

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Coastal Mountains Nature Program talk - *From Greenville to Belfast, a 300-mile Paddling Journey***

Camden – Coastal Mountains Land Trust will co-host an online Zoom presentation titled ***From Greenville to Belfast, a 300-mile Paddling Journey*** at 6:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 9** with the Camden Public Library. Join us for an exciting look at one couple's paddling adventure of a lifetime!

In May of 2021, Jackie Stratton, her partner Nate, and her dog Maple embarked on a 24-day canoe trip from Greenville to Belfast, ME. Primarily following the route of Henry David Thoreau, Penobscot guide Joe Polis, and countless indigenous people, their 300+ mile paddling journey included 8 miles of historic portage routes to connect the Kennebec Headwaters, West Branch, East Branch, and Main Stem of the Penobscot River. In this online presentation Stratton will share about how they prepared, naturalist highlights, lessons learned, and what it's like to be on 'river time'.

**Please visit the "What's Happening" adults events calendar at [librarycamden.org](http://librarycamden.org) to register for a Zoom link to attend this webinar. The presentation platform is limited to those who get an invitation from the library.**

Jackie Stratton lives in Montville, ME and is a self-proclaimed river enthusiast. She owns [Waterways Guiding](#), offering overnight canoe trips and whitewater canoeing instruction.

Coastal Mountains Land Trust has worked since 1986 to permanently conserve land to benefit the natural and human communities of the western Penobscot Bay. The Land Trust has protected over 12,000 acres, offering 50 miles of trails for public recreation on 37 preserves from Rockport to Prospect.

The Coastal Mountains Nature Program is a monthly education series hosted by Coastal Mountains Land Trust. Walks and talks explore the natural history of Midcoast Maine, helping educate the public about environment issues and increase opportunities for residents to explore the outdoors.



## 2021 Conservation and Volunteer Recognition

Camden - Each year, Coastal Mountains Land Trust recognizes volunteers, community groups, and land donors for their extraordinary service and contributions to the benefit of local land conservation.

Awarded at the annual membership celebration in Belfast this year, Burt Sturrup and Kim Shelley received the Chatfield Land Protection Award, named in honor of Charles and Mary P. Chatfield, for their donation of a conservation easement on their special property on Tilden Pond in Belmont. This generous donation permanently conserves a highly scenic, 90-acre property that protects important wildlife habitat at the headwaters of the Ducktrap River.

The Connecting Community & Nature Award, established by the Board in 2018, was presented to the Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition (BBWC) for their many years of consistency and effort in sharing the joy of being outdoors with people in the greater Belfast area and increasingly with local schools and children.

Two special people received Zwartjes Volunteer Awards, presented in honor of our first Board Chairman, William J. Zwartjes, for individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary service to the Land Trust. Phil Gaudet of Rockport has participated in different stewardship projects for many years, most recently building and installing weather enclosures for our newly acquired trail counters. Wayne Ruesswick of Camden was honored for his dedicated volunteer service over the years and his recent work in building the artful kiosk at the new Thorndike Brook trailhead.

Our work would not be possible nor as successful without the genuine commitment, time, talents, and involvement of these and so many other volunteers.



L to R: Burt Sturrup, Kim Shelley, Phil Gaudet, Wayne Ruesswick