

Hands Working Together:

Leave no Trace or Leave a Beautiful Trace? Creating a shared vision for a new relationship to place in Maine.

September 25 and 26, 2020

Would a land trust manage their forestland to produce an old growth birch to be harvested by a future Wabanaki craftsperson in 2090? How do western conservation values of “leave no trace” conflict with Native values around living on the land and leaving a beautiful trace? Are we able to move beyond old concepts of “stewardship” to a new relationship between people and the land and between people themselves?

These provocative questions will all be engaged in *Hands Working Together: Leave no Trace or Leave a Beautiful Trace*, a virtual First Light gathering to discuss a shared vision for living with the land. By exploring these issues, and understanding the long history of Native land dispossession, we build cultural competency among the land trusts while also exploring other ways that they might steward their conserved lands that open possibilities for Wabanaki access and use.

Friday, September 25

- 9:00am Opening prayer from Carol Dana who will also speak on Stewardship Versus Relationship and Dominion versus Being Part of the Circle.
- 10:30 Gabriel Paul nàwiki panáwəpskek wəpánahki nàya mkasessəwákotam speaks to access to the land for language and cultural reclamation.
- 1:00 Chief Sabattis, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indian, speaks to the importance of access to the land for protecting ancestors.
- 2:30 Natalie Dana, a Passamaquoddy/Penobscot member and a graduate student at the University of Maine-Orono, speaks to access to ancient sites for story and ancestral knowledge.
- 4:00 Kyle Lolar speaks to access to land for relationships to plants and medicines.

Saturday, September 26

- 9:00 am Alivia Moore (she//they), of the Penobscot Nation, is a two-spirit community organizer who will speak on Land access as the foundation for Restoring Matriarchies.
- 10:30 Lakotah Sanborn, a direct tribal descendent from Penobscot Nation, speaks about the racial disparities at the heart of land access and the importance of Rematriation for healing traumas.
- 1:00 Tony Sutton speaks to access to rivers as places where historical tensions can be understood and healed.
- 2:30 John Dennis, the Cultural Director for the Aroostook Band of MicMacs, speaks to access to land for the ceremony of hunting.
- 4:00 Donald Soctomah, author and Passamaquoddy culture bearer, concludes our gathering by speaking about access to land to cultivate relationships that leave a beautiful trace.