

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

BLUE HILL / BROOKLIN / BROOKSVILLE / PENOBSCOT / SEDGWICK / SURRY

Ken-Rose Farm Easement Completed – Another Success for Farmland Forever Program



Flossie and Kendall Howard, who
signed an agricultural easement on
their 150-acre farm in Blue Hill.



KEN-ROSE FARM on Route 15 in North Blue Hill is a well-known local landmark. The small farm, which is also a bed and breakfast, produces some of the best butter, cream and milk around. Kendall and Flossie Howard oversee a small herd of milking cows, a few pigs, chickens, turkeys, some sheep, a rabbit or two, a home vegetable garden, about 20 acres of blueberries, an old orchard and beautiful rolling hay fields. The 150-acre property also contains USDA prime agricultural soils.

The Howards and Blue Hill Heritage Trust agreed on the terms of an agricultural conservation easement in early July. The Howards have worked hard for many years to make the farm what it is today – it has been in the Howard family for generations. Both Kendall and Flossie wanted to make sure that their hard work would not be paved over, chopped up or covered

with sprawling development when they're gone. With the addition of this new property, the Trust has now protected a contiguous cluster of 250 acres on both sides of this scenic stretch of Route 15.

The preservation of farmland is a Trust priority

Blue Hill Heritage Trust has identified farmland as one of this area's priority land types worthy of protection efforts. The Blue Hill Peninsula contains many small farms with excellent soils, that if given the chance and protected from subdivision and soil stripping, could (if they aren't already) become economically viable, enhancing the peninsula's rural character, open space and food production potential. The Trust's *Farmland Forever* program has focused much of its attention on the corridor of good farmland that runs along Route 15 from

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New Osgood Trail Open to Public Use

by Jessica Kelly

Over the past few years Blue Hill Heritage Trust has worked very hard to improve the deteriorating conditions of the Osgood Trail on Blue Hill Mountain. To enhance their efforts, I was hired through AmeriCorps as a Volunteer Coordinator. This was a wonderful opportunity to work with such an active and proficient conservation land trust, and it also gave me the chance to become involved with the community.

The volunteer season began in early June and continued through

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Osgood Trail Restoration Project



Some of the many volunteers who helped out on the Osgood Trail this year.

New stone and drainage ditches should help keep the first section of the trail from getting so muddy in future. These ditches are on ongoing project.



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October. During the summer months we worked on correcting erosion damage and drainage problems. With the help of volunteers, we were able to construct 155 feet of drainage ditch, nine rock waterbars, and a set of stepping-stones.

Next, we began to focus on relocating the worst section of the trail. This involved more technical trail building methods, including large stone moving and step building. Therefore we relied on the help of Lester Kenway, former trail manager of Baxter State Park, to lead us in the construction of two stone staircases. With his leadership we were able to complete work on a 29-step staircase and a 33-step staircase. To complete this project we had to put three bridges at the start of the new trail to keep hikers out of the wet areas, and we also piled old logs and brush in the eroded areas of the old trail to protect the soil and discourage further use. We hope people will use only the marked trail.

Blue Hill Mountain finally has a trail that it deserves. Thank you to all the following individuals and businesses who made this volunteer project a success.

Patrick Allen, Cristin Bailey, Wes Barton, Lani Bensheimer, Mike Candage, Peter Clapp, Jane Clifton, Leslie Cummins, Ben Danu, Alison and Keith Dibble, Jim Dow, Meredith Eley, Lyrica Hammann, Pam Johnson, Kick Kane, Joe Keating, Mike Laub, Jeanna Leclerc, Barbara Lennie, Sarah McCoy, John Miller, Lorenzo and Quinn Mitchell, Paul Mulroy, Arrian Myrick, Mary Offutt, Silvia Pigors, Jackie Pike, Tom Poole, Hernan Raue, Elsa Sanborn, Tim Seabrook, Carl Simone, Susan Shetterly, Anne Walker, Patrick Watson, Gabrielle Wellman, David Westlake, Zoe Wildwyn-Baird, Peter Williams, Byron Wiswell.

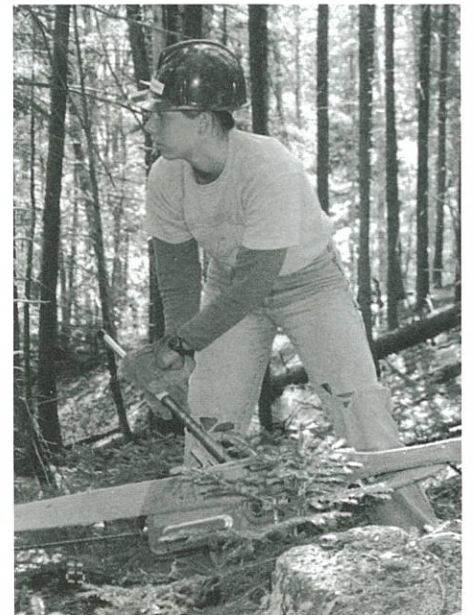
Blue Hill Food Co-op, The Bay School, M.E. Astbury & Sons (donated rock screenings for ditch lining), EBS (donated the lumber needed to make the bridges), Barry Grindle (donated rock screening for ditch lining), Tradewinds Marketplace (for help with fund-raising).

Fond Farewell to Our Volunteer Coordinator

Jessica Kelly came to BHHT in May to take on the temporary position of Volunteer Coordinator and spend six months focusing mainly on the Osgood Trail rehabilitation project. She was hired through the Maine Conservation Corps and the AmeriCorps program. Born and raised in Indiana, Jessica graduated from Purdue University with a B.S. in Forestry in 1999. Luckily for us, she enlisted with AmeriCorps, and was interested in trail work and coming to Maine.

Her work recruiting volunteers and organizing 20+ trail workdays on the mountain has been a resounding success. In addition to building an exciting new trail with good drainage, well-designed waterbars, bridges and stone staircases, Jessica also created a new "Hiker's Guide to Blue Hill Mountain" brochure and participated in the Coastweek Clean-up on Long Island. What is perhaps even more important than the work she completed on the ground (including carrying many heavy buckets of stone up the trail!), is the building of solid community support and volunteer effort to help sustain the Trust's various projects.

She will be starting an environmental education job in November at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, leading school children on field trips along the dunes of Lake Michigan. We wish Jessica the best of luck and thank her for all the help she has given us.



Our Volunteer Coordinator, Jessica Kelly works the cable hand winch used to hoist massive stones in the air.

Fourth Pond Preserve Expanded

Nearly 600 Acres Now Protected

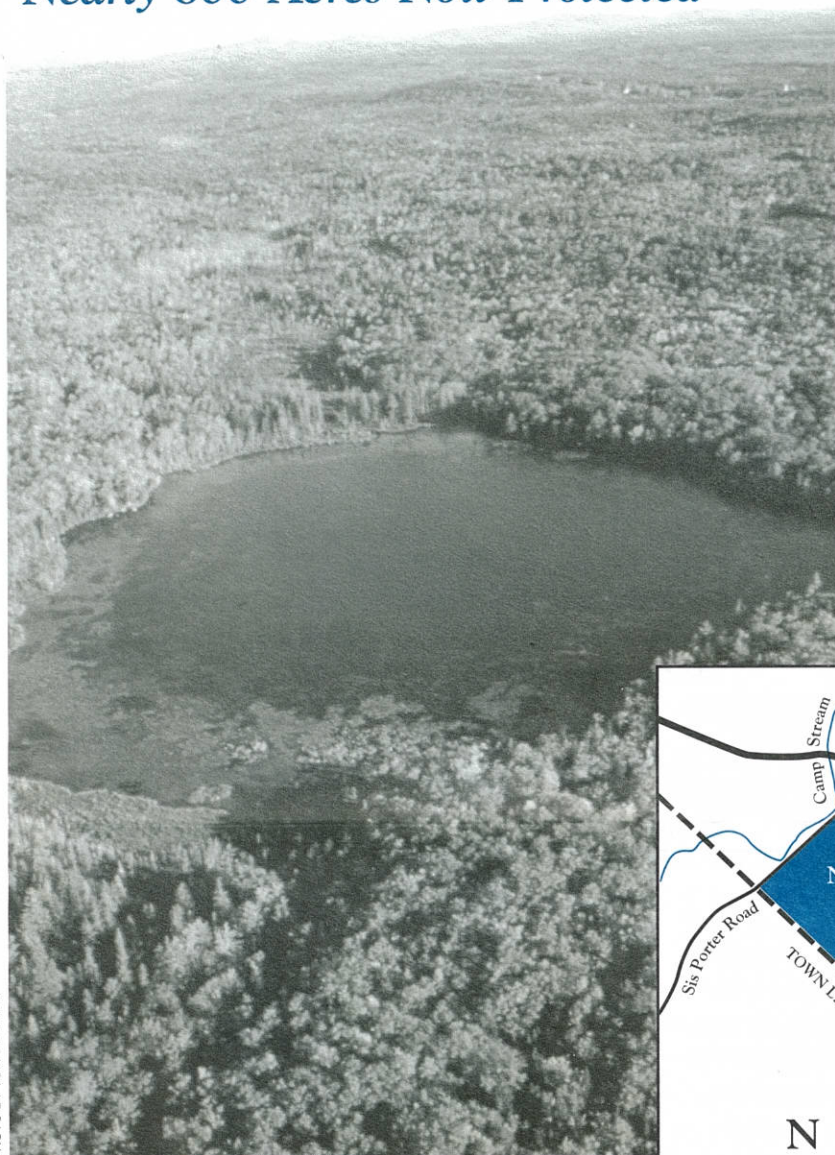
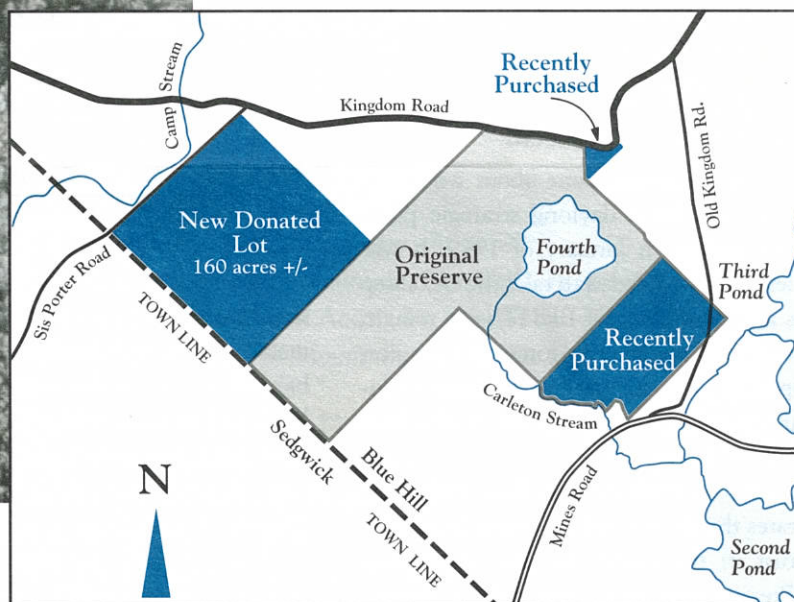


PHOTO BY TOM STEWART

Thanks to a very generous donation of land, the Fourth Pond Preserve on the Kingdom Road in Blue Hill has been expanded by nearly 40%. The donated land is completely wild and free of buildings or surface alterations, except for a few old mossy woods roads. It consists of mixed hardwood and softwood forest, with a few high oak knolls as well as some cedar-filled wetland areas on the southeast boundary where the property abuts the existing preserve.

As with the original preserve property, this is excellent habitat for many animals including deer, moose, black bear, fox, bobcat, beaver, and many others – probably even lynx. This gift of land affords the pond greater protection and guarantees the resident wildlife even more room to roam and habitat that will never be built upon or subdivided.

The total acreage now within the preserve stands at approximately 600 acres. The Trust will allow public access on this parcel, but no trail building projects are in the works. The draft preserve management plan is nearing completion and will be made available for public comment in local libraries very soon.



As a result of the Fourth Pond Preserve, this undeveloped 50 acre pond has been completely surrounded by protected wild land.

Ken-Rose Farm Adds 150 Acres to Protected Land

Continued from page 1

Orland to North Blue Hill. BHHT has partnered with other organizations such as Hancock County Planning Commission, Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust of Orland to accomplish what we have so far – over 1,400 acres of agricultural lands conserved.

Another important part of the Trust's strategy for protecting farmland on the peninsula is encouraging people to buy locally and help keep farmers farming. BHHT supports Hancock County Planning Commission's efforts to develop markets for farmers and to bring new people into farming. In addition, the farmland the Trust has protected with conser-

vation easements will remain more affordable to next-generation farmers due to the removal of much of the development value. Blue Hill Heritage Trust sees farming as a vital part of our rural heritage here in Maine that, with some help, will continue to play an integral part in our communities and landscapes.

Peninsula 2000 Campaign Nears \$1 Million Mark

Successful Effort Still Has \$700,000 To Go

Last fall, BHHT launched its most ambitious capital campaign ever, hoping to raise 1.6 million dollars to support a variety of organizational needs. The five major components of the campaign are as follows:

- Land purchases to expand and buffer the Fourth Pond Preserve in Blue Hill
- Land purchases to expand the Carter Nature Preserve in Surry
- Purchases of development rights for five important farmland properties
- Establishment of a permanent endowment for the Trust's operations
- Establishment of a fund to provide ready capital for new opportunities

Open space, once lost, can never be replaced.

This campaign came about when the board met for a daylong strategic planning session in January of 1999. It was clear that we needed to take the next step as an organization if BHHT is to remain an active and effective force to champion open space conservation and balance future growth and development on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Bob Marville of East Blue Hill illustrates the necessity for a strong local land trust in the campaign case statement: "Present and future generations deserve the joy and pleasure of open space tranquility that once lost can never be replaced. Surely the natural environment we now preserve will serve as the ultimate heritage to those who follow us."

We are nearing the \$1,000,000 mark and are currently well into the quiet phase of soliciting major gifts. We hope to successfully wrap up the campaign by the end of summer 2001. If you would like more information about the Peninsula 2000 campaign, feel free to call the Trust office at (207)374-5118.



The Carter Nature Preserve includes salt marsh, woods and heath noted for sightings of bald eagles, turkey vultures, great blue herons and numerous other birds.

Carter Nature Preserve More Than Doubles; Protected Area in Surry Now at 50 Acres

THE 23-ACRE CARTER Nature Preserve consists of a half mile of shore frontage made up of rock ledge, salt marsh grasses and shrub banks. The land behind it is in hardwoods, such as paper birch and red oak, and softwoods, such as white pine and spruces. Some of the trees are quite old. On the east side of the Preserve is a shallow cove with a stream leading out of the woodland. The entire area is rich in wildlife. The Friends of Morgan Bay, a neighborhood group, maintains a path through the woods and oversees issues of habitat protection.

The Friends of Morgan Bay and Blue Hill Heritage Trust are now working together to raise funds to cover the purchase of another piece of land nearby, more than doubling the size of the original preserve. It includes a sizeable salt marsh to the west of the shorefront parcel, plus woodland streams – one of which empties a large heath further inland. Sightings of

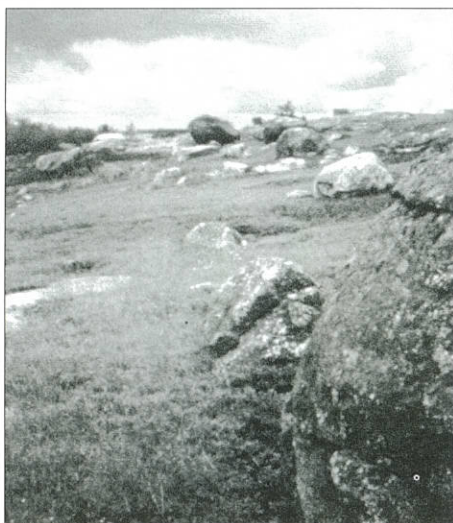
bald eagles, turkey vultures, common ravens, great blue herons, common loons, ospreys, belted kingfishers, laughing and Bonaparte's gulls, common and arctic terns, spotted sandpipers, killdeer, greater and lesser yellowlegs, black ducks, buffleheads, all three species of scoter, common goldeneyes, two species of merganser, oldsquaws, common eiders, and green-winged teal, as well as various warblers, vireos, sparrows, thrushes and mimic thrushes are regularly heard and seen in season. Signs of red fox, coyote, fisher, moose and white-tailed deer have also been found.

This new purchase will greatly increase protection of a variety of habitats for wildlife. The Trust and the Friends of Morgan Bay are working out the details of access paths on this new 27-acre parcel. It is hoped that more adjoining land will eventually be conserved in the effort to protect this important ecosystem.

BHHT Conservation Properties



Conserved farmland in Sedgwick.



Scenic blueberry barren in Brooksville.

As of October, Blue Hill Heritage Trust holds conservation easements on 30 different privately owned properties throughout the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Conservation Easements:

- BLUE HILL: 5 easements, 641 acres
- BROOKLIN: 4 easements, 106 acres
- BROOKSVILLE: 11 easements, 715 acres
- PENOBSCOT: 31/2 easements, 467 acres
- SEDGWICK: 6 easements, 486 acres
- ORLAND: 11/2 easements, 181 acres

**Total number of acres
under conservation easements: 2,596**

BHHT also owns 11 properties.

Five properties of which are especially suited to public access (*):

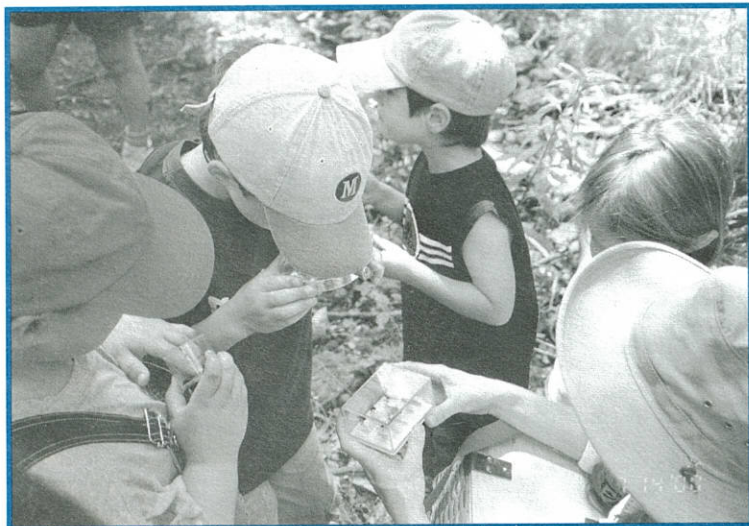
- Fourth Pond Preserve, Kingdom Road, Blue Hill (trail planning in works) - 600 acres*
- Carter Nature Preserve, Morgan Bay, Surry - 50 acres*
- Osgood Trail Property, Blue Hill Mountain, Blue Hill - 79 acres*
- Bagaduce River Canoe and Kayak Access, Rt 175, Brooksville - 1 acre*
- Southwest shoulder of Blue Hill Mountain, Rt 15, Blue Hill - 24 acres*
- Toddy Pond Property, Penobscot - 13 acres
- Camp Stream Property, Blue Hill - 30 acres
- Noyes Pond Property, Blue Hill - 19 acres
- Bell's Point, Brooksville - 56 acres
- Stover Woodland Property, Blue Hill - 11 acres
- Rt 15 Farmland/Woodland Property, Blue Hill - 50 acres

Total number of acres owned: 927

Total BHHT conserved acres: 3,523

Included in these 3,523 acres are approximately 9 cumulative miles of pristine coastline on Blue Hill Bay, Morgan Bay, Penobscot Bay and Eggemoggin Reach; over 1,200 acres of working farm and forestland; and over 2,000 acres of wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and recreational areas.

Summer Field Trips a Success



"Looking at Little Things" with BHHT Vice President Alison Dibble. Children and grown-ups experience the beauty and mystery of nature close up, using magnifying glasses and a microscope along the lower south slope of Blue Hill Mountain.

BHHT sponsored a variety of field trips last summer intended to acquaint people with protected properties and land conservation issues on the Blue Hill Peninsula.



Farmland Conservation Walk in North Blue Hill. Kate Unkel leads a discussion of sustainable agriculture, local farmers' efforts and BHHT's commitment to farmland conservation.



Lobster Boat Tours of Scenic Waterfront Protection with Lorenzo Mitchell. Trust supporters and friends pass under the Deer Isle Bridge en route to seeing first-hand some of what BHHT has conserved along our beautiful and rugged coastline.

Marine Coastal Walk. Martha Bell led a fascinating exploration of the intertidal zone at the Carter Nature Preserve in Surry. (Not pictured.)



BHHT joined the coastal cleanup effort this Fall.

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

Thank You, Members!

Members, as of November 1, 2000

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Please consider joining

if you are not already a member.

**The only way we can continue to
 conserve the natural beauty of our peninsula
 is if our membership keeps growing.**

Please be a part of it!

❧ This Sacred Earth ❧

The following is a summary of a talk given by Hugh Curran at the Carter Nature Preserve on Sunday, August 6, 2000 in which about thirty people participated.

ST. FRANCIS of Assisi, a 12th century monk, who has been designated the Saint of Ecology enunciated his spiritual vision in his "Canticle to the Sun." He addressed mountains, rivers, moon, sun, fire and water as brothers and sisters. But there are many others from diverse cultures around the world who also regard nature as having a sacred and personal dimension.

In our own country Emerson noted that, "The sun illuminates only the eye of the man, but shines into the eye and the heart of the child. The lover of nature is he whose inward and outward senses are still truly adjusted to each other, who has retained the spirit of infancy even into the era of manhood." Thoreau, his contemporary and friend, articulated his vision in a memorable phrase; "in Wildness is the preservation of the World." Thoreau felt that walking four hours a day in the woods was a necessity and derived the word "saunter" from "sant terre" or "sacred earth," an expression used by European pilgrims. He observed that we too must "saunter toward the Holy Land" of fields and forests.

In Celtic spirituality the sacredness of the earth is entwined in the mythology and folklore of ancient places where gods, goddesses and fairy folk (*daoine sidh*) live within hollow hills and dolmens, groves of trees and sacred wells, rivers, lakes and sea.

Aldo Leopold, the father of modern ecology, observed that we must extend our ethics to include a "land ethic" that

embraces animals, plants, insects and birds. Lynn White, a historian, insisted that we must go beyond believing that "creation exists solely for human benefit." It is imperative that a "spiritual democracy," inclusive of all forms of life, evolve to "provide us with new religious understanding of our own being, of other beings and of being (itself)".



Sacred Ecology talk at Carter Nature Preserve in Surry.

Modern theologians such as John Cobb maintain that if there is "intrinsic value anywhere there is intrinsic value everywhere." Our ethical vision must include biospheres, ecospheres and even cellular life. Another theologian, addressing the National Council of Churches, said we must begin to "love nature like a neighbor or relative." The theologian, Paul Sandmire, believed that there is an "inter-relationship between God, humanity and nature in which nature has inherent rights to exist." These new voices in the "greening of theology" are beginning to change attitudes that once reflected an indifference toward the world of nature.

Our neighbors in Asia draw upon ecological ethics derived from Hindu and Buddhist sacred texts. Among the Jains there is the practice of *Ahimsa* (not killing), a practice adopted by Gandhi in his non-violent quest to free his country. Many Hindus observe a "Satyagraha of the forest" (i.e., to seek the truth of the forest) and have been

willing to protect trees even at the cost of their lives. In Buddhism it is believed that Buddha Nature pervades all things. In other words all life possesses inherent spiritual nature. In Taoist and Shinto belief all things are animated by spiritual energy. In fact Emerson, Thoreau, John Muir as well as Albert Schweitzer derived many of their views on nature from these Asian sources.

Borrowing from Native American sources, Gary Snyder, the west coast poet, writes that, "plants and animals are people too." Plants and animals have their own intrinsic rights which are in accordance with human rights. Black Elk, a native American medicine man, asked "are not our bodies from the earth? We are related to all things: the earth and the stars, everything, and with all these together

we raise our hand to Wakan-Tanka and pray to Him alone." He went on to say, "when the sacred cottonwood was raised there was much rejoicing, for they would all flourish under the protection of the tree. It helps us all to walk the sacred path; we can lean upon it, and it will always guide us and give us strength."

Local efforts involved in the creation of nature preserves to protect land for the sake of protecting species are not only of immense help to ourselves but also to future generations. The fact that many people are willing to donate funds in order to protect land indicates that there is an awareness of the sacrality of landscape. This awareness reflects Thoreau's prescient observation that "in Wildness is the preservation of the World."

Hugh Curran is the founder of the Friends of Morgan Bay and teaches courses on Sacred Ecology at the University of Maine.

In Land We Trust:

Local Land Trusts Have Spread Across Maine Faster Than Almost Anyplace in the Nation.

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IN THE WORLD OF Land conservation, the big events with the big organizations may get the front-page treatment and lead the six o'clock news, but in Maine local is where the action is. Fifteen years ago Maine had barely a dozen land trusts, most of them community-based and counting a few thousand members among them. These days the state can claim eighty-one trusts with a total of some 56,000 members, up from 51,000 only three years ago.

These days Maine is one of the top ten states nationally in the number of land trusts, and it is far and away the leader on a per capita basis. The six states of the Northwest, by contrast, have a combined total of only sixty land trusts among them.

Although the growth in the number of new land trusts in Maine has slowed dramatically in recent years, the movement's list of accomplishments only accelerates. For example, in January the Kennebunk Land Trust accepted an easement on one of the last working farms in the southern Maine resort community, assuring owners Bruce and Carolyn Berger that their eighty-five acres would remain forever undeveloped. In February the Lower Kennebec Regional Land Trust bought ninety-six-acre Thorne Head on the Kennebec River in Bath, having raised \$420,000 in less than twelve months. In early April the Brunswick-based Maine Coast Heritage Trust ponied up almost \$3 million to protect 914 pristine acres on Frenchboro Long Island, off Mount Desert.

As of 1998, Maine's land trusts owned 42,800 acres of land and held easements on another 54,250 acres. And that doesn't count the largest conservation easement

in Maine's history, 20,268 acres on Naticous and West lakes in northern Hancock County, announced in late April. The easement, financed with state and federal money, will be administered jointly by the Maine Department of Conservation and the Forest Society of Maine, a statewide trust that specializes in protecting forest tracts while continuing their traditional uses.

In truth, the total acreage in trusts is a moving target because Maine's land trusts are among the most active in the country – and among the most activist, according to some who are involved. "In Maine, land trusts tend to be grassroots organiza-

**"We weren't formed to
stop development...
We were formed to pre-
serve places of special
meaning and value."**

**Tom Bradbury,
Kennebunkport
Conservation Trust**

tions with an activist bent," observes Steve Miller, executive director of the Islesboro Islands Trust. "That's a little bit different from land trusts in other states, such as Massachusetts."

Traditionally land trusts lean toward a more conservative attitude about preservation, if only because they are overwhelmingly local and depend on support from a broad spectrum of residents. "You don't see a lot of overt advocacy and public outreach," Miller notes. "Maine land trusts are different, but then Maine is a different state and Mainers are different. We're independent folks."

"Trusts have such a breadth of membership – Democrats and Republicans,

business people and environmentalists – that they can't be very ideological," explains Chris Hamilton, communications director for the Maine Coast Heritage Trust in Brunswick. "But that broad membership gives them great political power if they choose to use it."

That became apparent in last November's campaign to pass a \$50 million bond to underwrite the Land For Maine's Future program (Down East, May). For the first time, all of Maine's land trusts threw their collective clout behind a single issue, and, in combination with a broad spectrum of other support, bond passed by an overwhelming two-to-one margin.

"I'm sure we'll see land trusts playing a similar role in the future," predicts Tom Bradbury, the longtime leader of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, founded in 1973 and itself one of the oldest trusts in the state. "Really, though, we try not to be too political. That can be difficult sometimes at the local level, because whenever a new development is proposed, the local land trust is the first place people call."

Bradbury allows that "sometimes it's hard to stay on the sidelines," but he explains that effective land trusts have to pick their targets. "We weren't formed to stop development," he asserts. "We were formed to preserve places of special meaning and value."

MODERN LAND conservation in Maine dates back to 1956 and the formation of the Maine chapter of the Nature Conservancy under Rachel Carson. The trust movement itself got off the ground in 1970, when the Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) was founded to preserve Maine's endangered islands and coastal properties. Ironically, it was expected to have a brief life span. "The trust was created as a short-term organization," Hamilton explains. "It

would accomplish its goals within five years and disband."

Instead, within a few years the organization was mounting a concerted campaign to encourage the creation of local land trusts as it became apparent the conservation effort had to expand well beyond the original intent. At one point Maine Coast Heritage Trust had a formal program to help build local trusts.

Still, the movement didn't immediately catch fire. Usually a local trust would form in response to a distinct event, such as the time in the early 1970s when the River Green lot in Kennebunkport, seen by most residents as the town common, came up for sale. A few years earlier an ad hoc local group had formed to raise \$90,000 to buy Vaughn's Island and give it to the Nature Conservancy. The vulnerability of River Green to development made many realize a more permanent organization was needed.

"We could see there would be future needs," explains Bradbury, of the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. The first project, two lots on Dock Square, took three years to raise \$32,500 for the land, a price many residents then considered outrageous. But it was the first step for an organization that now owns fifty pieces of property and holds six easements.

"The single most difficult part for any land trust is self-confidence," Bradbury muses. "It has to gain the courage to take that first big step. There's a tendency to devote a lot of time to planning and too little to acquisition. But the truth is, if you lead, people will follow. One thing leads to another." The trust now counts 1,300 families among its membership, a number that Bradbury estimates includes at least 20 percent of the town's population.

"I see land trusts as the most democratic of all protection efforts," he says. "They benefit everyone in the community. They're not some big government agency coming in and taking over. It's local people taking care of things themselves."

LAND TRUSTS TOOK OFF in Maine with the development boom of the mid-1980s. In only a handful of years some forty-two new trusts were created as communities across the state realized that they needed organizations

devoted to preserving their special places. "Growth of the land trusts followed the growth of the state," points out Jay Espy, executive director of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust. "They came right up the coast and then moved inland as development pressures spread."

"I think trusts will continue to develop until the entire state is covered one way or another," says Nancy Perlson, execu-

tive director of the Rangeley Lakes Heritage Trust. "New trusts tend to form around one particular issue and then evolve from there, and I don't think that process is over yet."

"Growth of the land trusts followed the growth of the state... They came right up the coast and then moved inland as development pressures spread."

*Jay Espy,
Maine Coast Heritage Trust*

Perlson agrees that last November's bond issue provided a unifying force for the state's land trusts, but she hesitates to read a larger significance into it. "Most land trusts are overwhelmed with the amount of work facing them at the local level," she notes. "We have larger organizations – Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Nature Conservancy, the Natural Resources Council – to focus on larger issues and keep us informed."

At the same time, she acknowledges that a framework and a precedent now exist to galvanize local land trusts into action again if the need arises. "There's an incredible grassroots network of people out there who, in spite of being incredibly busy at the local level, are ready to jump in at the state level to work for a common cause," she says.

The land trust movement itself is growing beyond its kitchen-table beginnings, Perlson adds. A quarter of Maine's trusts now have regular paid staff members. "They're securing their financial and organizational futures," she explains, "and that increases their capacity enormously."

Perlson and others foresee some consolidation among smaller land trusts along regional lines, even as new trusts form in inland and northern Maine. "The boom

days are behind us in terms of new trusts," says Hamilton. "We're seeing maybe one or two a year now." Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) still serves as a resource for local trusts, operating a revolving loan fund for acquisitions and offering legal assistance. It is gradually shifting its responsibilities as the trusts' umbrella organization over to the Maine Land Trust Network, which it helped create and still

supports as part of MCHT for now. That doesn't mean that the trusts themselves are slowing down. "These most recent years have been our busiest," says Bradbury, "and this year looks to be more of the same."

Even as pressures to protect land are increasing, so are the resources available to accomplish it. The \$50-million bond issue passed last November to refinance the Land for Maine's Future Board's conservation work also changed the program's eligibility rules to allow the board to consider projects of local interest. In the past, only land of regional or statewide importance was eligible. Also, congressional approval of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act could provide Maine with \$35 million annually until the year 2015 for land conservation. Land trusts all over the state will be able to access both funding sources for local projects.

Bradbury and other land trust advocates emphasize that they aren't anti-development; they're just pro-preservation. "Each town has places of special meaning," he explains. "If you can protect them and take them out of the equation, by doing that you're maintaining an essential core that preserves the character of your community even as development takes place. If we don't act now and set those places aside, the rest is academic."

Jeff Clark



LouAnna Perkins has held many interesting positions in her life: mother of five; elementary school teacher; commercial salmon fisherman in Alaska; recycling center manager; President of the Penobscot Historical Society – not to mention attorney in her own law practice and Secretary of the Board of Directors of Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Now she has added another new and exciting endeavor to that list. LouAnna has recently become the first part-time Executive Director of the Maine Farmland Trust.

The Maine Farmland Trust was founded in 1999 by Maine citizens (including BHHT board member Paul Birdsall of Horsepower Farm in Penobscot) with a mission to permanently preserve and protect Maine's agricultural land; to assist landowners, land trusts and municipal and state agencies in identifying and protecting agricultural land; and to make

BHHT Board Member Named First Director of Maine Farmland Trust

those agricultural lands available for future farmers. Only 4% of Maine's land base is rated as prime agricultural soil – and much of this is already built on. Farmland's level, well drained soils are perfect for development and MFT knows that now is the time to act before more of this precious resource is lost to us forever.

LouAnna is working out of her Bucksport law office, splitting her time between her practice and her new Executive Director duties. Among the myriad of other tasks involved with running a new non-profit, she is negotiating and drafting conservation easements on farmland properties and guiding farmers through the process of applying for Land for Maine's Future funding. The State's Land for Maine's Future program makes 10% of its funds available for the purchase of development rights on farms that meet the program's requirements. By selling the development rights on a farm, a farmer realizes some income without giving up the title to the land and at the same time protects the property from future subdivision, soil stripping and inappropriate development. Selling the development rights also lowers the market value of the property, thereby making it more affordable to future farmers.

LouAnna has been a major asset to Blue Hill Heritage Trust since joining our board in 1998. Her work with the Maine Farmland Trust promises to be a benefit to

BHHT's board and Lands Committee as well as to the State of Maine. For more information about the MFT, call 469-6465.

THANK YOU to all our wonderful VOLUNTEERS:



For help stuffing CAMPAIGN FOLDERS:

Martha Murphy
Olenka Folda
Sylvia Pigors
Ann Hill
Anne Walker



For help with the BENEFIT SPRING RECITAL:

Martha Murphy, soprano
Karen Dickes, piano
Steve Orlofsky, clarinet
Walter Dickes
Linda Elder
Justine Schneider



For help with the CAMPAIGN COCKTAIL PARTY:

Blue Hill Country Club
Sara and Peter Wilds
Jonathan Chase and Staff
Pam Johnson
Rusty Roberts
Martha Murphy



For help with our SUMMER WALKS AND TALKS:

Wooden Boat Publications
Martha Bell
Hugh Curran
Kate Unkel
Alison Dibble
Lorenzo Mitchell



Candidates Sought for Executive Director Position

Consistent with our objective of becoming a stronger and more proactive land trust, able to conserve increasing numbers of critical properties while opportunities still exist, BHHT has recognized the need to enlarge our staff by hiring a full time, professional Executive Director. This Executive Director will play a crucial leadership role in the life of BHHT, managing day to day operations, supervising other staff, participating in conservation projects, boosting public

awareness of our land protection work, and increasing financial support through sustained fundraising efforts. For the right energetic and talented person, this will be an exciting, challenging and rewarding job. We are prepared to offer a competitive salary and benefits. If you or someone you know might be interested in applying, please contact the Trust office at 374-5118 for more detailed information.

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James Dow - Blue Hill
Pamela Johnson - Sedgwick
Isaac Robbins - Sedgwick
Susan Hand Shetterly - Surry

IN MEMORIAM

Rod Cookman Mollie Birdsall

Late this summer, we lost two of our longtime supporters and friends.

Rod Cookman died at his home on August 17th. He lived on his Kingdom Road farm with his wife Sandra. Rod moved to Blue Hill from Pennsylvania in 1970. He was a founding member of Blue Hill Heritage Trust and was a respected realtor in town for many years.

Mollie Birdsall passed away at Horsepower Farm on August 26th. Mollie moved to Penobscot from Connecticut and established Horsepower Farm with her husband Paul in 1972. She was a leader in the farmland community and a strong supporter of Paul's work with the Blue Hill Heritage Trust since its inception.

Both Rod and Mollie were founding members of the Blue Hill Farmers Market, which Molly had managed for the past several years. Both of these special individuals will be deeply missed by us and the entire community for which they cared so much. Our thanks to the families for the many memorial donations made to Blue Hill Heritage Trust in their names.

The Perfect Holiday Gifts!

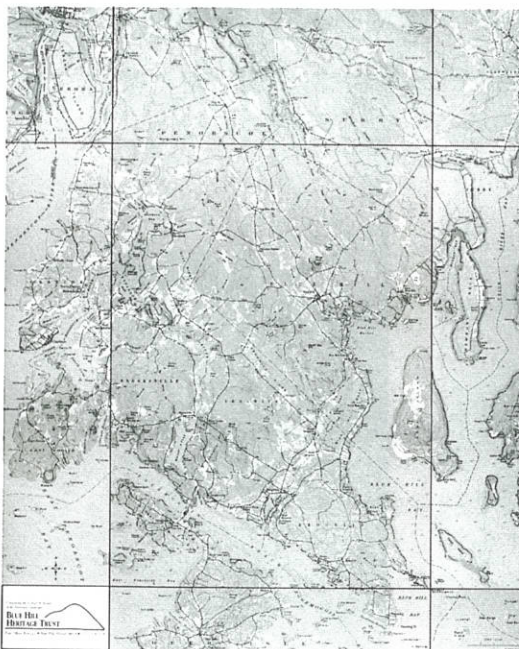
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"Looking at Little Things"—Alison Dibble assists Ben Eley in using field microscope. page 4.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust



Our Mission

To conserve land and water of special ecological, natural, agricultural, scenic, cultural and recreational significance in Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry, and to work to increase public understanding of the importance of land and water conservation.



Cable, pulleys and a hand winch are an elegant solution to moving huge rocks. Many volunteers helped build a new trail up Blue Hill Mountain, story on page 1.

Highlights Inside:

- Fourth Pond Preserve Expanded, page 4
- Peninsula 2000 Campaign Nears \$1 Million Mark, page 4.
- Maine Land Trusts Spread Faster than Anyplace Else, page 10.