

Writing the Land: Maine

Edited by Lis McLoughlin, PhD
with a Foreword by Tim Glidden

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Foreword: Writing the Land

I've lived close to the banks of the Androscoggin River for forty years. In that time the river has gone from a stinking pile of dirty foam to sweet spot for a quiet paddle and home to osprey and beaver (and I never saw the worst of it). Progress in reversing the evils of earlier abuse. Over that same period, the amount of conserved land in Maine has quadrupled with more than four million acres of the state now in some form of permanent conservation. More progress toward sustainability and cause for optimism. I've been blessed with work over that time that contributed to the slow recovery of Maine's natural heritage. For the past twenty years, my focus has been land conservation, working in one way or another with the eighty-four, citizen-powered land conservation organizations that stretch across all of Maine. Day in, day out, these lands are available to all creatures, for sustenance, rejuvenation and inspiration. We need all this... and more.

I've been feeling the need for a dose of optimism recently as the grim news continues to roll in like the tides along the Maine coast responding to rising sea level. Ice-out on Maine lakes is coming at least a month earlier than it did a century ago and any old-timer will tell you that the sugaring season is weeks early and increasing erratic. Perhaps you have noticed your own climate change indicator close to your home.

What do you do when it all gets to be too much? My response is to turn back to the land. For me it's a woodland trail, a coastal island at dawn, or a quiet paddle on a nearby creek. If I were a farmer, it would be the pasture my cows graze or the freshly-turned field I've planted to hops for the local brewer. If I owned some timber land, it would be the woodlot I have stewarded for the past fifty years that is home to more critters than I can count, provides me with some firewood for the winter, and a little help for my grandkids' schooling. Maria Girouard, Executive Director of Wabanaki REACH writes¹, "Wherever we go, [we] like to make a point to acknowledge the land on which we gather, and the spirits of those who walked it before us. Recognizing one's place on the landscape has been a Native practice and tradition for countless generations."

1 https://www.mainewabanakireach.org/acknowledging_the_land

No matter your background, Maine's landscape can ground you, connect you to your heritage and to the truth that you are a part of something much larger than yourself.

So, what does this all have to do with a book of poetry? Everything, I'd suggest. I know that when I'm on the land, a poem can open me to new possibilities. I'm renewed and inspired by some fresh insight, perhaps by a burst of creativity, and sometimes even moved to act. The lands and waters of Maine remind me, remind us, of what we are part of and what we are called to do. The poet's gift is to capture these moments from their own experience in language that can be shared.

What you hold in your hand is a wonderful collection of experiences that come directly from connections to the land, conserved land now stewarded by land trusts across Maine. Reading these different poets walking on different lands, triggers a flood of reflections —let me hold up just one. The poet Linda Warren used the phrase “trout memory.” The trout knows its place in the stream— in the world. That knowledge is intuitive and empowering. Embedded in trout memory is an all-encompassing awareness of that being's relationship to all aspects of its world, living and nonliving. In contrast, the self-awareness that we cherish, leads us to set ourselves apart from the world, to forget our place in the world and all that myriad of mutually beneficial, interdependent, sustaining relationships. We think we live beyond the constraints of the natural world and can ignore them. No other living creature, plant or animal, large or small, suffers from this delusion.

Take this book along on your next walk or paddle. Browse it during winter evenings when you want to remember the green places; when you need to be nurtured by your connections to the natural world. We need to regain our trout memory.

—*Tim Glidden*
Topsham, Maine
July 2022

Introduction
Poets and Pinecones; Bards and Blueberries....

In the early years of our relationship my (soon-to-be) husband and I would drive up to Maine and dream about settling on an island off-shore, keeping company with the wildlife and the waves. In later years we read Howard Frank Mosher and Louise Dickinson Rich opine about the great expanse of forest centered in Maine that sweeps across the Northeast, and pictured our own cabin in the woods. These dreams happily haunt the imagination of many from New England and beyond, even if we haven't quite managed to bring them to fruition—yet.

So when the opportunity to publish an entire book focused on the nature of Maine appeared, I could not resist. The 13 participant land conservation organizations, and 27 poets that make up this book sing the many and varied songs of Maine—inland and coastal, urban and rural—each poem inspired by visits to an actual conserved land. Our land trust partners conserve parts of Maine for all Nature—including us and our progeny; while our poets interpret this land's past, explore its present, and write into being hopes for the future.

Enjoy this walk in the wilds of Maine—dream of the way life could be....

—Lis McLoughlin, PhD
January 11, 2022 (30th wedding anniversary)
Montreal, Quebec



Photo: Early Morning on Casco Bay by Tim Glidden

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. GREAT WORKS REGIONAL LAND TRUST.....	1
-Bauneg Beg Mountain Conservation Area-Evans-Jones.....	2
-Old Boston Preserve-Corwin.....	8
II. KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST.....	19
-Mousam River Wildlife Preserve-Lozier.....	20
III. SANFORD SPRINGVALE MOUSAM WAY LAND TRUST.....	37
-Hall Environmental & Central Maine Power Reserves at Deering Pond-Stanley.....	38
IV. PORTLAND TRAILS.....	55
-Fore River Sanctuary-Bove.....	58
-Presumpscot River Preserve-Abdurraqib.....	64
V. MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST.....	73
-Whaleboat Island-Ramsey.....	74
VI. BOOTHBAY REGION LAND TRUST.....	83
-Ovens Mouth Preserve-Douglas.....	84
-Oak Point Farm-Boeghold.....	89
-Damariscove Island Preserve-Ramsey.....	92
-Porter Preserve-Wise.....	95
VII. LOON ECHO LAND TRUST.....	101
-Bald Pate Mountain Preserve-Hagopian Berry.....	102
VIII. MAHOOSUC LAND TRUST.....	117
-Valentine Farm Conservation Center-wheeler and Owen.....	118
-Tumbledown Dick Mountain-Owen.....	127
IX. ANDROSCOGGIN LAND TRUST.....	135
-Katherine Breton Memorial Preserve-Hible.....	136
-David Rancourt River Preserve-Haberman.....	142
-French Falls Recreation Area-Ellasante.....	146
-Hooper Pond Preserve-Weston.....	150

X. KENNEBEC LAND TRUST	157
-Gott Pasture Preserve-Grundstrom-Whitney	158
-Davidson Nature Preserve-Brancaccio	163
-Curtis Homestead Conservation Area-Carr	168
-Eastern River Preserve-Buchanan.....	171
XI. COASTAL MOUNTAINS LAND TRUST	175
-Beech Hill Preserve-Taylor.....	177
-Head of Tide Preserve-Amato	181
XII. DOWNEAST SALMON FEDERATION.....	187
-Pleasant River Community Forest-Martin and Warren.....	191
-Sprague's Falls Preserve-Rancourt	198
XIII. DOWNEAST COASTAL CONSERVANCY.....	205
-Reversing Falls Preserve-Lawson	206
-Poets' Biographies.....	222
-Artists' and Essayists' Biographies.....	226

KENNEBUNK LAND TRUST



Kennebunk

Kennebunk Land Trust

The mission of the Kennebunk Land Trust is to permanently conserve and steward land to benefit natural and human communities.

The Kennebunk Land Trust was founded in 1972 to preserve and protect significant natural spaces in the Kennebunk region. As one of southern Maine's oldest working land trusts, the Trust has preserved over 3,400 acres of forest, fields, and waterways to secure habitat and clean water for plants, animals, people, and the environment. Of these preserved lands, more than 300 acres are conservation easements managed for private landowners, and include working farmland and homes alongside the perpetually conserved property. Through preservation and stewardship, the Kennebunk Land Trust ensures longevity of the beauty, heritage, habitat and natural environment in Kennebunk and the surrounding region.

The Kennebunk Land Trust is a community-focused organization; connecting with residents and visitors through annual events, gatherings, and educational opportunities.

-Mousam River Wildlife Preserve—Cynthia Lozier

The Tao teaches us nothing can be improved upon or saved, for life is sacred and that which is sacred is perfect as is. What we can do is work on ourselves, to learn how to live less impactfully and more harmoniously with what is. There is a peace, a radiance, and an authenticity in the sacred that nurtures and guides us. May we learn to do the work of refining human nature to align with the planetary abundance and learn to not destroy, exploit or misuse it. May we learn to let harmony be our guiding principle.

—Cynthia Lozier
August 2021

Radiant
by Cynthia Lozier

What is our obligation to one another?
What are we entitled
to bring to one another's attention?
You host your fears
I host mine
How often do we host the divine?

The social,
political,
economic,
and ecological problems we face
are overwhelming

One can't look in any direction
-behind from where we came
-ahead to where we're going
and not see the seemingly unsolvable

There is an urgent unrest in us
A feeling of not enough
The anxiety is palpable

The paradox of our times
is that both conflict and cooperation
push us to evolve

We need to talk to each other in earnest
The unspoken word remains unheard
What goes unsaid remains in the head

We need radiant authenticity
and recognition of the real
to become the human stewards of a planet
that desperately
needs us to heal.

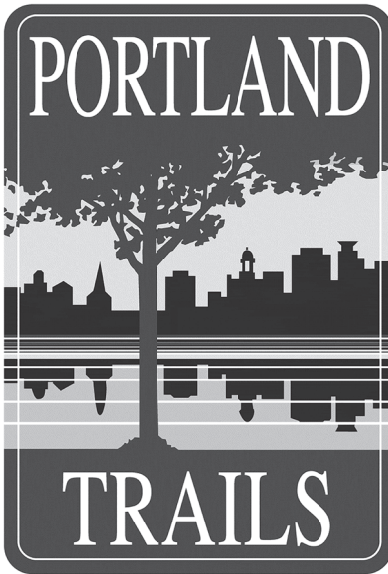


Photo (above): Rose-breasted Grosbeak by Ken Janes

Photo (opposite): Birders at For All Forever Preserve

PORTLAND TRAILS

Portland



A Nonprofit Urban Land Trust | www.trails.org

Portland Trails is a nonprofit urban land trust transforming Greater Portland into a healthier community for active transportation, conservation, and recreation by creating a network of trails and green spaces that connect people with places.

-Fore River Sanctuary—Mike Bove

-Presumpscot River Preserve—Samaa Abdurraqib

Fore River Sanctuary

The Fore River Sanctuary, an 85-acre preserve, is the home of Jewell Falls, Portland's only natural waterfall, as well as the site of the former Cumberland and Oxford Canal. The lowland area where salt and freshwater marsh meet provides great bird-watching opportunities. The sanctuary encompasses some of the most diverse habitats in Greater Portland. The land is owned by Portland Trails, the City of Portland, and a mix of private landowners.



This bridge leads trail users from the marsh to the forest. Photo by Michael Richard.



MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

Maine

Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) conserves and stewards Maine's coastal lands and islands for their renowned scenic beauty, ecological value, outdoor recreational opportunities, and contribution to community well-being. MCHT provides statewide conservation leadership through its work with land trusts, coastal communities, and other partners.

The Maine coast is a world treasure worth caring for, and we're on a mission to keep it open, healthy, working, and beautiful—now and forever.

-Whaleboat Island—Ian Ramsey

Whaleboat Island

Since 1970, Maine Coast Heritage Trust has partnered with individuals, businesses, organizations, and communities to conserve iconic islands, critical wildlife habitat, coastal watersheds, water access sites, downtown greenspaces, and epic places for people to explore.

Together, we've conserved 170,000 acres, including 330 islands, and we manage 150 public preserves offering 100 miles of trail. Thanks to our growing community of thousands of donors, volunteers, and supporters, the work continues to mitigate the impacts of climate change on the coast, protect vulnerable plants and animals, expand access to the coast, and serve Maine's coastal communities.



Photo: A hiker enjoys the view from Frenchboro Preserve, an MCHT preserve offering 13.5 miles of hiking trails

The Island
by Ian Ramsey

In his forty-fifth year the man, alone in his kayak,
paddle sliding in the washing reverie of the sea,
feels the pelagic rhythms rolling through him,
on the way to Whaleboat Island in Casco Bay
where the islands and peninsulas scatter beneath
spruce, rock, and battered shingled houses
and the rusty channel marker rattles, making
him think of the hundred generations of this place.

Cormorants stare at lobster boats choking belches
of black smoke and lugging rusty wire traps up
the surfish, wind-rolled bay. ACDC screams
from a distant radio. Sternmen shout, glowing
like grubby Grundens pumpkins against the gray.
An Osprey skims the gunmetal sky, cloud-rags
trot across the muted sun, and light sparkles
in shifting beams across the bay's rumpled back.

The next morning, in the slimy intertidal, the man
walks the shore as gulls drop mussels to crack them,
and the island chirps with warblers, two seals
splashing between kelpish rocks just offshore.
The great woodland peoples, his ancestors, this
wild music breathing on the continent's lonely edge
as time upwells across the deep, deep sea.



DSF has been protecting land and improving habitat for sea-run fish for 40 years. We (along with canine Lilly) look hopefully toward a future of bountiful fisheries, healthy habitat and deep community connection to our land and water. Photo by T. Rucosky

Poets' Biographies

Samaa Abdurraqib's poetry can be found in *Cider Press Review*, *Tiny Seed Journal*, and *Enough! Poems of Resistance and Protest. Each Day Is Like An Anchor* (2020) is her first chapbook. She lives in the current and ancestral homelands of the Wabanaki Confederacy.

Natalli Amato is the author of *On a Windless Night* (Ra Press, 2019), and *Burning Barrel* (Finishing Line Press, 2022). Natalli is published by *Rolling Stone*, *Blueline*, and the *Lily Review*, among other publications. She lives in Sackets Harbor, New York.

Ben Boegehold is a poet and teacher. Although he grew up in the Boston suburbs, Ben has found that Maine's interior wildness and rugged coastline are more well suited to his temperament. He recently graduated from the Stonecoast MFA program at the University of Southern Maine.

Mike Bove is the author of *Big Little City* (2018) and *House Museum* (2021). His work has appeared in journals in the US, UK, and Canada, and he was winner of the 2021 Maine Postmark Poetry Contest. He is an Associate Professor at Southern Maine Community College.

Mary Brancaccio has been published in various journals and anthologies, including the 2021 *Writing the Land: Northeast*. Her book *Fierce Geometry*, is forthcoming from Get Fresh Books. Her poetry has been developed into an animated film for an Arts by the People project.

Megan Buchanan is a teaching artist and author of *Clothesline Religion* (Green Writers Press, 2017) which was nominated for the Vermont Book Award. Find her work in *Iterant*, *The Sun Magazine*, *Mom Egg Review*, *A Woman's Thing*, and other journals and anthologies.

Robert Carr is the author of *Amaranth* (Indolent Books: 2016) and *The Unbuttoned Eye*, (3: A Taos Press: 2019) His poetry appears in *the American Journal of Poetry*, *Crab Orchard*, *Lana Turner*, and *Shenandoah*.

Swift Corwin has been working in the forest of New Hampshire since 1982. His work, the land, and his family have inspired him to write a number of poems.

Kara Douglas is a yoga and meditation teacher Her work is published in several anthologies including: *Wait, Poems from the Pandemic* and *A Dangerous New World: Maine Voices on the Climate Crisis*.

Ian-Khara Ellasante (they/them) is an assistant professor at Bates College. Their poetry has won the New Millennium Award and appeared in *We Want It All: An Anthology of Radical Trans Poetics*, *The Feminist Wire*, *The Volta*, *Hinchas de Poesía*, *Nat. Brut*, and elsewhere.

Brian Evans-Jones is from the UK and now lives in New Hampshire. He won the 2017 Maureen Egen Award from Poets & Writers and was Poet Laureate of Hampshire, UK. He publishes resources on poetry at writebetterpoems.com

Jason Grundstrom-Whitney 's poetry has appeared in the *3 Nations Anthology: Native, Canadian & New England Writers*; the *Underground Writers Association's Anthology of Maine*; *Wait , a pandemic anthology*; and *Honoring Nature. Bear, Coyote, Raven* is his first full-length collection of his own.

Margaret A. Haberman has lived in the mountains in Bethel and in the mid-coast, where she writes about the natural spaces of the state. Much of her life has been spent exploring the wild places of Maine and beyond, often on property preserved by local land trusts.

Katherine Hagopian Berry has appeared in *Café Review* and *Feral* among other places. Her first collection, *Mast Year*, was published in 2020 and two collections, *LandTrust* (NatureCulture) and *Orbit* (Toad Hall Editions) are forthcoming in 2022. She is a poetry reader for *The Maine Review*.

Lisa Hibl is Director of the Russell Scholars Program at the University of Southern Maine. Her poems are in the *Black Fly Review*, *Puckerbrush Review*, *California Quarterly*, *Hayden's Ferry Review*, *Hawaii Pacific Review*, *Untidy Candles: A Maine Poetry Anthology*, and the *Spoon River Anthology*.

Valerie Lawson's work has been published in *Café Review*, *About Place Journal*, *The Catch*, *Maine Farms*, and others. Lawson edited *3 Nations Anthology: Native, Canadian & New England Writers* published by Resolute Bear Press, which won the Maine Literary Award for anthology in 2018.

Cynthia Lozier, poet, writer, is working on a second book of essays from her rural home in Maine. Her blog combines short writings, poetry & photographs from the coastline to the mountains and woods.
picsplusparagraphs.blogspot.com

Rodger Martin is author of *For All The Tea in Zhongguó*, *The Battlefield Guide*, and *The Blue Moon Series* (a Small Press Review bi-monthly pick); recipient of an Appalachia award for poetry, NHSCA's award for fiction, fellowships from the NEH, and is published in the US and China.

Lucia Owen taught English and lives in the Bethel area. She was on the Mahoosuc Land Trust board from 2000-2010, and is published in *A Dangerous New World - Maine Voices on the Climate Crisis*, as well as *The Cafe Review*, *Prospectus*, *Rust and Moth* and several anthologies.

Ian Ramsey directs the Kauffmann Program for Environmental Writing and Wilderness Exploration. A licensed Maine Guide and graduate of the Rainier Writing Workshop MFA program, he frequently collaborates with scientists to articulate their research to non-scientists. www.ianramsey.net

Suzanne S. Rancourt works with artists/ recipients, survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury, other life altering traumatic events, or people living with disability challenges, she has developed her experiences with formal education, military service, and 30+ years of professional practice.

Dr. Michael P.H. Stanley is an 11th generation Mainer who attended Harvard College, before matriculating back to Maine under the Tufts Medical School's Maine Track Program. Beyond his clinical duties, he frequently contributes poems and articles to the academic and lay press.

Ellen M. Taylor authored *Humming to Snails*, *Floating*, and *Compass Rose*. Her work has been in the *Café Review*, *New England Review*, and *North American Review*, among others. She holds a doctorate from Harvard University, and currently teaches at the University of Maine, Augusta.

Linda Warren lives in Princeton, Massachusetts with her dogs, where she writes, grows vegetables, fishes for trout, and watches birds, rivers, wildlife, stars, and dragonflies.

Meg Weston retired as President of Maine Media College; previously held leadership positions in media and consumer photography; and founded ThePoetsCorner.org. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing (Lesley University), and writes poetry and non-fiction. volcanoes.com

heather hale wheeler, formerly a freelance writer and editor, is now a high school science teacher in Maine. She finds connection in her local woods every day; she writes poetry for her family and friends as a way of expressing the joy and meaning she finds in nature.

Julian Wise is a senior at University of Vermont, where he is studying food systems and mathematics. Poetry, for him, is more hobby and joy.

Artists' and Essayists' Biographies

Chris Bartlett, Senior Extension Program Manager for Maine Sea Grant in Eastport, works closely with coastal organizations, researchers, and resource managers on commercial fishing and aquaculture.

Martin Bridge (cover artist) Martin's work spans a wide range of media. He bridges realms of science and mysticism in an effort to challenge the cultural paradigms that dictate how we relate to both the natural world as well as our brothers and sisters. thebridgebrothers.com

Christopher Canipe is a full-time RVer who wanders North America. When he's not writing software, he's often studying, exploring, and photographing his natural surroundings. You can find Chris' photos on Instagram at [@christophercanipe](https://www.instagram.com/christophercanipe).

Brett Ciccotelli lives on the rocky coast of Maine, close enough to a few small whitewater rivers and tidal waves and bays that his passions for fresh and salt waters are balanced. He's been lucky to have farmed, taught, and traveled across the United States and the world.

Kaylin Cook is a visual artist based out of southern Maine. She specializes in realism landscape paintings with a sense of empathy, familiarity, and appreciation. She studied at the University of Southern Maine, where she received her BFA in Studio Art. kaylincookart.com

Jane Davis lives in Wayne, Maine, where she enjoys taking photographs and supporting the Kennebec Land Trust as a volunteer steward. Her photographs are inspired by the natural world, and by the stories that can be told through observation and expression.

Tim Glidden has had a long career in Maine land conservation, environmental advocacy and policy including stints running the Land for Maine's Future Program and most recently as the President of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Cheryl Harrington is a long time member of The Kennebec Land Trust. She enjoys hiking and skiing the many varied KLT trails, often seeing new things in old places.

Bob Kofman is a photographer who shares his time between Massachusetts and the Boothbay Region. He has been photographing for about ten years and loves to travel and explore new places finding beauty in nature his inspiration, and being able to capture it is what captives him.

George Leinbaugh settled in Downeast Maine after retiring from the military, and volunteers to conserve the Atlantic Salmon. He is board president of the Downeast Salmon Federation. In his off-time he enjoys fly fishing, kayaking, hunting, and snowshoeing.

Cathy Lookabaugh is Downeast Coastal Conservancy's Membership and Outreach Director and a Registered Maine Guide.

Lis McLoughlin, PhD is founder and director of NatureCulture LLC, and the Writing the Land project. She publishes the Writing the Land anthologies and other books, and produces events such as the online Authors and Artists Festival. nature-culture.net writingtheland.org

Wylie Mitchell had a forty-year career in college admissions and counseling, and now enjoys connecting his interests in photography and nature. Whether hiking, kayaking, cross-country skiing or spending time with his growing family, Wylie is always making photos.

Jim Newton is a passionate amateur photographer who has found in Maine his muse. In addition to the Boothbay Region Land trust, he has volunteered his photography for American Farmland Trust and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

Bailey O'Brien is the Communications and Outreach Coordinator for Portland Trails. She grew up with the Fore River Sanctuary in her backyard and is honored to work for an organization that connects thousands of people with nature.

Ian Brodie Ormon (1937-2014) was a published author of short stories and poetry, an educator in Auburn, ME and a talented artist who sold paintings out of his gallery on the farm, made silver jewelry and restored the family home.

Robin Pinto, Downeast Coastal Conservancy board member, is a landscape historian passionate about revealing the embedded cultural values in all of our lands.

Heather Daniels Pusey's work has grown out of centering integrity, harm reduction, and deep listening, and is focused on creating a more humane pathway forward and inspiring others to reweave their connection with the more than human world. heatherdanielpusey.com

Michael Richard is a photographer, videographer, media creator, and social media content manager based in Midcoast Maine. michaelpeterrichard.com.

Tanya Rucosky is the Land Trust Director of Downeast Salmon Federation. She's working in natural resource protection for 22 years with a focus on conserving waterways both in the US and Australia. Her hobbies include hiking, swimming, gardening and reading.

Drew Sanborn has a master's degree in visual arts and poetry and is a published photographer and poet. He was the editor of two college alumni magazines and produced many college admissions publications. He is recently retired from the academic world and is enjoying the arts.

Margaret Lindsey Sanborn, a Ph.D. in English medieval literature, was a teacher and college dean. She is currently a member of the Community Development Advisory Committee for the Town of Bridgton, Maine, and skis, hikes, and snowshoes.

Cassie Sano lives in Augusta where she paints, and writes and illustrates children's books. A member of the Kennebec Valley Plein Air Painters, The Harlow, and River Arts Association, Cassie enjoys teaching painting and connecting with fellow artists in the community. cassiesanoart.com

Judith Schuppien grew up on the far Downeast coast of Maine. She lived "away," for 18 years, and earned a fine arts degree from The University of Chicago. But she didn't paint seriously until returning to Maine. Her art, at its core, is about loving a place. judithschuppienart.com

Robin Hadlock Seeley is an eighth-generation Mainer, marine scientist, and Certified Senior Ecologist with a love for photography. She is devoted to conserving Maine's wild native seaweed forests from industrial-scale harvesting for fertilizer.

Craig Snapp, educator, landscape photographer, and past Downeast Coastal Conservancy board member, guided the acquisition of and continues to steward Pigeon Hill Preserve.

Peter Southwick is an award-winning photojournalist and educator. He was a staff photographer with the Associated Press and director of photography at *The Boston Globe* before being appointed professor of visual journalism at Boston University.

Mathew Trogner is a photographer specializing in adventure, food, and analog film photography. He is also the Creative Manager for Allagash Brewing Company. searchingtheshadows.com.

Nick Ullo is Executive Director of Boothbay Region Land Trust. He is passionate about conservation and public access, and he enjoys experiencing nature in a variety of ways, including through his photography.

Meg Weston retired as President of Maine Media College; previously held leadership positions in media and consumer photography; and founded ThePoetsCorner.org. She holds an MFA in Creative Writing (Lesley University), and writes poetry and non-fiction. volcanoes.com