

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

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

The Campaign to Protect Caterpillar Hill

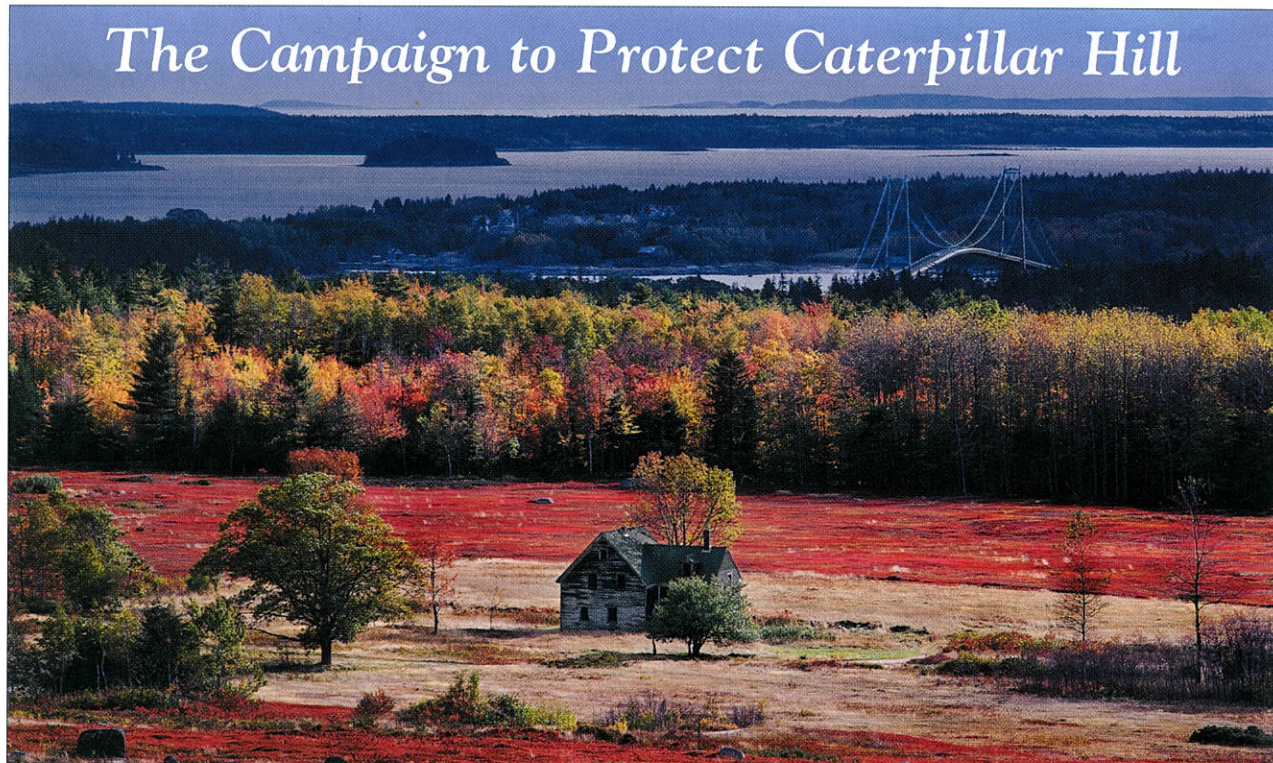


PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRELL LESTER

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST is again turning its attention to Caterpillar Hill, one of the peninsula's major landmarks. This summer the Trust began a campaign to fund the acquisition of approximately 134 acres of land that form a key part of the spectacular and well-known view from Route 15.

In May the Trust completed the purchase of a 10-acre tract of blueberry fields on the eastern side of Route 15 from Fred and Serita Brown of Sedgwick. (See page 4). This campaign will help fund that purchase as well as the purchase of an additional 124 acres on the western side of the highway, known locally as the Cooper Farm.

The Trust also holds a conservation easement on an abutting tract of land near the top of Caterpillar Hill, which

was donated to it in 1987.

"The Cooper Farm project is really the third step in the Blue Hill Heritage Trust's long term commitment to conserve the special character of Caterpillar Hill", notes Jim Dow, the Trust's Executive Director. "This is a place of not only great local significance, but of state-wide and regional significance as well."

The Cooper Farm property is largely blueberry fields bordered by softwood forest. The land runs down the hillside from a scenic turnout at the crest of Caterpillar Hill and includes an abandoned farmhouse, which has been the subject of countless photographs. The land is the foreground of the view which is so prized by both residents and visitors.

BHHT has acquired a purchase option on the Cooper Farm property from its

owners, sisters Emma Patten Casey and Sarah Patten Gwynn, long-time summer residents of Sedgwick. To help ensure its conservation, the owners are offering the property to BHHT at half its appraised fair market value.

Mrs. Casey and Mrs. Gwynn have worked hard for several years to make this transaction possible. Adds Dow, "Not only have they solved some complicated ownership issues that now make this sale possible, they are also providing major leadership gifts by selling the land to us at discount. They have a deep and enduring commitment to conservation that has been clearly expressed through their actions. Now it is up to us to complete the work."

Continued on page 3

President's Column... Alison Dibble

Dear Members and Friends,
The tragedy of Sept 11, 2001 brings into stark relief the friendliness, courage, and cooperative spirit in our rural community. In times of peace and in unsettled times, we take comfort from the sea, farms and remnants of wilderness in our own backyards, woods and fields, hills and shore, the coming and going of the tides. Will these natural places on our Peninsula endure? With the work of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, the answer is a resounding YES. Our Caterpillar Hill project is evidence of what we can accomplish together.

There have been many changes in our landscape since I first joined the Trust in 1991, and the Trust has grown to meet the challenge of protecting what we consider precious here: our open spaces, wildlife habitat, vibrant farms, inspiring views, clean air and water. Former President Lorenzo Mitchell has led an intensive period of building our organization, and has passed the torch to me in a seamless manner. On behalf of the members, Lorenzo, thank you for all you've done over the past four years to help us purchase Fourth Pond, launch the Farmland Forever program, develop the Walks and Talks series, create an Executive Director position,

and conduct two successful capital campaigns, among many other accomplishments.

Our prospects for the future are bright indeed.

The number and types of properties we protect will continue to expand, as will our ability to meet unusual opportunities to protect some of the natural places and farms in the six towns we serve. Most of all, we seek to build a land trust that will be here 100 years from now, solid and enduring, an integral part of the community.

How will we do all this? This is still primarily a volunteer organization, and we need you to help. Choose from trail work, office help, service on one of our Committees or on the Board; lend us your muscle, mind, or expertise. You can also participate by encouraging a friend to sign up as a member, by coming to activities we hold, and, importantly, by continuing to give the Trust your financial support.

I look forward to working with you during my term as President. Thank you for joining us in this work. ■



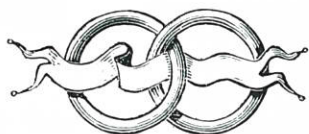
On handing over the reins...

Lorenzo Mitchell, Outgoing President

It has been an enormous privilege to serve Blue Hill Heritage Trust as President for the past four years. I am delighted that we now have someone as capable and committed as Alison Dibble to take over this important job. I know that she will work closely with Jim Dow to further the cause of land conservation on the Blue Hill Peninsula. An abiding concern during my presidency has been ensuring strong ongoing leadership for the Trust, and I can think of no team more calculated to fill me with confidence and satisfaction than our new President and Executive Director. Truly, the future looks bright for BHHT and this beautiful part of Maine.

As for myself, I have been asked to remain on the BHHT Board of Directors and to chair our Board Development Committee. In this important, but more limited capacity, I look forward to being part of the continued growth and accomplishment of what is evolving into a model local conservation organization.

I would like to thank all the many members, donors, volunteers and land owners with whom I have had the opportunity to meet, work and dream. You have all touched me with your great love for the land here, and I am most grateful that Blue Hill Heritage Trust exists as a focus and vehicle for our collective stewardship of this irreplaceable resource. ■



Wedding Gifts...

WHEN BARBARA JOY HARE and JOHN BEACCO were planning their August wedding, they decided that they did not want their friends to buy them traditional wedding gifts, yet they did want to provide them a chance to honor their wedding in some meaningful way. Their solution? They invited their friends to celebrate their wedding by making a gift to BHHT's Farmland Forever project, which is working to protect the prime agricultural lands on the Blue Hill peninsula. Wedding gifts were thus transformed from toasters and microwaves to long-lasting investments in the land resources of the place Barbara and John love. What a fine way to celebrate a marriage!

With gratitude to Barbara and John, we here recognize gifts made to the Farmland Forever program in honor of their marriage: John and Jane Fitzpatrick, Terence and Joanne Flynn, Joy W. Hoffman, Jo Ann Lancaster, John and Ellice Lund, Vicki Pollard and Howard Evans, Lynda Schmidt, John and Judith Spencer, Marilyn and Herbert Stevens, Robert and Natalie Tublitz, Robert and Florence Wallace. ■

Caterpillar Hill Campaign *Continued from page 1*

The Trust must raise \$300,000 to finance the purchase and stewardship of the properties. "It is always a challenge to raise that amount of money," says Dow, "but the gifts and pledges to date have us about half-way there. We are optimistic that the many people who love Caterpillar Hill will generously help us cross the finish line."

Because Caterpillar Hill also has great significance to the residents of Deer Isle and Stonington, the Island Heritage Trust, the local land trust for those communities, has joined the fundraising effort. It has pledged \$75,000 toward the \$300,000 goal. The Maine Coast Heritage Trust is also helping with the fundraising effort.

The Cooper Farm, like the Brown property, will be owned and managed by the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. In developing a management plan for the property, the Trust will be looking at ways to provide opportunities for public access that are compatible with protecting the conservation values of the property.

For the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, the Caterpillar Hill campaign is the final leg of its Peninsula 2000 Capital Campaign. \$1.3 million of the Trust's \$1.6 million goal has been raised to date.

For more information about the campaign, and how you can help, contact Jim Dow at the Blue Hill Heritage Trust office 374-5118. ■

Thanks and So Long...

Pat Watson, who was BHHT's first staff member, left us in January to continue his conservation career with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, where he will work on land conservation projects along the coast of eastern Hancock and Washington counties. For six years, first as part-time staff and then later as full-time administrative director, Pat played an important role in the development of our organization. We are very grateful for his contributions and wish him well in his new job. (We were excited to learn that Pat and his wife Alexis recently celebrated the birth of their second child!) ■

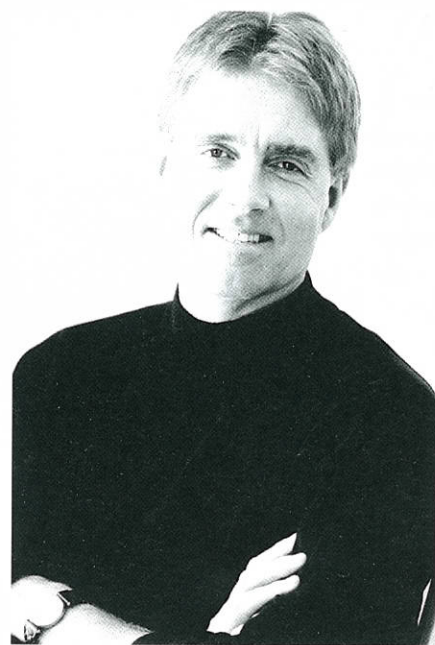
An Old Friend, a New Role: Jim Dow Becomes the Trust's First Executive Director

AFTER A SEARCH process that attracted candidates from as far away as Mexico and Michigan, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust found the person it was looking for right at home. Jim Dow, a resident of Blue Hill, began work as the Trust's first-ever Executive Director on May 1.

The hiring of an executive director marks another milestone in the organizational development of the Trust. According to Lorenzo Mitchell, immediate past President of the Board of Directors, the Trust has reached a point where professional staff leadership is essential. "The pace, complexity and volume of the work has grown tremendously over the last few years," says Mitchell. "We own nearly 1000 acres, hold conservation easements on another 2500 acres, and each day new, worthy potential projects are being presented to us. It is more than a volunteer Board can do alone, even with the help of administrative staff. It was time to take this next step in building our organization."

Dow comes to the Trust after 12 years as a senior staff member of the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. At the Conservancy, Dow first directed the organization's state-wide land protection program and later initiated a new community-based, ecosystem scale project in the Cobscook Bay area of Washington County. Dow has been a long-standing member of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust and also served on its Board of Directors for six years.

Dow is a native of Belfast, Maine, and is a graduate of Belfast Area High School, Princeton University, and the University of Maine School of Law. In addition to his work with the Conservancy, he has also practiced law privately and served as a Peace Corps



volunteer on the island of Samoa.

Mitchell says Dow is the perfect match for the Trust's needs. "Jim knows the land conservation business, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust and the area – and he loves them all. He brings a diverse set of skills, which is just what we need. We were very lucky to get him."

Dow is excited by his new job. "The Blue Hill Heritage Trust is a great little organization of committed people doing important work," Dow says. "For me it's a chance to do the work I love in a place I love, the place that is my home. What could be better? It is a joy going to this job each morning."

Dow lives in East Blue Hill with his two children Castine, age 14, and Noah, age 11. In his free time he runs, hikes, kayaks and plays basketball. He adds with a laugh, "My friend Duane Gray would insist that I add this about myself: after 32 years I still hold the scoring record at Belfast Area High School for most points scored in a varsity basketball game." ■

The Brown Family Helps Protect Caterpillar Hill

"WE ARE SO HAPPY this worked out!" With these words, Serita Brown marked the completion of the transfer to the Blue Hill Heritage Trust of ten acres of blueberry land high up on Caterpillar Hill. The smile on her husband Fred's face made it clear that he shared that sentiment.

This land had been in Fred's family for six generations. Fred grew up in a house next to it and family members are buried nearby. Fred and Serita cast their eyes over it each day. It is land with special meaning for them. The prospect of something eventually happening to it that would change its character concerned them.

"We had no desire to someday have a

MacDonalds or anything like it in that blueberry field," says Serita. "Now we know it won't happen. And just knowing that, that it will be kept as it is, is one of the high points of our years of living here."

The land is well known to those that travel Route 15 between Sargentville and Blue Hill. The rock-strewn field sweeps up the hill on the eastern side of the road. It has a solitary old birch that is



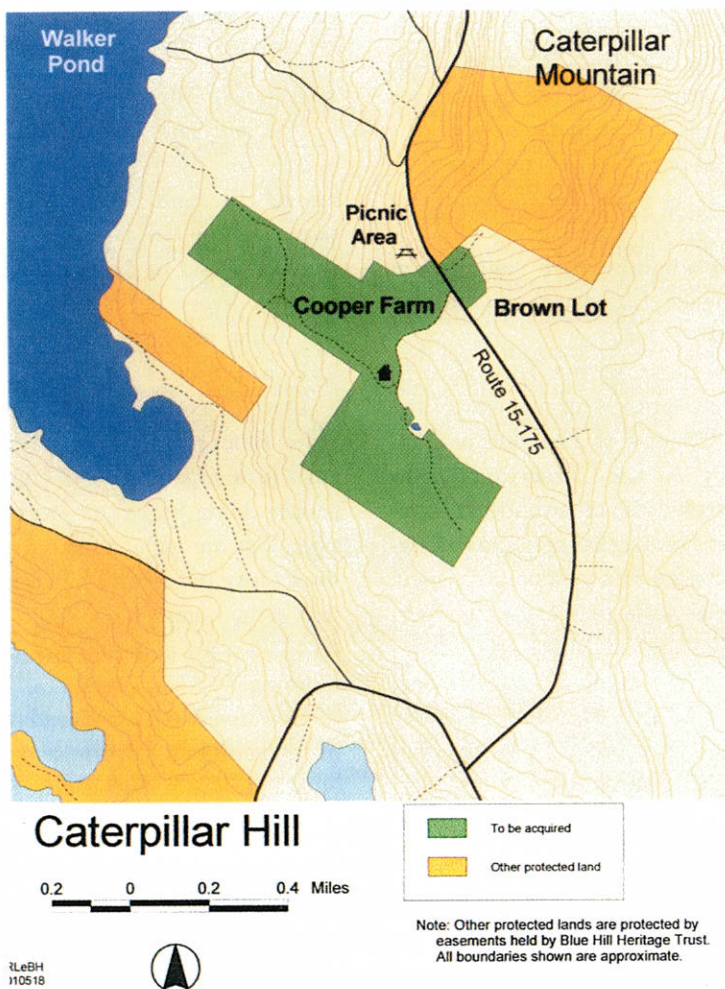
Serita and Fred Brown on the Caterpillar Hill land sold to the Trust.

frequently used as a subject of photographs and paintings. Its elevation and open character provide spectacular views across Penobscot Bay. Together with the Cooper Farm property on the western side of Route 15, it helps define the Caterpillar Hill experience that so many people hold dear.

Because of their interest in seeing the land permanently protected, the Browns generously gave the Blue Hill Heritage Trust the opportunity to purchase the land at a deep discount from its fair market value. The \$75,000 purchase price, as well as a stewardship endowment to help cover the ownership costs, will be covered through BHHT's "Campaign to Protect Caterpillar Hill," the final leg of its overall Peninsula 2000 capital campaign.

This acquisition marks the second step in the Blue Hill Heritage Trust's long standing interest in protecting Caterpillar Hill, one of the Blue Hill peninsula's most significant scenic assets. It follows the 1989 acquisition of a conservation easement on an abutting 130-acre parcel near the Hill's summit.

"Landowners like Fred and Serita make our work both possible and enjoyable," says Jim Dow, BHHT's Executive Director. "We are honored to help them to carry out their vision for this wonderful piece of land."



The Brown and Cooper Farm tracts are shown in green, with other lands protected by conservation agreements in yellow.

Volunteer Trail Work Continues

Once again this year volunteers are helping the Trust restore the Osgood Trail on Blue Hill Mountain. This multi-year project made huge progress last summer when a major section of the trail was re-routed and a series of stone steps were built. This summer and fall the work continued, as volunteers built drainage ditches and completed the stairs.

During the 2001 season, the work has been organized by Kristin Eberdt, an Americorps/ Maine Conservation Corps volunteer on a six month assignment with the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. This is the second season that the Trust has had an AmeriCorps volunteer assist with this work. We are very grateful for Kristin's help. We are also grateful for the guidance of trail consultant Lester Kenway, who created our trail restoration plan and has supervised much of the work.

Trail building has also begun at the Trust's newly-named "Kingdom Woods Conservation Area," our 600 acre property in Blue Hill that includes Fourth Pond.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have given their time and energy to our trail projects! ■



Americorps volunteer Kristin Eberdt (center) and trail consultant Lester Kenway (second from right) with volunteers on the Osgood Trail.

Walks and Talks 2001: Beautiful Places, Fun and a Little Learning...

BHHT's third annual "Summer Walks and Talks" program presented a wide array of opportunities for Trust members to visit some of the Blue Hill Peninsula's most interesting and beautiful natural areas in the company of people with special knowledge about those places.

The program included boat trips on Blue Hill Bay and Eggemoggin Reach, a walk in a peat bog with a peatland ecologist, a quick course on the geology of the Carter Nature Preserve, a paddle on the Bagaduce in search of horseshoe crabs, an investigation of exotic plants, and guided hikes up Blue Hill mountain in search of both stories and native plants. Both the attendance and the enthusiasm of the attendees were high.

We are very grateful to the following trip leaders who donated their time and expertise: Don Eley, Kate Petrie, Sue Schaller, Jim Dow, Isaac Robbins, Alison Dibble, Pam Johnson, Lorenzo Mitchell, Sally Rooney, Rob McCall, and Heather McCargo. ■

Walks and Talks participants investigating invasive plant species with trip leader Alison Dibble.



Notes from the Annual Meeting: Challenges and Opportunities for Land Trusts

ON THE HOT SUMMER evening of August 7th, about 50 members and friends of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust gathered at the Blue Hill Country Club for the Trust's 16th annual meeting. A highlight of the meeting was the honoring of Lorenzo Mitchell for his four years of service as President during which time the Trust made huge advances. Elections to the Board of Directors were also held. Two new members were elected to the Board of Directors, Katrina Parson of Brooklin, and Matthew Flynn of Blue Hill, and five current members were re-elected for three year terms, Mike Allen of Brooklin, Peter Clapp of Blue Hill, Pam Johnson of Sedgick, LouAnna Perkins of Penobscot, and Susan Hand Shetterly of Surry.

The featured speaker was Jim Dow, the



Lorenzo Mitchell was honored at the Trust's Annual Meeting for his four years of service as President. In recognition of that service, Lorenzo was presented with an original Iris print of a loon feather by Blue Hill artist Françoise Gervais.

Trust's new Executive Director. Below is an excerpt from his remarks, entitled, "The Place of Local Land Trusts – and Blue Hill Heritage Trust – in the Grand Scheme of Things"

After discussing BHHT's place in the history of the conservation movement in the state of Maine, the organization's own history and the external environment in which it now works, Jim concluded his remarks as follows:

“ALL THIS SUGGESTS some challenges, if we are to fulfill the Trust's mission of protecting this peninsula's special land and water resources. For simplicity's sake, I have boiled those challenges down to these four tasks, each relating to one of the essential elements of our work – people, land, money and organization:

1. We must expand the circle of people engaged in our work

We have committed people involved but, relatively speaking, the numbers are small. We need to get to a place where membership is the norm for people in this community, whether full-time or part-time resident, whether local or “from away,” where service on the Board is sought and regarded as an honor, where annual contributions are an established and high priority in people's charitable giving budget. We need to involve people from all sectors of our community, allowing them to participate in ways that suit their talents, gifts, interests and abilities.

2. We must focus our work on that which is most important

We must decide what it is we should be doing. We must act strategically. We must stay true to our mission. We must learn to say no.

3. We must develop the financial resources to sustain the organization over time

This is of course related to number one, expanding the circle. But also to number two – the product of our work will attract new membership. But it also must involve the hard work of membership development. And it certainly must involve a planned giving program, where we provide people the opportunity to leave a legacy to this peninsula as part of their estate plans. It will be these gifts, and the endowment that results, that will sustain us over time as an organization.

4. We must build an organizational structure that fits the work as well as the resources available to us.

The operative words here will be leverage and collaboration. There are models for what this organization might look like but we must find our own way there. We must be creative, adaptive, and open to opportunity.

I want to suggest that if these challenges are met we can not only be an effective and enduring agent for protecting the character of this peninsula, but also that we can serve the peninsula community by helping to weave its people together in common action for the common good. Land, after all is said and done, does bring people together.

The Blue Heritage Trust is engaged in conservation work for which the time has come. It is our “prime time.” The opportunity is now, the threat of losing our special places to development is real, steady and pervasive. There is no one else to do the work but us, the people who are connected to this place; we can do it if we choose to.

Let us not put our children and grandchildren in the position of having to grieve for a lost sense of place by asking, “How could they have let this happen to the place that they loved?” ■

Farmland Forever: Land for Maine's Future Joins BHHT on Farmland Protection Project

THE BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST is continuing its role as a statewide leader in the conservation of locally important farmland through its "Farmland Forever" program. Recognizing the importance of this work, the state's Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program recently joined with BHHT to purchase the development rights on the 168 acre Bowden Farm in Blue Hill.

As with the previous nine farms protected by BHHT through the donation or purchase of development rights, this project will prevent the conversion of prime agricultural soils to development or other land uses that would limit their productivity for agricultural purposes in the future. The soils along the "Route 15 corridor," where the Bowden Farm is located, are the best agricultural soils in Hancock County. An added benefit of these farmland projects is the protection of the open space and wildlife values associated with these lands.

BHHT initiated this project by working with the landowner to develop a conservation easement that would protect the land from development. Because the elderly landowner needed quick action, BHHT borrowed the funds necessary to purchase the conservation easement (which included the development rights)



Board members and staff of the Land for Maine's Future program joined with Blue Hill Heritage Trust board members at the annual Maine Land Trust Conference in May to celebrate the Bowden Farm project.

while applying to LMF for financial support. In return for the \$70,000 eventually provided by LMF, the conservation easement rights to the Bowden Farm were transferred from BHHT to the State of Maine's Department of Agriculture.

BHHT hopes to continue working with LMF on local Farmland Forever projects. A proposal for assistance with another nearby farm was submitted in September. ■

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

Board of Directors

Alison Dibble, *President*, Blue Hill
Ben Emory, *Vice President*, Brooklin
Matthew Flynn, *Treasurer*, Blue Hill
LouAnna Perkins, *Secretary*, Penobscot
Michael Allen, Brooklin
Paul Birdsall, Penobscot
Peter Clapp, Blue Hill
Pamela Johnson, Sedgwick
Whitney Landon, Brooksville
Lorenzo Mitchell, Blue Hill
Katrina Parson, Brooklin
Susan Hand Shetterly, Surry
James Dow, *Executive Director*, Blue Hill

~ A Quiet Legacy ~

ROBERT JORDAN lived humbly and frugally. He never married and his family all predeceased him. Among other things, he grew Christmas trees on his land in Surry and sold them to passers-by. When he died his obituary was short. It gave no clue about his generous spirit.

Though Mr. Jordan had never been a member of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, it turns out that he was one of our quiet supporters. Though "planned giving" probably would not have been a phrase he would have used himself, the depth of his support was expressed through a planned gift, in his case, a will.

The size of his estate surprised even his attorney; he was obviously a shrewd investor who benefited from the stock market boom of the late 1990's. A portion of that estate will come to the Blue Hill Her-

itage Trust and will ensure BHHT's ability to carry on its work in the future. To Mr. Jordan, and to others who follow his example, we are deeply grateful.

Doing what you can, when you can...

We are each different in what and when we can give to the causes we believe in. For some of us the time for making a significant gift is when our own need for the products of our life's work is at an end. Bequests, like the one made by Robert Jordan, help BHHT fulfill the future obligations we undertake with each property we protect.

If you would like more information on planned gifts to BHHT, through your will or a variety of other arrangements, please contact Jim Dow at the BHHT office (207-374-5118). ■



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRELL LESTER

THE MISSION OF THE BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST: 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. ABOVE: Caterpillar Hill in glorious fall colors.

By the Numbers:

Total protected since 1985 3499 acres
 By conservation easement 2556 acres
 Through ownership 943 acres

Total number of properties
 on which conservation
 easements are held 31

Total number of properties owned
 and managed by BHHT* 12

*This number does not reflect the total number of
 projects completed, since some properties are
 comprised of several tracts which were acquired at
 different times from different owners.*

Coastline protected 9+/- miles

Wildlife habitat, recreational
 lands and scenic lands 2241 acres

Farmland protected 1258 acres

*Conserving the Ecology & Beauty
 of the Peninsula Landscape*

**BLUE HILL
 HERITAGE TRUST**

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

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