Gray Community Endowment & Friends of Libby Hill

Promoting Community Through Open Space Recreation
Libby Hill Forest
November 7th 2019

- Learn history of volunteers at Libby Hill
- Who owns Libby Hill?
- Why promote Libby Hill?
- What it takes to keep it going?
Libby Hill Trails Inventory

- 6 miles of groomed ski and multi use trials
- 2.5 miles of single track hiking trails
- Website with 500 unique visitors per month
- Shed for equipment
- 1 Snowmobile & 1 ATV with Tracks
- 3 Ski Trail Groomers
- Tree ID signs & Orienteering Course
- Kiosks at parking lot and one trail head
How it all Began

Daniel Libby
The pioneer came to New Boston
A.D. 1764
He gave the town the land
now occupied
by town house and cemetery
To be nobly remembered is better
than to be nobly born
This memorial is erected
by the Libby family
"Lest we forget"
A.D. 1910
Libby Hill
1762–1970

Owned and Settled by the descendents of Daniel Libby, one of the original settlers of Gray (New Boston)
1973

73 Acres donated to the town by the Dow family, descendents of Daniel Libby.
The Libby Hill Forest seeks to provide the community of Gray with a public space that facilitates trail-based activities, that have a low impact on the land which preserves and promotes educational, recreational, and natural resources.
Libby Hill: Timeline

- 1971 – 73 Acres donated to town
- 1999 – Trail committee established by town council
- 2000 – Trails roughed out
- 2000 – Project Of The Year – Presented by Town of Gray
- 2001 – 5 miles Trails opened... trail committee stopped meeting, website opened
1999–2001

- 5 Miles of multi-use recreation trails created
- Built with the help of over 100 volunteers and a $27,000 Maine Forest Service grant.
- [www.LibbyHill.org](http://www.LibbyHill.org) goes live
Libby Hill: Timeline

- Gray Community Endowment Formed
- 2001 – SkiDoo Skandic Snowmobile & Tidd Tech Groomer
- 2001 – Storage Shed Built
  - Equipment and Materials Purchased From Timber Proceeds
Libby Hill: Timeline

- 2003 & 2004 – Harold Libbey parcels donated to GCE (46 acres)
- 2005 – Cell Tower Built
- 2007 – 2.5 Hiking Trails finished on GCE Land
2003–2004

45 Acres Donated to GCE by Richard & Wilbert Libbey

"HAROLD T. LIBBEY TRAIL"
THE GRAY COMMUNITY ENDOWMENT ACKNOWLEDGES AND THANKS HAROLD'S SONS RICHARD LIBBEY & WILBERT LIBBEY FOR THEIR DONATION OF THE 45 ACRES THAT SUPPORT THIS TRAIL SYSTEM. 2003 — 2004
2004 –2007

Harold Libbey and Outback trails built.
2009 – Hancock Land Purchased by GCE

- Total Purchase $160,000 Initially Privately Financed
  - Land for Maine’s Future $69,000
  - Fund Raising/Donations $51,000
  - Town of Gray $25,000
  - Davis Foundation $7,500
  - Fields Pond Foundation $7,500
Libby Hill: Timeline

- 2009 – Friends of Libby Hill – Formed
- 2012 – Arctic Cat Bearcat & Yellow Stone Groomer Acquired by GCE
Libby Hill: Timeline

- 2015 – Polaris Sportsman ATV Acquired by GCE
Trails use these properties

- Town of Gray
- SAD 15
- Gray Community Endowment
- Durgin & Rogers
Events

- Longest Day Running Race
- High School & Middle School Cross Country Running & Nordic Teams Practice and Races
- High School and Middle School Classes
- Outdoor Club
Core Volunteers

- Carl Holmquist
- Tracy Ross
- Wayde Gendreau
- Jim Wurgler
- John Keller
- Anne Gass
- Tom Baiocchi
- Dean Bennett
- Sandy Carder
- Rick & Dennis McCann – McCann Fabrication

- Steve McPike
- Dana Giggey
- Jeff McEvoy
- Matt Johnson
- Barney Boynton
- Wayne Wood
- Doug Wilson
- Brian Edwards
- Jamie Carder
Trail Work by Friends of Libby Hill

- Remove small brush from existing ski trails
- Tree Pruning
- Bush Hogging
- Beaver Damage
- Remark Survey Lines
- Signage
- Seasonal Cleanup
- Storm Damage
- Event Hosting
Activities – Year Round Options

- 30 minutes from Portland, Lewiston, and Brunswick
- Dry Trail Terrain
- Good Parking
- Safe
- Accessible to 1000 students of GNG
- 30–50 more inches of snow than Portland
- Free Access
- Exceptional Mapping and Trail Marking
- Virtual Support at www.Libbyhill.org
Groomed X-Country Skiing
Snowshoeing
Hiking Trails
Water Features
Exceptional Running Options!
Mountain biking
Four Geocaches
Eight Orienteering Courses

Maps available at www.LibbyHill.org
Dog Walking
Nature Watching
History

- 250 Years of Libby Family History
- 19th Century Farm Artifacts
- Granite Quarry
- Stonewalls
Red Pine
(Norway Pine)
Pinus Resinosa

Common, but found only locally throughout the state, growing on dry, rocky ridges, or light, sandy soil. Groves are usually scattered through forests of other species. They attain heights of 60-80' and a diameter of 2-3'. The bark is divided into broad, flat ridges by shallow cracks. Leaves are arranged in clusters of 2 and are 3-8" long, dark green, soft and flexible. The cones are much like an egg in shape and about 2" long. The wood is a little heavier and harder than white pine. The name Norway Pine refers to its original finding near Norway, Maine.
Guided Tours and Events
Horses Allowed on Some Trails
Multi-Use Trails

- 5+ Miles
- Root and Rock Free
- Park Like Experience
- Designed by Olympian John Morton
- Mowed in Summer
- Maine Conservation Land (No Hunting)
Hiking/Biking/Snowshoe Trails

- 3.5 Miles of traditional trails (3–5 feet wide)
- Closer contact to nature
- No motorized vehicles or horses
• 1.5 Miles Connected to 14 additional Miles of motorized trails in the Libby Hill Quadrant

• Provide unlimited options for ‘back country’ exploration
Open for Business!
February 1, 2013 by Steve McPike | Comments Off

Lynx Trail

After a long snow drought, over 30 inches of snow fell this week to transform Libby Hill Trails into a
Financial Support

Gray Community Endowment
- Events
- Donations
- Grants

MSAD 15
- Athletic Department

Town of Gray
- Recreation Department
Gray Community Endowment

Our Mission
Provide strategic leadership and resources to help make Gray a healthy, vibrant, and sustainable community.

- Board Members
  - Carl Holmquist
  - Sharon Giggey
  - Val Razsa
Volunteers

- 1,000 hours per year volunteer time to keep the trails open and thriving

We Need You

• Come Check Out The Trails
• Be Respectful Of All Users
• Spread The Word
Thank You!