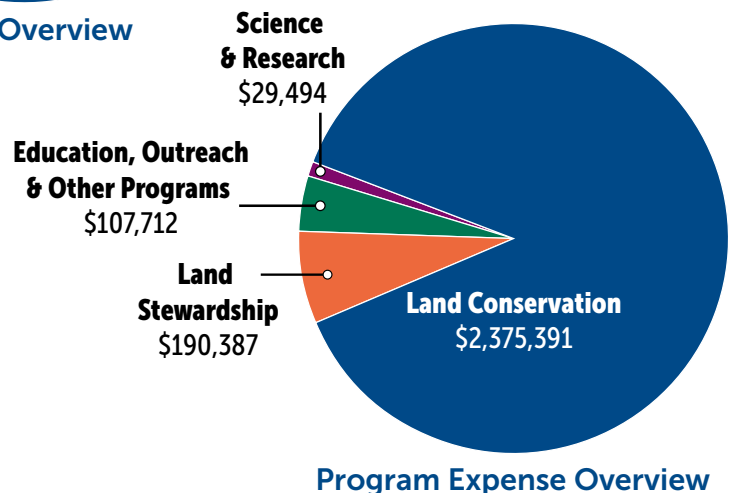
Asset Overview

Conservation Property	\$5,752,102
Current Assets	\$1,936,155
Endowment	\$1,423,940
Property & Equipment After Depreciation	\$369,051
Other	\$76,755
Liabilities	\$49,813
Total	\$9,508,190



Program Expense Overview

Education, Outreach, & Other Programs	\$107,712
Land Conservation	\$2,375,391
Land Stewardship	\$190,387
Science and Research	\$29,494
Total	\$2,702,984



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

\$50,000+

Anonymous (2)
Betts & C.D. Armstrong 🌿🌿🌿
Ann & James Hancock 🌿
Ruggles Family Foundation
Douglas & Susan Williams 🌿🌿🌿

\$15,000 – \$49,999

Burnham Family Wildlife Foundation 🌿
Joseph H. Thompson Fund
Charlie & Eliza Lee 🌿🌿
Beverly Lytwyn 🌿🌿
Edward & Janet Miller 🌿
The Otis Booth Foundation
Dawn Piccolo 🌿🌿
Sand Dollar Foundation 🌿🌿🌿
Lee Sprague 🌿🌿
The Kerry & Jed Stevens Family Fund 🌿
Jeremy & Amy Wintersteen 🌿🌿

\$5,000 – \$14,999

Anonymous
George & Carrie Bell 🌿
Sandy & Anne Butterfield 🌿
Jerolamon Charitable Trust
Michael & Gail Garcia 🌿
Cate & Richard T. Gilbane 🌿
P.W. Sprague Memorial Foundation
Steve & Gail Guthrie
Kate & Harold Hope
Felicity Kerr & David Reynolds 🌿
Keith & Elaine Knowlton 🌿
Christine Labaree & Nils Nieuwejaar 🌿
Bob & Barbara Luke 🌿
David Potel & Nancy Blum 🌿🌿
Susan & Matt Powell 🌿
Ram Island Conservation Fund 🌿
Don & Jean Showalter
Alix Smith
Robert E. Stewart
Dick & Meg Weekley 🌿🌿

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Anonymous (2)
Finn & Emily Caspersen
Franklin Templeton Charitable Giving Fund
Nat Harris
Jaye & Laura Hunker
Lucy & Bill LaCasse 🌿
Kenneth & Drina Meyer 🌿
Petrik Family Foundation
Susan Petrik
Jeffrey & Christina Philibert 🌿
Amy Shinn 🌿

Patsy Timpson
John & Josie Warfield
Risor Foundation
Sibley-Saltonstall Charitable Foundation

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Anonymous(2)
Alice M. Abbott 🌿
Jennifer Abbott 🌿
Betsy & Dan Barret
Connie & Ron Bennett 🌿
John Benoit & Beth Rockefeller
Judith Delagueronniere
William A. & Marie Demicco
Henry Donovan
Lacey Neuhaus Dorn 🌿
Alison Eckert
Legacy of Bob and Mary Edmondson
Amy Edmondson & George Daley
Julie Endrizzi
Donald Endrizzi & Peggy Pennoyer 🌿
Michael Fallona
Lynn Farnham 🌿
Liane & Len Giambalvo
Ed Graves
Grayson Family Foundation
Diana & Peter Hammond
Helen Hemminger
Linwood Higgins
Ogden & Nina Hunnewell 🌿
Neil & Heather Jamieson 🌿
Nancy Kelleher
Persis Laverack
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Lele & James McKenry
MillerAsen, P.A.
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Diane & Steve Neal
Patrick & Sue O'Reilly 🌿
Janice Parente & Steve Stracqualursi 🌿🌿
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Steve Pinette & Debra Chaloux 🌿🌿
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Samuel Rothman
Judith Ryerson
Richard M. Schilder
Rebecca & George Seel 🌿
Rick & Celeste Shinay

George L. & Clara S. Shinn Foundation
Win and Alison Smith Family Fund
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Thayer Stewart & Ann Conrad Stewart
Bettina & Marc Terloth
Nicolette Tetrault
John & Carol Thompson
Bill & Natalie Vanderburg
Douglas Wexler
Ogden & Elizabeth White
Laurence & Alexis Wintersteen
Carol Yermal
Nina & Michael Zilkha

\$500 - \$999

Gillespie/Fahey Family Gift Fund
Dan & Joanne Abrams
Jackie Anderson
Phil & Meredith Anson
Kate & Peter Archer 🌿
Elizabeth Bell
Susan Blake & Joel Kaufmann 🌿
Cameron & Kerry Boyd 🌿
Marjorie Bride
Cynthia Chase
Mary Ann Cook
Humphrey Doermann
The Lubrano Family Charitable Foundation
Tod & Shari Edgecomb
Steve Ferguson & Sue Foley-Ferguson
Ron & Donna Forest
Wendy & Stephen Gaal
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John Hanbury 🌿
Rachel & Steve Hendrickson
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Charlie & Patricia Neuhaus
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Dave & Linda Paul
Marcia Pendexter
Sarah Perry 🌿
Peter & Tory Philip
John B. & Sarah M. Pinkham
Harriet Plehn 🌿
Ed Reed
Alice & Bruce Rogers
Joseph & June Rubin

Sally Thebaud
Lynne Walsh
Brad & Alice Wellman
Caroline Werth
Nickey & Don Wilson 🌿
Pharibe Wise
Eddie Woodin & Nancy Robinson
Kathryn Yates
Billy & Sally Zierden

\$25 - \$499

Anonymous (10)
Brown Family Fund
Clynk to Give
Melia Giving Fund
Celia & Robert Abrams
Frances Jane Addor
Roger Addor
Stephanie Albero
Kathryn Albert
Robyn & Dana Neuts
Dorothea Amara
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Dr. Anthony & Dr. Sally Ardolino
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Tuck Barclay & Lucy Norvell
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Katharine Boasberg
Elizabeth Bolton
Mary Rose & Kenyon Bolton
Kate Borduas
Rich & Liz Brenner
Rita & Rudy Breton
Karen & Gene Brewer
Patricia Brigham
Lysle R. Brinker
Ernest & Linda Broadwater
Jonathan Malev & Jane Brooks
Mike & Doris Brousseau 🌿
Jean Bucknell

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

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Kathleen Callahan
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Jean-Marie Caterina &
Geoff MacLean
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Todd Clark
Wendy Clark
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Roxane Cole
Christopher & Miriam Collins
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Lauren Cranston
Carly Cronon
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Bill & Molly Donovan 🌿
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Thomas & Marie Eschner
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Bela & Don Gorman
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Kimberly Bridgham
John & Maryann Gow
Dr. Chris Green
Donna Greenwood &
Nathaniel James
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Pamela Joy
Brian Kanode & Stephen Hanly
Laragh Kavanaugh
Billy & Ann Kaye
Pamela & David Keenan ✨
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Margaret & Jerry Kendall
Susan J. Ketch
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Linda & David Kirstein
Barbara Klie
Rachelle Knight
Maryellen Knuth
Susan Koch
Kristin Kopp
David Kunhardt
Brian & Jean Labanowski
Victoria LaFortune
Whitney Lallas
Jeanne Lambrew
Abby Laplante
Stephen Larned
Polly Larned
Dog Owners of Greater
Scarborough
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Denise Le Moal
William & Emily Leary
Belinda & Art Ledue
Kimberly & Robert Lehmann
Patricia & Dave Lennox
Norman & Angela Levesque
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Gretchen Paranya Mackenzie &
David Mackenzie
Barbara Mackey
Andrew Mackie & Ann Dukett
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Carla Marcus & Lawrence Mohr 🌿
James & Kathleen Markan
Jonathan Marvin
Lauren Massey 🐦
Theresa Mattor
Crescencia Maurer
David & Carolyn May
Theresa & Lynn McCabe
John & Linda McCammond
Scarborough Garden Club 🐦
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Michael McCusker
Karen McGown
Terri Messer
Kathy Mills 🌿
Claire Miner
Connie Minervino
Stephen Misterovich
Robert & Barbara Mitchell
Tammalene Mitman
MaryAnn Mori
Carl & Rusty Morrison
Robert Morse ✨
Grace Morton
Lew & Rebecca Moynihan
Rick Murphy
Meg & Nelson Murray
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Charles & Jane Newbery
Gary & Pamela Nickless
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Susan Richards
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Heather Robinson
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Susan Eggenberger
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Emily Shinay Rosenfeld
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Kathleen Ross
Bret Rossman
Tina Ruel †
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Susan R. Russell 🌿
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Sara Salisbury
Mary Carroll W. Scott
John & Josephine Scully
Rick Seavey
Tyler Shaughnessy
Patti Shaw
Matthew Sherman
Jonathan & Ashley Shinay
Deborah S. Shinn 🌿
Nancy Shor ✨
Michael & Nancy Simonds
Steven & Michelle Sirois
Peter & Mindy Slovinsky
Carley & Barry Smith
Cynthia & Jonathan Smith
Stephanie Smith ✨ 🐦
Terry & Donna Snyder

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS (July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025)

Katie Sol DeLorme &
Kevin McQuinn
Alan Sparks
Doreen Morrow &
George Spatoulas
MaryLouise Sprague
Seth & Laura Sprague
Piotr & Rachel Stamieszkin ✨
Connie Stanley & Jim Smith
Donald Starr &
Serena Wakelin-Starr
Patricia Stavolone
Stan & Joanne Stevens
Joel & Denise Stilphen 🐾
Les & Cindy Stover
Robert E. Strawbridge IV
Dana Strong & Billy Hult
Jeff Struewing, Paula Wolyniec &
Eleanor Struewing
Kara Stuhr
Eric Stunkel & Caitlin Barry
John & Dorothy Sutton
Penny Swank
Michael Swords
Vilean Taggersell
Greg & Debbie Tait
Lorraine & Peter Talbot
Marilyn & John Taylor
Penelope Taylor
Elizabeth Temkin
Cindy Thebaud 🐾
Jeffrey Thibeault
Anne Thompson
Nat Thompson
Sally Thompson
Lynn Thurston
James & Janet Timmins
Robert Tisinai
Kathy Tolman
Paula Tourangeau
Suzanne Tremble
Nina & Bob Trowbridge
Jeffrey Tucker
Unum Group
Joy A. Urbanski
Richard Vaglia
Kristin & Warren Valdmanis
Jim Varnecky
David & Jackie Verrill
Helene Vigeant
Skiddy & Elizabeth von Stade
Elizabeth P. Munson
Philip von Stade Jr.
Sarah Vreel & Bruce Clary
John W. MacDuffie
Thomas & Judith Walker 🐾
Kathy & Bill Walling
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Nina McKee
Pauline Pinkos
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⚡ = 65 Hanson Acquisition Fund
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Fund
✨ = Charisma Acquisition Fund
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🌳 = Oak Hollow Fund
🌸 = Pleasant Hill Fund
🐾 = Fuller Farm Fund
🐾 = Scarborough Marsh Fund
🐾 = Broadturn Farm Fund
* = Deceased

How to Build a Boardwalk



Over the last four years, the Scarborough Land Trust (SLT) has been hard at work upgrading trails across its many preserves. The three primary goals we strive to meet via trail upgrades are:

- Reduced environmental impact to trailside habitat
- Easier access for visitors with mobility and balance issues
- Staying up to date with repairs and planned management

As we work through our trail maintenance, we strive to improve our construction methods and reduce environmental impacts. An exciting change is the shift from using pressure treated lumber to galvanized pipe for ground-contact supports. Pressure treated lumber can leach chemicals into the environments we are trying to protect, especially copper, highly lethal to aquatic life. Let's take a closer look at the anatomy of a boardwalk, and hopefully you'll be just as delighted by these design changes by the end of this article!



First, a look at our original boardwalk design. Sills are set perpendicular to the direction of the trail, resting directly on the ground and made from pressure treated 4x4s. Stringers, long 4x4s of pressured treated pine or rough sawn hemlock, rest on top of the sills and run parallel to the trail, and are secured with 8-inch spikes. Then we add decking made from rough sawn hemlock 2x4s to complete the treadway. Bog bridges are a simpler version consisting of only sills and treadway, often made with pressure treated or cedar wood as the sills, and two or three long boards that run parallel to the trail, that would rest on top of the sills to create the treadway. This design is still utilized on some SLT trails where an elevated boardwalk is not needed.

Our updated boardwalk design was created with our trail goals at the core. The new design features galvanized pipe footings, replacing pressure treated sills, which allows us to reduce the ground contact of the structure and raise it higher using less material. Hemlock cross supports are secured to the pipe with brackets, and the treadway is laid over the top. An



“Minimizing disruption to the surrounding environment is a priority in transport and building.”

elevated boardwalk is a dry boardwalk, promoting airflow around the structure and thus extending its life. This design makes it easier to widen the treadway, improving the walking surface for visitors with balance issues. A stable, inviting boardwalk provides a preferable route that protects trailside habitat from trampling and erosion – which means more opportunity for wildflowers and pollinators. The new design can be scaled in all directions, allowing us to make it wider or narrower when needed, and higher to clear roots, rocks, and streams, with minimal impact to the soil and habitats surrounding it. This versatility means that we can effectively replace any bog bridge or boardwalk with one streamlined structure in many of the ecosystems we traverse.

Of course, these positive changes are only achievable with help from volunteers! All skill levels contribute to the maintenance and construction of trails – and the more you help out, the sharper your eye becomes for details that truly make a trail long-lasting and enjoyable.

Stewardship Committee Chair and experienced trail builder Tom Nolan has dedicated many hours (in many weather conditions!) to honing his trail building skill set. Here is how he approaches his trail design process.

“Once an area has been identified for a boardwalk, I take a closer look at the forest or field, rocks or ledge, water, swamp or big roots. Then I determine a path and measure it.

All this enables me to decide the design and what type of materials to use. From this I can also estimate the cost.

We have to figure out how to get the building materials and tools to the site. We have trucks, ATVs, motorized carts, hand carts and hand carry at our disposal.

Minimizing disruption to the surrounding environment is a priority in transport and in building.

More recently, I’ve been building primarily with hemlock and using galvanized pipe for ground contact support. I try to avoid pressure treated lumber as much as possible. We use hand tools and battery powered tools.

Typically, boardwalks are modular, each section being 5 to 10 feet in length with support every 5 feet. We plan for accessibility by building 30 to 48 inches wide with steps, ramps and railings where practical. In the past 4 years we’ve built thousands of feet.”

Want to know more? Come on out. You’ll get the satisfaction of learning a new skill, supporting local land conservation and maybe even reducing the cost of your gym membership.”

If you’re interested in joining Tom and SLT in trail work, visit our Volunteer Sign Up page on our website, or send Sami an email at swolf@scarboroughlandtrust.org. We look forward to seeing you on the trails! 🍁

Tracking Blue Crabs in the Scarborough Marsh

By Emma Righter, past SLT Education and Communications Intern; adapted for newsletter by Therese Lamperty



In early June, I found myself unexpectedly traipsing through the Scarborough Marsh—the largest contiguous salt marsh in the state—with a backpack full of fish. Our mission was to deploy six crab traps, baited with fish, throughout the marsh to monitor blue crabs. Few associate blue crabs with Maine—they’re far more common south of Maine. But in recent years, likely spurred by the rapidly warming waters in the Gulf of Maine, there have been increased reports of blue crab sightings in Maine waters and marshes.

In collaboration with the Scarborough Land Trust (SLT) and funded in part by the Sage Foundation, Dr. Steven Jury and his students at St. Joseph’s College teamed up with SLT to monitor Scarborough Marsh for blue crabs

this summer. We began with traps to sample for adults, and this fall we are using plankton collectors to monitor for blue crab larvae. This project is part of a broader regional effort to monitor blue crab range expansion into Maine, which has been sparked by blue crabs increasingly making surprise appearances in lobster traps in recent years. Now, researchers such as those at Manomet and the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) are gathering location and abundance data on blue crabs each year, assisted in large part by citizen scientists. Blue crabs are known to be ferocious consumers that have the potential to prey on juvenile lobsters, invasive green crabs, and even smaller blue crabs. Because of this, some are concerned about the potential impacts of blue crabs on the lobster fishery.

In the Scarborough Marsh this year, we checked our traps weekly and did not record a single blue crab. Other regional monitoring efforts also reported few or no adult blue crabs this summer, whereas in previous years, places such as the Wells NERR found hundreds. Researchers theorize that last winter was sufficiently cold enough to knock numbers down and reduce blue crab range expansion northward – temporarily.

With over 3,000 acres of protected marshland, Scarborough Marsh provides excellent opportunities for these types of research and education efforts. Jury and SLT’s new Marsh Scientist and Restoration Director, Dr. Therese Lamperty, are planning to expand blue crab monitoring in the marsh next year. This will allow more undergraduate students to gain ecological research experience and help us to better understand how global climate change may alter marsh species and the local shellfish economy. 🦀



Leave a Legacy of Conservation!

Photo Credit – Towle Tompkins

When you include SLT in your bequest and let us know, you will become a member of the Owascoag Society. Whether through a will, living trust, or as a beneficiary of an IRA account or life insurance policy, a legacy gift is an incredible way to make sure the nature in Scarborough that you love is protected forever.

A planned gift to SLT could:

- Establish an endowed fund for education supporting programs and internships.
- Support watershed protection efforts in Scarborough.
- Fund stewardship in perpetuity at SLT properties.
- Create a Blue Trail down the Nonesuch River.

For more information on how you can become a Owascoag Society member, please contact ldetweiler@scarboroughlandtrust.org or visit <https://scarboroughlandtrust.org/donate/planned-giving/>.

Richard Anderson: Recipient of SLT 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award



Photo Credit – Towle Tompkins

From left to right: Christine Labaree, Richard (Dick) Anderson, C.D. Armstrong

On a warm and sunny morning this past October 4th, guests, board members, and staff gathered at the end of the trail at Blue Point Preserve. Overlooking the Scarborough Marsh, we gathered to pay tribute to Richard (Dick) Anderson. Dick was selected as the 2025 recipient of the SLT Conservationist of the Year Award. This annual award recognizes an individual, organization, or business for their significant commitment and outstanding leadership in protecting the natural and agricultural resources of the Town of Scarborough.

SLT’s Board of Directors unanimously supported the nomination of Dick Anderson for the Conservationist of the Year. His life long commitment to the natural world is legendary and he is well known among people in this field. Dick started his career, after earning a degree in wildlife conservation from the University of Maine, as the Southern Maine assistant regional biologist with

ME Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW). He was instrumental in documenting river pollution and pesticide impacts in Maine. In 1967, Dick left IFW to work for Maine Audubon, eventually becoming the society’s

executive director. During this time, he worked on getting the State’s bottle bill passed, drawing attention to sewer overflow in Portland’s Back Cove, and helping

to get the State to protect Scarborough Marsh. As part of the effort he convinced the state to rent Maine Audubon, a run-down shack at the edge of the Marsh, now known as the Scarborough Marsh Audubon Center.

In 2000, Dick was a founding member of Friends of Scarborough Marsh. He is currently working with his friend, Thomas Urqhart, on a history of Scarborough Marsh. There are numerous accomplishments that Dick Anderson has accomplished during his career. For all of these reasons, SLT is pleased to present him with the 2025 Conservationist of the Year Award. 🐾



Photo Credit - Cathy Dragoni



Dave Hebert and Steve Dion



John Bliss, Hannah Pingree, Scott Townsend, Sunny Townsend



Anne and Sandy Butterfield



Chelsey Cargen, Emma Pierce, Chelsea Watson



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BROADTURN FARM BASH:

- This year the event was held on September 4, 2025, making this the 13th anniversary of this SLT celebration.
- The event raised \$84,000 for a land conservation project on the Nonesuch River.
- Guests enjoyed food trucks (Mr. Tuna, Falafel Mafia, and Pizza By Fire), oysters from Pine Tree Seafood, drinks from Nonesuch River Brewing, SoPo Wines, Round Turn Distilling, desserts from Ivy Hill Baking and ice cream from Sue Foley-Ferguson.
- Broadturn Farm, Inc. provided flowers and support with set up.
- Music was provided by The Strangely Possibles.



Kate Rowe, Peter Archer, Barbara Gratry



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 15th, 10am –
Women’s Walk

DECEMBER

Friday, December 5th, 11:30am –
Winter Tree Identification Walk

JANUARY

Sunday, January 11th, 10am –
Winter Wildlife Tracking

FEBRUARY

Friday, February 13th, 8am –
Birding by Ear Walk

MARCH

Tuesday, March 3rd, 6:30pm –
Full Moon Walk

Saturday, March 14th, 10am –
Women’s Walk

Saturday, March 21st, 10am –
Coastal Birding

APRIL

Saturday, April 11th, 10 am –
Women’s Walk

Sunday, April 12th, 3:30pm –
Volunteer Appreciation Event

Go to
<https://scarboroughlandtrust.org/events>
to register for programs

Thank you to our Business Community Partners

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