

The MAGAZINE of MAINE

Down East

October 2017

Maine's Greatest Views

What to
Expect from
"The Star Fire
Skate Park"
& More

Up A Couple Rocks:

A Maine-inspired personal narrative.

Leonard's Clothing Store:

Get an inside look!

The Round The Mountain Trail:

What you need to know about its construction and fundraising.

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The Camden Skate Park

The hard wheels hit the skatelite, it rolls then smashes the coping with a ping then rolls back in. These noises you can hear from all around the town of Camden, these are the noises of the Starfire Skatepark. This skatepark is "A good spot for kids to get their energy out and exercise" says Gabe Ruesswick, a skatepark user. The Camden skatepark (Starfire skatepark) is a great part of the Camden community, it allows kids to have a fun place to hang out.



Tanner Robinson skating the 6 foot half pipe

It is a nice park made of all skatelite with great features such as a spine, wall ride, half bowl, big bank, small bank, 4 foot half pipe, 2 foot half pipe, 6 foot half pipe, a fun box, a 2 foot drop, and a hubba. In addition to the actual elements there is a handmade grind box and a small round rail. Now for people who might not know what some of these elements are called I will explain, a bank is basically a ramp with no curve at a 30-45° angle, a wall ride is a bank with a piece of skatelite going straight up that you usually just go up on for a second, a spine is 2 quarter pipes put back to back which makes a triangle type shape, a hubba is just a ledge but at a downwards angle, and a fun box is basically just a pyramid.

A great but unknown skatepark in the middle of nowhere

People might think this sounds like just a normal skatepark why would I want to go there? Well "The mini is hype and I shred it all the time and do dank rock to fakies on, by far the mini is the best part of the park" says Matt Parker, a skatepark user. As said by Matt this park has one of the best minis in the state of Maine! This mini is made of 100% skatelite with some of the best coping that you can find. It is both a 4 and a 6 foot pipe, both with perfect transitions. This mini is great. People from Kansas City envy it. And even if you don't like skating pipe this park has a awesome spot for flat ground, perfect boxes and ledges, and an awesome rail. And still you might say well I'm not good enough to skate any of this but this park really does have everything, for beginners there is a small mini park which includes a nice 2 foot half pipe, a 2 foot spine, a 2 foot quarter pipe, a small bank, and a small buttery curb like ledge.



Gardner Griffin kickflipping a small drop

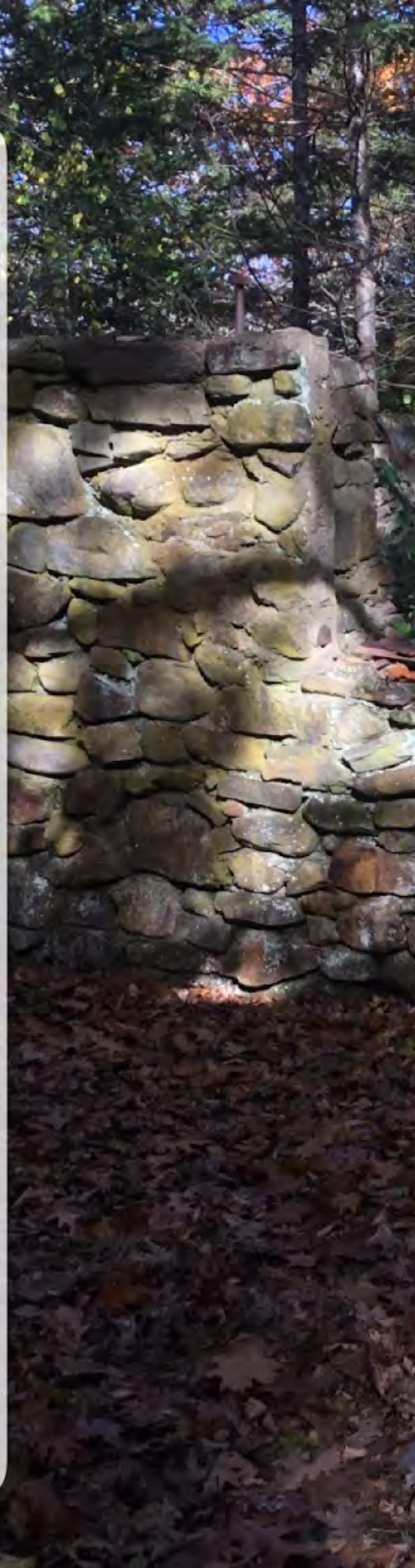
Now you might think that this a good park but you don't know why you would really go. Well the skateboarding community is getting older and there is not a new generation coming after the 8/9th grade generation, and when all the skaters grow up there won't be as many people to skate to park in which case it might get torn down. This would be a tragedy. This park is so nice and it would be a shame to see it go. To get right down to it "This park has everything you need" says Gardner Griffin, a Camden skater. And he is right, this park has just about everything you could ask for. And another great thing about this park is that "the locals are pretty cool" says Gardner Griffin. The people who skate this park are very nice and welcome all skaters young and old. Sometimes they will even help you to learn a trick that you might be struggling with. You can't go wrong coming to this park it has everything from good people to great features. It is worth the drive. It's an awesome park. And you could even help to keep it alive.

Tanner Robinson skating the 2 foot spine



Where In Maine?

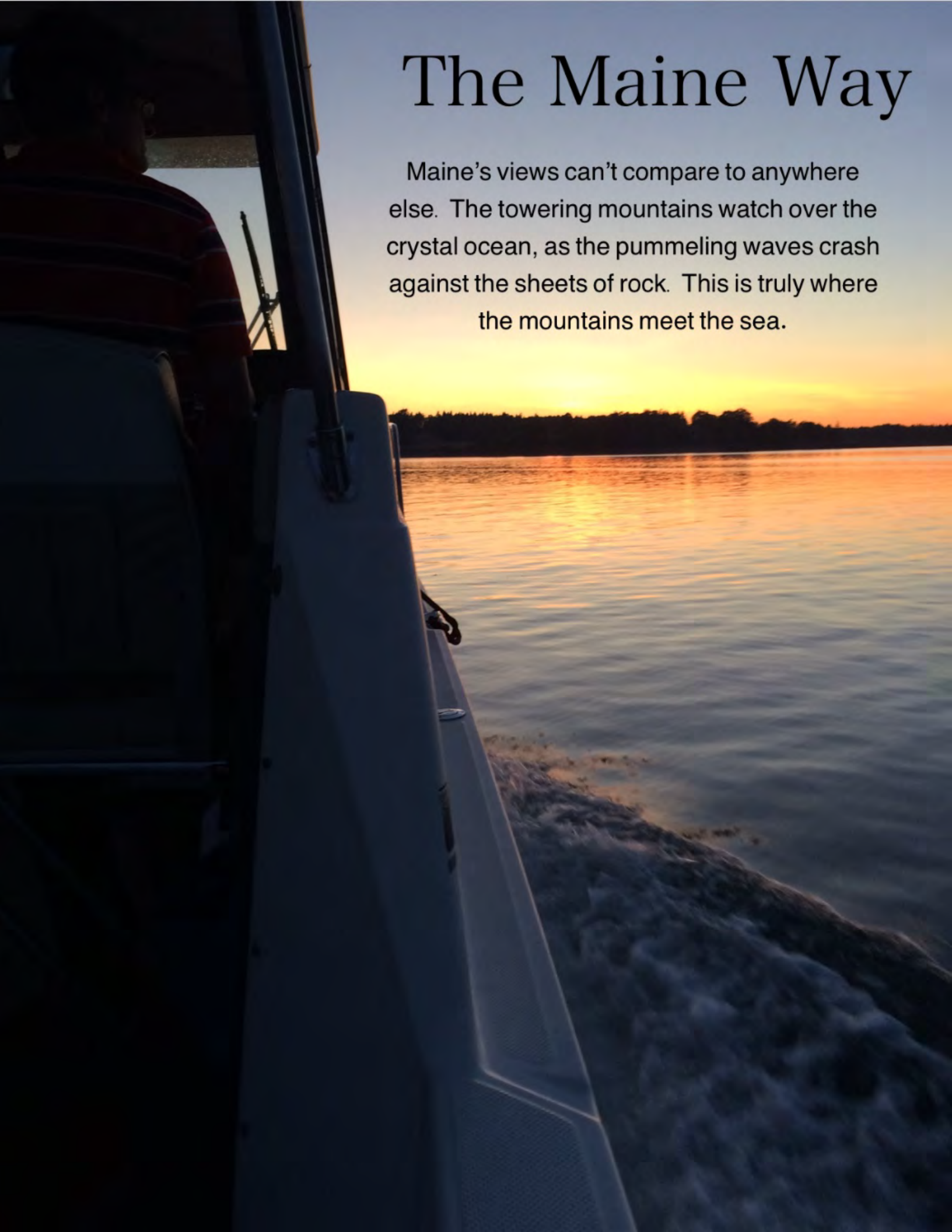
This preserve has gone through quite a lot of changes in its time. It was donated by the Hildreths way back in the late 1800s. It actually had a rusticator's tower on it, from which there was a stunning view of the Atlantic. That rusticator's tower was accessible via a 0.3, easy-to-hike path. Alas, things have changed. The viewpoint has been completely grown over, and it is now difficult to even see the ocean from it. What you see in the photograph is all that remains of the tower. The once great scenic outlook is hardly even known nowadays. When someone familiar with the area was asked how to get to it, they replied, "Never heard of it."





The Maine Way

Maine's views can't compare to anywhere else. The towering mountains watch over the crystal ocean, as the pummeling waves crash against the sheets of rock. This is truly where the mountains meet the sea.



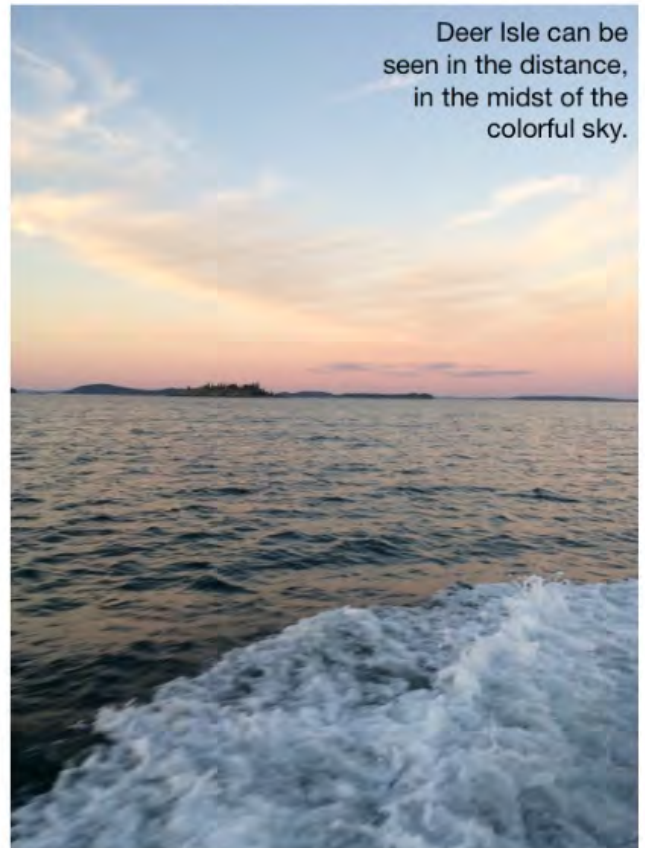
Rightly nicknamed "Vacationland", Maine is one of the most spectacular places in New England. Whether it's a sunny mountaintop scene, or a foggy ocean morning, everyone loves a Maine view. Ocean views are always accessible, as the ocean is never far away in the popular areas of Maine. Chances are any tourist will be a short drive (or even a short walk) away from a beautiful view of the Atlantic. In some places like Camden, "Where the Mountains Meet the Sea", tourists can get views of both oceans and mountains! Maine has a diverse variety of breathtaking views, perfect for anyone with a taste of adventure and an eye for natural beauty.



Bristol, Maine shows to true beauty of Maine's rugged coast.



Deer Isle can be seen in the distance, in the midst of the colorful sky.



Boats are a common sight in the Camden Harbor.



Boats are a sight to see in Rockport harbor.



Camden harbor's sunsets are stunning.



The mist is dense at Owls Head.



Up a Couple Rocks

By: Freya Johanson



Throughout the year my special place changes, from bitter and cold, to warm and luscious. However, no season can change what my place means to me.

The leaves, scattered all around, crunch and crackle under my shoes as I walk, step by step. My dog, Thor is by my feet, as we trudge on. His black fur looked sleek under the light, his tail beating back and forth, and his bright pink tongue panting in the sun.

I spy rocks and boulders, some small and round, others huge boulders perfect for sitting on and taking a break from the long hike. I reach over and grab a handful of brightly colored leaves, shades of orange and red like I've never seen before, and I

close my hand into a fist, hearing the satisfying crunch of the dried autumn leaves.

As I take a deep breath, I could imagine the typical fall pumpkin smell filling my nose. Fallen trees and branches litter the ground, creating the look of a scenic, forest ecosystem. I look up, at the light streaming through the trees, and I watch colorful leaves float down from above. It is fall.

I retrace my footprints, only this time, my surroundings look completely different. It's my favorite time of the year, winter. As I hike up, I feel the biting of the temperature, stinging me every time a snowflake touches my skin. The sky is a hazy, gloomy gray, clouds clustered in clumps of puffy white. The rocks are covered with a thin layer of ice,

that seems harmless at first, but I've had my fair share of how treacherously it can be.

As I walk around, I observe my surroundings. All is quiet and still. The ground crunches, as my shoes break through the icy snow. The trees, stripped of all of their leaves, are lined with snow, and icicles hanging off of the tree branches and rocks. Every gust of wind whips up the freshly fallen snow, sweeping it into a whirlwind of white. Reaching down, I grasp a handful snow, so cold my fingers go numb. There's something about it, maybe the cold, fresh air, or the way the snow looks, just like a blanket, coating everything and anything in sight, that makes winter in my special place, well, special. The travel is hard and dangerous, but as you continue to climb up, the view makes it completely worth it. As I sit down on the rock, I can watch the snow falling in the distance. Looking out, the hills in the distance are almost impossible to see through the thick and dense fog.

I can't believe that it's already spring. Time flies by. The mountain has a whole different feel to it, one that is completely different to Mt. Battie in the winter. Everything is beginning to feel alive again. Although snow and ice are still visible, the frost is beginning to melt, slowly but surely, more and more each day until the trace that winter had left had completely disappeared.

The heat of the sun's powerful rays gently warm through my skin. The air is clean and fresh and I breathe in. Leaves are beginning to grow again on the trees, and small plants peek through the thawing ground. You can tell that animals are back, and even though they aren't in sight, the rustling of leaves is a sure sign that they have returned. What a wonderful time it is spring.

Summer is finally here, and I couldn't be more excited. I love winter and all, but it's nice to have a change of scenery. The sun shines through the trees leaves once again,

“Every gust of wind whips up the freshly fallen snow, sweeping it into a whirlwind of white.”

and all I can see is green. The fresh air fills my lungs with every breath I take.

Hikes up the mountain to my special place get harder and harder as the days go on, with the intensity of the heat continuing to rise. However, the difficulty of the travel only makes reaching the destination even more special.

Within a couple minutes I arrive. The boulder sits on the edge of a cliff, and as I sit down, my legs and feet dangles over the edge. Looking up, the view is spectacular. I can see the outline of mountains in the distance, the green rolling hills putting a smile on my face.

Everyone has a place. A special place. Somewhere that makes them happy, where they can go and find peace. Mine is pretty important to me, and although I've only been in Maine a little over a year, I've found this place where I can go. Up a couple rocks, it takes a hike to get to the destination. Even though this place is a simple rock, it's not what the rock is that makes it special, it's what it means.

I know that I can go there when I'm feeling sad or happy, nervous or bored, and I can just rest up there. Knowing that is what makes it so special. Whether the snow is falling, or the colorful autumn leaves are just beginning to fall, or on a cold windy day, or if it's pouring down rain, I can always find comfort.

Making my way down the mountain, I can't help but smile. This is my place.

Freya Johanson is a 9th grade student from Camden Hills Regional High School who loves to travel and explore new things.

Welcome to Leonard's!

Leonard's is a store that has been around for 8+ years. It a friendly, happy environment in Midcoast Maine that is owned by two spectacular people, Nancy Leonard and her daughter Jessica.

By Paige Chester

stop in to say hello, she is always ready for a question, a conversation, or even helping a customer pick out a wonderful new necklace.

Leonard's began around 12 years ago. Nancy worked at the shop for her sister-in-law, Linda who first opened the store. Nancy wanted to take over the store and when Linda retired, she transformed the store into what is now known as classy women's

boutique. Nancy was a hard worker and still continues to work hard daily. She is a fun-loving lady who is extremely funny. Her customers love to come back day to day.

Leonard's moved downtown 2 years ago and loves it. "We definitely get lots more foot traffic" Jessica says, she is the co-owner and employee of Leonard's. This wonderful store has become

something that has

a big community aspect, the store serves cider at Christmas by the Sea, or has some sidewalk sales.

"We love our community and are glad to share our quaint little boutique with it." Nancy says.

The shop felt that this move made the store the best it can be. They are very glad that they got the opportunity to move the location.



The back area of the store which Nancy says displays the "fancier clothing"

In the hustle and bustle of Camden Maine, Nancy Leonard is in her quiet shop in downtown Camden ready to start the day. Nancy looks out at her pride and joy, her store Leonard's. She's owned Leonard's for 8 years and worked at for 12. She loves her job and the people that

The store is always warm and inviting on cold days or warm days. The outside blends into the streets of Camden and looks like any other store, but the flower boxes are so inviting that they pique your interest just in time to walk into the front door. The oak

“She loves her job and the people that stop in to say hello”

Leonard's has so many different things to find in the cracks and crevasses of the room. Leonard's has a unique appeal to all it's customers that keep them coming back.

The architecture that could bring in these customers is the employees of the store. Mona, another worker of the store, Jessica and Nancy are always open to answering any questions about brands or even names of restaurants. Leonard's is always friendly and ready to help.

Nancy's favorite thing about the store is the family aspect. “Our co-workers and customers have become our family.” “I love Leonard's, and I can always count on them for a good laugh and experience” a loyal friend and customer Licia says. The conversations in the building keep Nancy happy in her job and even happier she took over Leonard's when she did, or she wouldn't have this life. Nancy loves to be in her store and interact with her customers daily.



The outside of the store, blends into the sidewalk of Camden Maine, but the amazing flowers or unique location on the corner

floors call out to you and the metal shelving is a wonderful addition. The buildings architecture is wonderful. It has amazing designs on the ceiling, that if you look close enough have detailed designs and isn't like anything you would ever find. The decor includes great rugs, tables and chairs. They carry many brands such as Planet, Wooden Ships, or Lilia P. Can you find a sweater? Of course! Can you find a watch? Indeed!

"I love that my job lets me talk to all kinds of different people."

Leonard's has anything to offer anyone who might come in the store. They have clothes for all types of women and all types of jewelry. They offer casual clothes or formalwear. They are a real pleasure to visit and are always funny and happy and great to talk too during a day of shopping. Leonard's is open most days and always has new clothes coming in, they would love to meet you, because Leonard's is a perfect oasis to get out of the hustle and bustle of Camden Maine.



The store has many clothing options for anyone who wants to shop

Contact Leonard's
Phone: (207) 236-3999
Address: Elm St, Camden Maine
Facebook: Leonards
Leonards is open most everyday
from 10-5

Berketville Jewelers

Shine Brighter

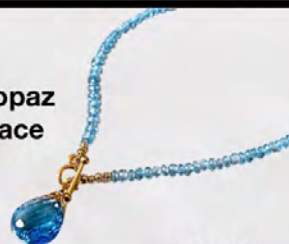


\$199.99



Sapphire Blue Cubic Zirconia

**Blue Topaz
Necklace**



\$79.99

We'll Be Coming Around the Mountain

See what progress is being made on the longest trail on Ragged Mountain.
By Jonathan McDevitt

The forest around Ragged Mountain glows with vibrant reds, greens, and yellows, and the blue lakes shimmer when there's a light breeze. This is forest in danger of human development. The Round the Mountain Trail will protect it. Finally, after many years, the Round the Mountain Trail creation has begun.

Ragged Mountain is best known as Camden's ski mountain, but it is also a four-season recreation mountain. I walked on the Round the Mountain Trail once. I originally was running, but I wound up walking. I had been running for three miles up the

mountain, nonstop, over rocks and around bends, so I was tired. It kind of had me in a trance. Then I looked up. I saw a sight that would for sure make me come back to the trail. The light of the sunset caused the top fifteen feet of the trees to glow, and the darkness of the lower forest made the upper forest look even brighter. Some birds chirped softly in the canopy of the forest, which added to the dreamy effect. I just walked along the trail looking up for a while. It was a beautiful walk.

2.5 miles of the Round the Mountain Trail are already built, but the rest of the



Along with many other animals, turkeys live on Ragged Mountain.

Round the Mountain Trail is currently in its fundraising stage. It will make a nine-mile loop around Ragged Mountain, which is mostly protected by Coastal Mountains Land Trust (CMLT). Ragged Mountain and the land around it is home to all sorts of Maine wildlife. Many deer, moose, and bears fascinate hikers as they walk along. A very dense forest of maple, ash, birch, spruce, and pine trees thrive in it. The trees of the forest provide shelter to small bushes, ferns, and caribou moss. The warmth of the spring and summer cause plants to sprout up from the earth and the leaves to return to the trees, then the fall chill turns the leaves brown, bright yellow and vibrant red. The smell of dry leaves and earth cover the mountain. Many mountain bikers fly across the trails in the fall. The winter, however, is when the mountain is most popular, because it is a ski mountain. People from all over New England are able to ski seventeen slopes and glades, and look out at the ocean while doing so. The mountain is blanketed by snow. This is a beautiful mountain that all kinds of people care about and is without question worth protecting. With the threat of human development everywhere, everyone wants to make sure that nothing happens to this wildlife that we have. With the construction of the Round the Mountain Trail and the purchasing of land easements, almost all of the mountain will be protected and accessible to the public.

“The light of the sunset caused the top fifteen feet of the trees to glow, and the darkness of the lower forest made the upper forest look even brighter. Some birds chirped softly in the canopy of the forest.”

Coastal Mountains Land Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) are the organizations that are working to create this



A portion of the Round the Mountain Trail that has already been built.

trail. Ian Stewart joined CMLT in 2002, and became the executive director in 2015. He was born in Seattle, and has been interested in nature all his life. He really cares about this land. According to Stewart, the Round the Mountain Trail is a trail that was “developed as a concept in 2005 or so” because CMLT wanted to expand recreation to all kinds of users, to tie together a lot of other trails, and to simply show “the beauty and ecological values of the mountain.” He said, “Only after getting started on the project for a few years...did we develop the idea of the Round the Mountain Trail.” The Round the Mountain Trail will extend the amount of trails on Ragged Mountain from fifteen miles to twenty two miles. This trail will be open year round, and for the use of Nordic skiers, mountain bikers, hikers, runners, etc. The building of this trail is supposed to start in 2019, and be completed in 2020. However, it’ll only be done in 2020 if they raise enough money. They are currently trying to raise \$4.2 million for the trail.

CMLT and MCHT are doing all sorts of fundraising to create and maintain this trail. They need \$3.2 million to buy all the land easements, and \$1 million for constructing and maintaining the trail. However, lots of



Mirror Lake in the fog.

people and companies are happy to just donate money to protect Ragged Mountain. CMLT has a section of their website where people can donate to them. People can choose how much they want to donate as well as choose the frequency of donation. They get certain perks based on how much they donate, such as being invited to parties. Donations really help the efforts for the trail. The biggest donor is Maine Water Company. They have donated 200,000 dollars to help CMLT build the trail. The president of Maine Water Company, Judy Wallingford, really wants to protect the land. She said, "It's been my vision for many years to protect those mountains." She knows CMLT will take great care of the land. Many other people agree that this beautiful land should be protected.

So, why did Maine Water Company donate so much to the Round the Mountain

Trail project? Maine Water Company owns Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond, so they are the ones that CMLT would buy the easements from. The Round the Mountain Trail will pass right by Mirror Lake. Maine Water Company filters water from Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond and supplies it to everyone. They test the water for more than ninety contaminants every day, because they want to be sure that the water is completely safe. That's why they want to prevent development on the land around Mirror Lake and Grassy Pond. With CMLT protecting it, nothing will ever pollute the water in the two lakes.

One recent fundraising event was Our Mountain Voices on September 22, in the Camden Opera House. People were able to speak their mind about nature and things like that. All kinds of people performed, but all the performances were about nature. This

event wasn't just people performing, though. It was also a silent auction. After all the speeches were done, everyone went upstairs, where about 40 pieces of art were being auctioned. Every item was made on a slab of wood, to keep with the nature theme. Most of the pieces were about the forest. While people were bidding, everyone chatted and laughed and had a great time. The auction raised \$6,600 in total, with the top selling piece going for \$1,005. Many of the people who were there were very interested in the art. The speeches about nature definitely helped attract people who would buy that kind of art.

The fundraising isn't the only part of preparing the trail, however. CMLT also needs to buy land easements to 1,400 acres of the woods. They are going to buy two big easements, both of them from Maine Water Company. There are a few smaller easements that they are buying as well. One big easement is 790 acres and surrounds Mirror Lake. CMLT wants to purchase this by no later than the end of 2017. The other is 501 acres around Grassy Pond. This easement will actually be sold to CMLT for half the appraised price. They want to buy this easement by the end of 2019. CMLT will need more money to buy this easement. This 1,400 acres as well as the land CMLT already has will protect 85% of Ragged Mountain and Bald Mountain. The cost of building the trail and maintaining it will be \$1 million. The good news is that Stewart is very confident that CMLT will be able to buy the Mirror Lake easement by the end of 2017.

One big obstacle for creating this trail is making the trail accessible to all types of users in the steep areas. Stewart said that they "need to be extra careful [at the north and south end of the mountain] to build a trail that does not cause soil erosion and

impact water quality in the Mirror Lake Watershed." This is a crucial and difficult step to building the trail, and a step that needs to be done with great care.

This trail will attract all kinds of people. Mountain bikers are already over the top for this trail, and they already have plans to build a beginner trail, a medium-difficulty trail, and a very technical trail, as well as some single track. Runners also are extremely excited for this trail to be built. There are weekly Wednesday morning runs that the Trail Runners of Midcoast Maine put on, and they plan to have those runs on the Round the Mountain Trail when it is done. Emily McDevitt is a very enthusiastic trail runner, and a member of Trail Runners of Midcoast Maine. She helped create the Trail Runners of Midcoast Maine in the spring of 2016, and she has been one of the group's leaders ever since then. She is also a member of the Round the Mountain Trail committee. She said she plans to run on it a couple of times a week, and "hopes that once it's built, lots of trails will go off of it."

The Round the Mountain Trail has taken a long time to get going. There are so many steps to create something of that scale. Coastal Mountains Land Trust needs to fundraise, buy the land easements, build the trail, avoid affecting the water quality in Mirror Lake, make the trail accessible to all, and all the while make sure they stay in their budget. However, over ten years later, they have made concrete steps toward creating the trail. Everyone wants to see the trail finished and the beautiful land we have protected. Human growth is constantly destroying ecosystems. Species are disappearing by the day, and we're always hearing about global warming. However, this trail will save the beautiful forest we have forever.

Jonathan McDevitt is fourteen years old, and lives in Camden Maine. He is a freshman Camden Hills Regional High School. He was born on March 7, 2003 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Since the writing of this article, CMLT has won \$500,000 from Land for Maine's Future for having the winning proposal for a grant! There were 24 proposals submitted in total.

The Smoothie Shack!

Welcome to the Smoothie Stand. We are located in scenic Camden Maine in the downtown. We are open in the summer for a nice refreshing smoothie. So don't be shy, stop in! We sell a variety of of smoothies as well as wraps and salads!

Our hours are:

Every day of the week from 10:30 AM to 4 PM!

