

**Eastern Trail Alliance
2001 Annual Meeting
Committee Reports
Oceanwood at Ocean Park
20 May 2001**



www.EasternTrail.Org



President's Report

Annual Meeting May 20, 2001
John Andrews

Welcome and thanks for coming to the ETA's 2001 Annual Meeting. The progress you have made possible in the past 12 months has been astonishing. Consider some of the milestones we have passed on our journey to open the Eastern Trail.

Mac Sexton's usually behind-the-scenes work to acquire trail access resulted in the ETA now owning ¼ mile of the ET corridor in OOB donated by Verizon.

Steve Workman and Kate Albert succeeded in defining an historic Eastern Trail Management District now supported by 10 of the 12 towns. Everyone is to be thanked and applauded for this amazing municipal support. (With two town meetings to go, it could become 12 of 12.)

MDOT completed the ET feasibility study including a cost estimate of \$8.6 million to build the off-road ET. With John Balicki's support, Commissioner John Melrose & Governor King awarded \$1.3 million to start ET construction. To allow this, generous ET supporters pledged \$130,000 in private funds as part of the required local match. MDOT also awarded scholarships allowing three ETA trustees to attend ProBike/ProWalk in Philadelphia, where Philly demonstrates that it's fun and safe to bike downtown during rush hour.

Pam Partow and her committee worked with the towns, consultants and MDOT to make recommendations for starting ET construction. They also negotiated some complex on-road route issues. Ethan Davis began a series of ET on-road bike rides.

Excellent guest speakers shared their experiences with trustees before several monthly meetings. Burnham Martin summarized success in three words: "Vision, Volunteers, Victories." Alix Hopkins, Tom Farrell, Laurene Swaney, & Cameron Wake also shared their recommendations for success: **COURAGE! ENDURANCE! PATIENCE!**

Thanks to Maggie Warren ETA open its own office in downtown Biddeford. Maggie also led the publication team that produced the first two issues of the ETA newsletter and waved the ETA banner at ETA booths at many events. Maureen Townsend coordinated the East Coast Greenway's WAVE across the on-road ET. It was a spectacular PR success. Larry Glantz expanded the ET Web page with more features and a big increased in user visits.

We have much to celebrate. We did when Shipyard Brewing Company hosted an ETA evening on 23 April. We have come a long way; we have a long way to go; hang in there.

Happy Trails,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Andrews". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Andrews" clearly visible.

John Andrews

Minutes First Annual Meeting

Jakeman Hall-- Ocean Park
3 P.M. Saturday 6 May 2000
Tom Daley

In accordance with the by-laws of the Eastern Trail Alliance, Article III 3.1 and Article IV-4.5 the purpose of this meeting is to report on the activities of the Eastern Trail Alliance and to elect trustees to replace those whose terms have expired and to elect Advisory Trustees, and to consider any other business that may be presented.

1. Introductions by all attendees

2. Welcome by President John Andrews. John gave an overview of the amazing progress of the ETA in its first year of operation. He mentioned some of the people for the help they gave, but he said we owe our success to all of you, the members.

3. The following Committees presented reports:

Treasury
Trail Development and Maintenance,
Membership and Public relations Committee,
Governmental Relations Subcommittee and
Nominating Committee.

4. The Nominating Committee; Bill Heath, Horace Wood, and Steve Workman nominated the following Candidates to serve as Trustees for a three year term.

Jim Gailey,
Richard Roedner,
Mac Sexton and
Maggie Warren

5. The candidates were elected for a three year term;

6. A Motion was made and approved to amend By-Laws Replace last sentence of Article 4.5

From:

" Advisory Trustee shall be elected for one (1) year term at the annual meeting of the Corporation"

To:

"Advisory Trustees shall be invited to serve for a period of (1) one year by the Trustees at any Trustee's Meeting "

7. New Business.

A general discussion covering several topics proved to be very interesting, bringing attendees up to date on the latest progress So much is happening on a day to day basic, it is hard to keep current.

Meeting Adjourned.
Respectfully submitted

Tom Daley

Financial Report

Eastern Trail Alliance
Annual Meeting May 20, 2001
Maggie Warren & John Andrews

When the ETA met for its first annual meeting last year, we had just over \$2,000 in a checking account. Although the ETA had raised over \$28,000 as a local match for the MDOT's \$140,000 feasibility study, the ETA was barely able to support its own activities.

This past year we were able to provide \$130,000 in local matching funds from a few very generous donors. This resulted in raising a total of \$1,660,000 for ET construction during 2002 and 2003. But, the ETA continues to barely scrape for its daily operations. At present the ETA has \$1917.01 in its checking account for operating expenses.

Support for the Eastern Trail has grown across the 12 corridor towns. State and federal agencies provide much needed expertise and project support. Foundations, individuals and companies provide increasing support. Membership has grown. The ETA has a fully equipped office. But ETA success, as described in this annual report, has overloaded the already busy volunteers.

Many believe the ETA like other non-profit organizations needs office staff. This year we will solve this operations challenge. It will take money, but once the staff is in place, there will be more time for the few volunteers to raise money to keep the office in place to support the members and to communicate with supporters. Additional members will provide additional income that could be used for office staff support.

Several attempts were made during the past year to develop a fund raising committee. If we can off-load many of the routine clerical duties, volunteers should have more time to commit to the task of raising operating funds.

For the next year, it will be a tough struggle to keep operating until we either find more volunteer hours or hire part time staff to manage daily operations.

Governmental Subcommittee Annual Report

May 2001

The 2000/2001 Fiscal Year of the Eastern Trail Alliance will long be remembered as a period when dreams, spoken only *in* hushed whispers for fear of disappointment, became reality. The Governmental Subcommittee was charged with creating an agreement that would bring the 12 municipalities through which the trail runs and the Eastern Trail Alliance together for the purpose of constructing and managing the trail. The work to create the agreement began in 1999 when the Maine Department of Transportation provided funds to hire Kate Albert, Environmental Planner with Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission, to carry out the administrative duties associated with it. Steve Workman, Eliot Community Service Director (until October 2000) and as an independent consultant, joined Kate soon after to share the workload. Each of the municipalities and the ETA sent representatives to meet with Kate and Steve regularly to discuss the details surrounding each draft of the agreement. By May 2000 the Subcommittee had produced three major drafts and revisions of the agreement.

The Subcommittee continued working at the start of the new fiscal year (00/01) and produced six more drafts before the final agreement was approved on November 8, 2000. The most significant change to the agreement occurred after a meeting with town managers and administrators on September 27. At this meeting the managers explained that if a long-term commitment by the municipalities was to be achieved, changes to the agreement would be needed. The managers provided an invaluable amount of input which directed Kate and Steve to create a new twenty-year "membership agreement" that contained a two-year planning period funded at \$2,500 annually by each participating member with a provision for future funding to be established at a later date.

The new Membership Agreement authorized the creation of the Eastern Trail Management District (ETMD). According to the Agreement each municipality would appoint one voting member and the Eastern Trail Alliance three voting members to the ETMD Board of Directors. Once established, the ETMD would petition to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation responsible for the construction and management of the trail. The incorporation of the ETMD was to occur after three members accepted and signed the Agreement.

The acceptance of the final version of the ETMD Membership Agreement brought an end to Phase I of the Subcommittee's task and began Phase II, marketing. Kate and Steve, with members of the Eastern Trail Alliance and many members of the Subcommittee began traveling to council, board of selectmen and budget committee meetings in each of the 12 municipalities to answer questions about the trail and the Agreement. We attended council meetings and town meetings hoping to enlist the required three parties needed to sign the Agreement and move forward. I am pleased to report that as of May 23, 2001, **10** of the 12 municipalities and the Eastern Trail Alliance have become parties to the Agreement! The remaining two municipalities (Kennebunk and Arundel) have placed the agreement on their June town meeting warrants. Special recognition goes to the South Berwick Town Council – the first to adopt the Agreement seven days after the final version was approved by the subcommittee!

The final two town meetings in June will mark the end of the Subcommittee, but a new beginning for many of its municipal representatives that have been appointed to the ETMD Board of Directors. On April 26, 2001 the ETMD Board of Directors had its first organizational meeting. At this meeting the Board authorized Kate and Steve to act as its co-agents and to carry out the daily administrative duties for the new corporation. Current projects being worked on by the co-agents are the incorporation papers, application for an Employee Identification Number, application to become an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) corporation, setting up banking accounts and requesting liability insurance proposals.

In closing, Kate and I would like to thank the members of the Subcommittee, the many attorneys that provided legal review and advice, especially Richard Flewelling, Esq. with Maine Municipal Association, Madge Baker, Esq., Eric Cote, Esq., and Mac Sexton, Esq. Most importantly, we would like to thank the staff and officials of the 12 municipalities that remained committed to the concept and value of the Eastern Trail project and who then found a way to make it work.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Workman
Workman Consulting

Kate Albert, Planner
Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission

Trail Development and Management Committee Report

Pam Partow - Head of Trail Development and Management Committee

May 2001

This is a report about the activities of the Trail Development and Management Committee, which was formed by the Eastern Trail Alliance to accomplish several tasks. They are:

- Seek opportunity to build one new trail segment on the ET
- Assist feasibility study, including:
 - Develop a process to make and recommend decisions regarding alternate routes
 - Develop a process to make and recommend decisions regarding connecting routes
 - Develop a map of the trail
- Develop a signage standard
- Keep existing trails maintained, holding volunteer workdays, where possible
- Continue to offer outings on the trail, where possible (this is now another committee headed up by Ethan Davis)
- Evaluate trail access points and issues, seek to address these in trail design and development.

The main accomplishment for 2001 is the final report written by Wilbur Smith Associates. The preliminary report was released and commented on by various members of the ETA, along with lots of updates from John Balicki of MDOT. I would like to say the WSA with their partners did an excellent job. Copies of the summary report are available through MDOT, contact John Balicki (E-mail John.Balicki@state.me.us or call 287-6600) In addition, copies can be viewed/downloaded from the ETA web site (www.easterntail.org).

In addition, with John Balicki's help, the on road route was identified. John Balicki then sent a copy of this to the municipalities for their comment. Old Orchard Beach was the first town to decide it did not like the route. With the help of John Andrews, Parker Van Hoogenstyn and the intrepid bike rider, Bruce Wakefield, a new and safer route was established. A meeting with Tad Redway, OOB town planner, was held and an agreement was reached. In addition, OOB is planning on shoulder upgrades and a rest area/ changing facility that will help to improve the route for all.

Next was the town of Wells, they were concerned about riding on the back roads without shoulders. They wanted the ET to ride out to route 1 into Kennebunk. We held a few meetings and had many discussions about this. We laid out the pros and cons of the two routes and came to the conclusion that the original route was still the best in our opinion. It also allowed us to add off road segments as they were built. The on road guide includes a spur to the yet to be built train station, the businesses and beaches on route 1.

Another project was to identify the first segments to be built. These segments were identified with the following criteria, land ownership (being non gas company land was a plus), closeness to higher population density, adjacent to segments already completed and cost of construction. The segments that were picked are: from Limerick Rd. in Arundel to behind Southern Maine Medical Center in Biddeford and from Cascade Rd. in OOB to Black Point Rd. in Scarborough.

Many thanks go to John Andrews for taking over the task of publishing the on road route. It is available for download from the ETA web site and includes many amenities and cautions for various sections. Ethan Davis is holding outings along various sections and the map will be updated when issues come up.

Since last year, a new organization has been formed. This is the Eastern Trail Management District. This group is chartered with many different tasks but will be more involved with the actual building of the trail, assigning contracts, handling the money, etc. The task of the ETA takes on a more advisory role although still heavily involved with raising money, gaining members and public relations. The duties of the Trail Development and Management Committee is therefore changing and will be defined at a later date.

ETA Goals for 2001-2002

By Bill Heath and Burnham Martin

As the end of 2000 approached, Board members celebrated the accomplishments and growing credibility of the Eastern Trail Alliance. At the same time, Board members expressed concern that the growing responsibilities of the organization were not being matched by resources available to meet them. Led by work of the Executive Committee, the Board considered a number of ways to move forward including increasing resources by hiring staff or delaying action on some goals until resources were available.

The Board decided to move forward first by matching committee structure to the high priority goals and then filling in with new committee chairs and members. The entire Board was polled about goals for the coming years and the Executive Committee led the effort to refine them. Board members have advised on the results and have stepped forward to take on several of the new committee challenges. The list below is a result of this work. It shows the committee name, its membership, and its most important work tasks. Please note that there are several committee chair positions open. If you know of top-notch people who could fill these positions, please have them contact Bill Heath, 985-2238, to discuss the committee's tasks in more detail.

Easements

John Andrews and Mac Sexton

- Finish the Bay State Gas easement.
- Clear all additional legal/access barriers (easements, etc.) to construction of remaining off-road trail sections.

Eastern Trail Management District

Steve Workman, John Andrews, Pam Partow, Mac Sexton

- Implement/make operational the ETMD, supporting its efforts to begin construction of a segment of the trail soon and to develop a construction plan for the remainder of the trail.
- Work out ETMD responsibilities vs. ETA responsibilities.

Trail Development and Management

Pam Partow

- Working with the ETMD, start work on at least one segment with completion in 2002.
- Work with ETMD to select priorities for 2003-2004 constructions.
- Assure that both the ETA and the ETMD have a clear understanding of the Maine Turnpike Authority's funding, timetable, and the necessary steps to insure their commitment to a pedestrian bridge over the turnpike in Kennebunk.

(ETA Goals for 2001-2002 continued)

Finance and Fundraising

Chairmanship open

- Continue to raise funds to match federal, state, and regional grants for trail construction.
- Create a strategy for raising operating dollars for a balanced operating budget to meet each year's goals.

ETA staffing/board/committees

Executive Committee

- Maintain a strong active Board of Trustees, with each Board member leading a committee or task
- Keep committees focused on the current year's tasks while capturing new task ideas for future years.
- Continue to evaluate the needs and opportunities related to a paid staff position.

Membership

Chairmanship open – Bruce Wakefield distributes ETA membership brochures; Eve Prendergast move into managing membership correspondence and database.

- Expand membership to 300+ this year, 500+ in 2002, with geographical diversity by implementing an ongoing membership campaign.
- Continue to assess and meet members' needs and to identify and incorporate members' skills into ETA's activities.

Public Relations

Chairmanship open – Maggie Warren, Larry Glantz

- Establish a re-invigorated public relations committee to create a focused public relations program to support organizational goals and raise public awareness of the Eastern Trail, including the following key elements.
 - Publish 2 newsletters per year. (Maggie)
 - Support Web site, link to other popular outdoor sites, the Maine State web page, etc. (Larry)
 - Establish and maintain a relationship with the press.

Outings

Ethan Davis, Pat Camire, Bruce Wakefield, Maggie Warren

- Establish an outings committee to develop a program of fun and educational outings and events for members.
- Organize annual meeting.

Easement Report

Mac Sexton

For ETA 2001 Annual Meeting

On the chilly overcast morning of March 22, 2001 John Andrews and Mac Sexton donned their winter coats and trudged into the well-appointed yet somehow claustrophobic offices of the law firm Pierce Atwood in Portland. After brief preliminaries and extensive paper shuffling, they accepted on behalf of the ETA from Verizon a Quitclaim Deed without Covenant to a portion of the Boston & Maine Eastern Division in Old Orchard Beach. Mac immediately took the deed to the York County Registry of Deeds in Alfred where it was duly recorded, thus completing negotiations which had extended more than a year and gaining for the ETA our first owned parcel to become part of the Trail. The parcel is 66 feet wide (4 rods – the standard width in Maine for an 1800's railroad right of way) running approximately 1077 feet south from the Scarborough line into Old Orchard Beach. It lies between a parcel owned by the Town of Scarborough beginning at the Scarborough line and a parcel owned by CMP in Old Orchard Beach.

Verizon generously deeded us this parcel in return for our payment only of their transaction costs, consisting of a phase 1 environmental report (clean!) and the legal fees of Pierce Atwood, totaling approximately \$2400. Verizon reserved for itself an easement for possible future installation of telecommunication equipment (none currently exists on the parcel), provided there is no interference with the Trail. The Granite State Gas Transmission gas pipeline does run through the parcel under a recorded easement which, among other provisions, mandates the payment of a \$25 annual fee to the parcel owner. So we are now a very minor annuitant of our friends (and we hope soon to be generous easement donors and cooperators in the Trail endeavor) at Granite State.

The Verizon parcel is our second acquisition of property rights needed to install the Trail, our first acquisition being the easement from Biddeford & Saco Water Company given to us in February, 2000 over their owned portion of the Eastern Division in Saco and Old Orchard Beach. We are now turning our attention to CMP as well as to our continued negotiations with Granite State (and their Indiana based corporate parent, NiSource).

2001 Eastern Trail Alliance Outings Report

-Ethan Davis

Since April 7, we've held four outings on the On-road Eastern Trail, and an Outings web page has been set up by Larry, which contains the latest information on the outings.

I wasn't able to attend the first outing, but Maggie Warren agreed to be the contact /lead person for me. It was supposed to run from Cummings Market in West Kennebunk up to Biddeford. The weather turned out to be pretty unpleasant, so when no one showed up, Maggie and Bruce threw the bikes in the back of the truck and decided to drive the On-Road Eastern Trail down to Kittery.

For the second outing we were to meet at 10:00 by the small monument park on the Kittery side of easterly Route 1 bridge across the Piscataqua River. I showed up at about 10:15, and waited until about 10:30. It is about 16 miles from Kittery to Vaughan Woods and passes through some beautiful rolling farm county and some nice rural neighborhoods. Vaughan Woods State Park in South Berwick is a good stopping point, which has a number of forest trails and apparently also has some sort of restroom facilities. About 1 mile from the end of the ride, I passed a cyclist going in the opposite direction which turned out to be Peter Chase. He turned around and caught up to me, and we talked for a few minutes before he continued back down to Kittery and I to Vaughan State Park. As it turned out, he was at the monument at 10:00 and thought we had left already, so he set out on his own!

Four of us showed up for the third outing, which started from Vaughan Woods State park in South Berwick and continued for about 10 miles to the home of one of the riders in North Berwick. The weather was great, and the scenery was quite nice.

The fourth outing left from the convenience store/restaurant located where routes 4 and 9 split at the north end of N. Berwick (after asking if we could park there). We were riding the route from memory, so we accidentally deviated from the designated on-road route by continuing up Chick's Crossing road and getting on Route 9A to ride into Kennebunk. The ride concluded at my Mother-In-Law's house on Route 99 in Kennebunk, which although it isn't on the On-Road Eastern Trail also was a good stopping point and has a nice restroom.

Throughout the rest of the season, I plan to continue organizing and leading outings, including generating a list of the outings for the rest of the summer.

Tailwinds and cheers!

Public Relations Committee Reports

ETA Web Site: www.EasternTrail.org

By Larry Glantz - Webmaster

The Eastern Trail Alliance web site has been up and running for over two years now, and continues to serve several extremely important functions for the Alliance. If you have not visited the site for some time, you might be amazed at the changes. Just point your Internet browser to <http://www.EasternTrail.org> (note – this name is not case-sensitive, and you can use lower case OR capital letters).

The site is obviously a great educational tool for people who are new to the Eastern Trail and to the Alliance. Visitors can learn about the extensive efforts and successes of the trail – what has been done, what current activities are scheduled, who is supporting, what is needed, and so forth. But the web site also unites active members and supporters working to build this trail. The latest information on scheduled activities, documents in various formats, trail maps and Engineering Study Reports can be accessed in rich color and technical detail in minutes.

Great Works Internet (www.gwi.net) has very graciously donated web space to the ETA, allowing us to place our own trail documents and pictures on the internet, and to link to other partners and supportive information on the Internet.

New pages added in the past year include:

- April 2001: The final Eastern Trail Engineering Feasibility Study by Wilbur Smith Associates; Terrence J. DeWan & Associates. Includes the 17 page final report, in two parts, and 19 extremely detail color maps with dozens of reference photos
- A new Eastern Trail Trip Outings Page posts activities for Spring and Summer 2001 as they are planned
- The Summer 2001 Edition of the On-Road Trail Guide for the Eastern Trail is also available
- Copy of the Eastern Trail Municipal Agreement, which will oversee and coordinate the construction and operation of the Eastern Trail.
- Significant expansion of the ETA News and Document Library pages

The statistics show an impressive growth in use of the website

<i>ETA Web Use Statistics, 1999 - 2001</i>			
<i>Statistic</i>	<i>July 1999</i>	<i>April 2001</i>	<i>% increase</i>
Requests for ETA web pages	149	2041	1370%
Distinct outside internet hosts served	64	169	264%
Distinct files requested from ETA site	26	169	650%
Data Transferred from ETA site to visitors	11 Megabytes	227 Megabytes	2064%

Further success with this web page will come if we continue to use the web to tell the story of the Trail. We must inform, interest, and build our support using pictures, reports, and other information provided on this web site. If you have any information to add, or suggestions for improving the web site, please contact the ETA Webmaster, Larry Glantz, at 228-8345, or by email at glantz@infocraft.com

Publications and Exhibits Report

By Maggie Warren, Publisher and Exhibitor

The year 2000 was a very busy one for our growing organization. We ordered a second printing of our **brochure** (our summer look) just in time to use as handouts in the LaKermesse parade.

We produced our **first two newsletters** (Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter), both packed full of news and information about what we have accomplished: the Fall/Winter issue was so packed that there wasn't any room for pictures!

We designed and produced (with the pro bono help of Tom DeBruin at Screentech) **T-shirts** that many of us wear at events and on rides to identify our affiliation with the Eastern Trail Alliance.

Tom DeBruin also designed a beautiful **banner** for us that was used all along the Eastern Trail during the WAVE celebration, adding pizzazz to many photo ops.

The East Coast Greenway **WAVE event** provided the ETA with lots of excellent publicity that we took advantage of whenever we could. Many members of the ETA participated, and it was the highlight of 2000 for the ETA as far as publicity is concerned.

The ETA was in the parade and had a booth at the 3-day **LaKermesse** celebration in Biddeford in June. Again, many wonderful people helped us out, including Pam Partow's sheltie, who was in the parade. It was great fun, and we talked to lots of people who had heard about the trail and were very enthusiastic.

ETA Booths & Exhibits

York Institute Museum
Wheels Celebration, Saco
Wellness Convention, Saco
Polling places on 7 November
MDOT Bicycle Tourism Conference
State House Legislative Bike Day
Maine Equine Industry Association
Laudholm Farm
Several town halls.

ETA presentations

Four York County Rotary Clubs
Kittery Kiwanis Club
Town or City Councils in OOB, Biddeford,
N. Berwick, Kittery, Scarborough
S. Berwick Cub Scouts
MDOT Bicycle Tourism Conference
Kennebec River Rail Trail Annual Meeting
AMC East Coast Fall Meeting
Myopia Driving Club Annual Meeting, Mass.

BOARD NOMINEES FOR TERM 2001 TO 2004

Nominating Committee Chair: Bill Heath

Ethan Davis - (current Trustee, replaced Rick Oliver)

Ethan brings a strong bicycling background to the ETA; he owns and has built his own recumbant bicycles that he commutes with regularly. He presently chairs the Outing Committee, and brings his enthusiasm to that task.

Pam Partow - (current Trustee)

Pam has chaired the Trail Development Committee since ETA's beginning, most recently completing a successful submission of ETA projects for Maine Department of Transportation monies to actually start building the Trail in 2002. She is a member of the Maine Equine Association and brings that important focus to ETA.

Bruce Wakefield - (current Trustee)

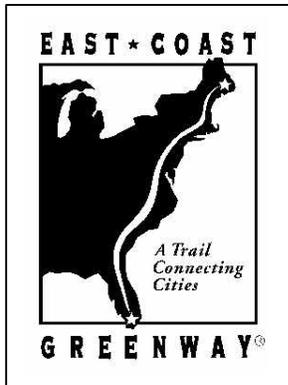
Bruce is an avid cyclist who contributes invaluable energy, ideas, and humor to the ETA. He presently works on the Outings and Membership Committees, and chaired the Annual Meeting Committee. If you see an ETA brochure display anywhere, thank Bruce.

Horace Wood - (current Trustee)

Horace, along with Tom Daley, Parker Van Hoogenstyn, and of course John Andrews, was an original visionary of the Eastern Trail. His position on the Saco Conservation Committee greatly contributed to ETA's first easement of 1.7 miles in Saco.

Steve workman - (current Trustee)

Steve has led ETA's efforts to establish the Eastern Trail Management District, the municipal counterpart to the ETA that will insure the ongoing upkeep of the Trail when it is completed. He presently is a consultant to So. Maine Regional Planning Commission, which role brings further insight to our organization.



East Coast Greenway Alliance
2001 Report
Eastern Trail Alliance
Annual Meeting

2000-2001 has been a very good year for the East Coast Greenway in Maine. The previously designated off-road trails in Saco, South Portland, Portland, and Yarmouth were joined by the designation of the Brunswick Androscoggin River Trail.

Even more exciting was the completion of the Calais to Kittery on-road route.

Maine set a national precedent by completing this on-road route, including ETA's on-road route. In the Fall 2000, the ECGA board voted affirmatively to accept the Maine on-road route and designated it as an ECG Class C trail. As Maine and the Eastern Trail Alliance go, so goes the nation!!

The good fortune of the East Coast Greenway continued into 2001. In February, the Governor announced awards for trail building in Maine. Fourteen sites along the ECG were chosen. Among the biggest awards is the Eastern Trail. Maine will participate later this year in a national Gateways event, bringing a brighter spotlight to your efforts.

I like to talk about winners. While the Eastern Trail and the East Coast Greenway have had some big victories this year, the real winners are the citizens of Maine. The ETA, through its efforts, is providing a gift that keeps on giving. It is a gift of health to those who use the trail. It is a gift of abundance to communities who will reap the economic benefits from visitors to the trail. It truly is a gift to the people of Maine.

There is still a lot of work to be done, volunteers to be recruited, and funds to be raised. The ECGA salutes the Eastern Trail Alliances for its past successes and sends best wishes for the future.

Signed,

Sue Ellen Bordwell
Trustee, East Coast Greenway Alliance
Advisory Trustee, Eastern Trail Alliance
May, 2001