

Enjoy Your Visit!

Visitors are welcome to walk the preserve trails during daylight hours.

Please respect our neighbors by remaining on SVCA property.

Leave No Trace: please carry out what you carry in and do not take souvenirs.

As hunting is permitted, both hunters and hikers should use extreme caution during hunting season.

Dogs should be under the control of their owners at all times and on leash during the nesting season (May – July).

No fires, please.

Directions

From the South:

From Route 1 in Wiscasset, follow Route 218 north for 7.25 miles to the Bass Falls Preserve parking lot and kiosk, which are located in a field on the right.

From the North:

Follow Route 218 south to the Alna Store, which is located at the intersection of Route 218 and Dock Road in Alna. The Bass Falls Preserve parking lot and kiosk are located in a field on the left, 1/4 mile south of the Alna Store on Route 218.



Join Us!

The Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (SVCA) is a member-supported, non-profit land trust and advocacy group located in the picturesque Sheepscot River Valley. Since 1969, we have worked to protect the precious natural and historic resources of the Sheepscot River watershed.

We currently protect over 3,000 acres of land through purchases and conservation easements, monitor the water quality of the river, advocate for the river and all its inhabitants and provide at-cost Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping services to non-profit environmental organizations and area towns.

- Member *(Any contribution earns membership)*
- Contributor *(\$40)*
- Supporter *(\$50)*
- Defender *(\$100)*

My check is enclosed.
or charge to my: VISA MasterCard
Card # _____ Exp. _____
Name on card _____
Signature _____

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ ST: _____ ZIP: _____
EMAIL: _____

**Detach and mail to: SVCA, 624 Sheepscot Road
Newcastle, ME 04553**

Or sign up online at www.sheepscot.org

All contributions are tax-deductible.

*For more information, please contact the SVCA at
(207) 586-5616 or email svca@sheepscot.org*



Bass Falls Preserve

Alna, Maine



**Sheepscot Valley
Conservation Association**

Bass Falls History

The Preserve

In 1997, the SVCA acquired the 32-acre riverfront property that became the Bass Falls Preserve. At the same time, the front 35 acres where the parking lot is located were protected by a conservation easement held by SVCA. The Preserve was named in honor of the small waterfall that is seen at low tide and for the striped bass that inhabit the river.

Then, in 2005 and 2009, the SVCA was given 4 acres and raised funds to purchase another 180 acres of land that expand the Preserve to a total of 216 acres. Eighty acres of the Preserve are on the east side of the River. The 136 acres on the west side now contain an expanded trail system and are open for hiking, hunting and fishing.

An abutting 250 acres was also placed under conservation easement held by the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine that protects the active tree farm and historic property in view across the river from the Preserve. The entire project was made possible with the help of SVCA members and funding from the Land for Maine's Future Program, the Landowner Incentive Program, the Recovery Land Acquisition Grant Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other state and private funders.

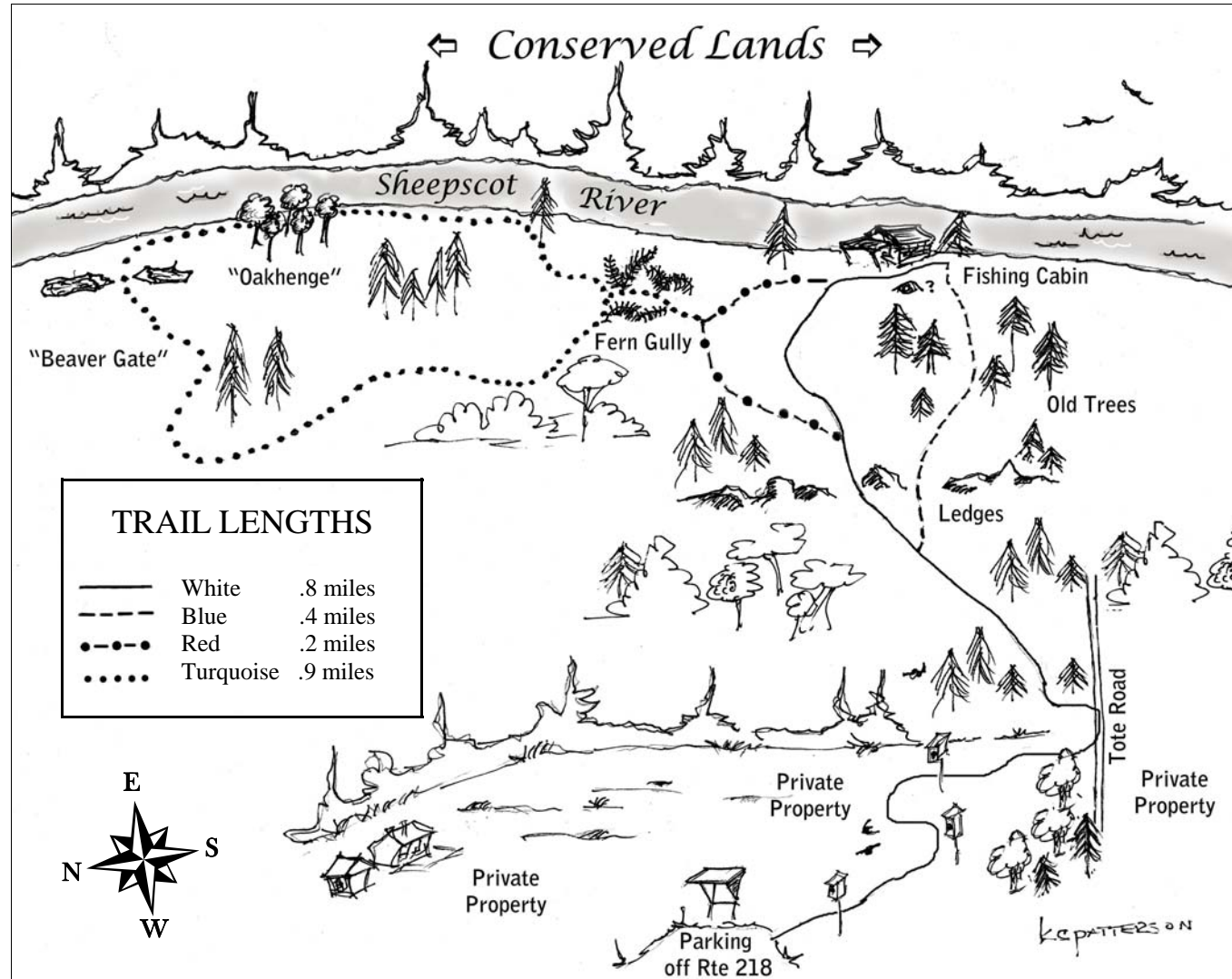
The Preserve was created to protect habitat important to the bald eagle, wild Atlantic salmon and other anadromous fish that use the river. The rare and threatened plant communities that line the nearly 3 miles of riverfront are also now protected forever while the forestland will be managed for wildlife habitat.

Huge old pines along the blue trail are reminiscent of the area's forests before the logging boom of the 1800's when many tall trees were cut for ships' masts.

The Buildings

The old fishing cabin perched on the river was brought to the property in 1965 by its builder Stephen June and his uncle Clifton Walker. It was delivered to the property by a faithful John Deere tractor known as "Big John." The two men

Preserve Map



used the cabin for many years as a fishing camp.

An outhouse, estimated to be over 100 years old, is situated east of the cabin along the trail. It was previously located near the old Alna meetinghouse on Route 218. A colorful painting of an eyeball, added in the 1960s, adorns the side of the outhouse, which is no longer operational.

Wildlife

Look for eastern bluebirds near the nest boxes. Male bluebirds are brilliant blue with a red breast, while females are grayish-blue above with a beige colored breast. Other native bird species such as tree swallows, house wrens and black-capped chickadees may also use these boxes. Bobolinks and eastern meadowlarks may nest in the field so please keep dogs on a leash during nesting season (May through the end of July). When you walk along the river keep a lookout for bald eagles and osprey. Both species nest in the area and are seen frequently along the river.