

# BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

Conserving the Ecology & Beauty of the  
Peninsula Landscape...

FALL 2002

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

## We Did It! Peninsula 2000 Meets \$1.6 Million Goal

### Caterpillar Hill

The Trust acquired 134 acres at Caterpillar Hill, which helps protect some of the State's premier scenic resources.

PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRELL LESTER



247 acres were added to the Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, owned and managed by the Trust.

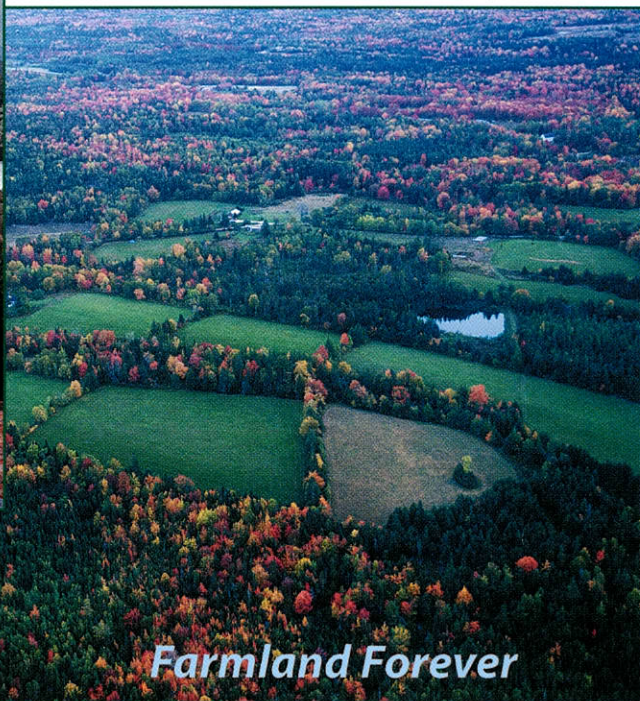
### Kingdom Woods



### Farmland Forever

Through the purchase of development rights, 558 additional acres of prime agricultural land were conserved through the Trust's "Farmland Forever" initiative.

TOM STEWART PHOTO



THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY of its supporters, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust has completed one of the most ambitious capital campaigns ever undertaken by a local land trust in the State of Maine. Launched in 1999, the Peninsula 2000 campaign's goal was to raise \$1.6 million to finance a variety of land projects as well as to build the organization's operating endowment.

The campaign's goal has now been met. Hundreds of gifts and pledges, both large and small made this success possible. As a direct result of this campaign nearly 1000 acres have been protected with conservation easements or by acquisition. See page 2 for more details.



# Capital Campaign

## *The Peninsula 2000 Campaign began as a very ambitious idea.*

Unlike the two previous capital campaigns in the organization's history, each of which was focused on a single project, this campaign was designed to fund several conservation projects. It was also intended to develop the long-term strength of the organization by building its endowment and by developing a conservation opportunity fund to assist with future conservation projects. The financial goal was as ambitious as the idea: \$1.6 million. The two previous campaigns had each been a fraction of that, the first \$250,000 (to purchase land on Blue Hill Mountain), the second \$235,000 (to acquire land around Fourth Pond, now known as the Kingdom Woods Conservation Area). Thanks to the hard work and generosity of many people, and the leadership of former Board President Lorenzo Mitchell, an ambitious idea has now become a wonderful achievement.

**We met our goal!** The total of gifts of cash and securities received to date combined with numerous outstanding multi-year pledges took us slightly beyond our \$1.6 million goal. If the value of gifts of legal interests in land is included, the contribution total reaches \$1.9 million.

**We had lots of help.** We received over 350 separate gifts during the course of the campaign, ranging from \$5 to \$150,000.

**We protected 1000 acres** of land. Campaign funds allowed us to move boldly forward with our land conservation work. We continued our award-winning local farmland conservation work by purchasing development rights on five outstanding properties. We increased habitat protection at our ecologically rich Kingdom Woods Conservation Area with the addition of three new tracts. We continued the work begun at the head of Morgan Bay in Surry with the addition of the Furth Wildlife Sanctuary. We added Caterpillar Hill, one of the Blue Hill Peninsula's crown jewels, to the list of conserved lands. And, thanks to the campaign, more projects are in the works.

**We added to our endowment.** By the time the outstanding pledges are all in, we hope to have added three to four hundred thousand dollars to our operating and stewardship funds. This will help support the organization's work in the years

ahead, including new project work as well as the stewardship of the properties we own or monitor.

**We are creating a Conservation Opportunity Fund.** Some of the campaign proceeds will be used to establish a fund to allow us to move quickly to take advantage of conservation opportunities as they are presented. The Board of Directors is working to design this new tool which will help us act in a fast-moving real estate market.

**We strengthened our staff.** Thanks to one insightful donor, who recognized that further development of our organization requires high quality staff, we received a gift dedicated to staff development, which gave us the courage and means to hire an executive director.

**We made lots of new friends.** The campaign put us in touch with new people who share our desire to protect the character of this wonderful place. The family grows!

**Thank you** to everyone who made this achievement possible.



*The Campaign added the 25-acre Furth Wildlife Sanctuary, which complements the Carter Nature Preserve at the head of Morgan Bay.*

## **Caterpillar Hill:** *What a way to finish!*

The last leg of the Peninsula 2000 Campaign was focused on funding the acquisition and stewardship of two tracts on Caterpillar Hill in Sedgwick to help preserve one of the finest scenic vistas in coastal Maine. When the opportunity arrived in 2001, we acted, and with an outpouring of support, we raised the money to complete the project, which in turn finished the campaign. What a way to finish!

And what great help we received! Both the neighboring Island Heritage Trust and the statewide Maine Coast Heritage Trust joined the fund-raising efforts. The former landowners of both tracts also played major roles by selling at deeply discounted purchase prices. A spectacular place, and a spectacular effort by lots of people. Thanks to everyone who helped!



# Stewardship:

THE ACQUISITION OF new conservation properties or new conservation easements, such as those acquired through the Peninsula 2000 campaign, is always exciting news. Yet land conservation has a second important part: the management and monitoring of those lands, which we speak of as “stewardship.” This work is equally challenging and often expensive. Summer and fall are the seasons when we steadily and quietly attend to this important work, with the help of volunteers wherever and whenever possible.

## **Easements need to be monitored**

We currently hold conservation easements on 46 privately owned parcels of land throughout the peninsula. Each conservation easement is slightly different in its specific terms, yet each places permanent legal restrictions on the future use of the property so as to permanently protect the scenic, ecological, agricultural, recreational or other conservation values of the land. Our stewardship responsibility is to ensure that those restrictions are not violated. We do this by regularly monitoring the condition of these lands, by visits and by aerial inspection. We also work to maintain a positive relationship with each landowner through regular communication, since a conservation easement in effect makes the Trust and the landowner “conservation partners.”



*A conservation easement protects the highly scenic values of this privately owned property in Blue Hill, one of 46 properties we monitor at least once a year.*

## **The Second Part of Land Conservation**



*Stewardship of our lands includes managing a variety of recreational uses. Here a paraglider prepares to take off from the top of Blue Hill Mountain.*

## **Needs vary on lands we own**

The Trust owns conservation land at 10 different sites, ranging in size from a one-acre access point on the Bagaduce River to our 600+ acre Kingdom Woods Conservation Area. The stewardship needs at each site vary, depending on the conservation values of the property and our management plan for it. Those that provide public recreational opportunities can be stewardship intensive, such as the Osgood Trail on Blue Hill Mountain. Ever since



we acquired this 79-acre tract in 1998, we have been working to improve the hiking trail to the summit, by restoring or relocating eroded sections. This spring a team from the Maine Conservation Corps (above) began construction of a stone stairway, the fourth stone stairway we have built on the trail. They will complete the work in October with as much volunteer help as possible.



## Annual Meeting 2002:

# "3600 Acres and 500 Members"

THE TRUST held its 17th Annual Membership Meeting on August 6th at the Bay School's Emlen Hall in Blue Hill. More than 50 persons gathered on a beautiful Maine summer evening to celebrate the completion of the capital campaign, to conduct some business, including the election of Nick Sichterman of Blue Hill and John Murphy of Sedgwick to three year terms on the Board of Directors, the re-election of Ben Emory of Brooklin and Paul Birdsall of Penobscot to additional three year terms on the Board, and to hear reports on the Trust's progress.

The meeting featured remarks by Alison Dibble about the stewardship challenges associated with the conservation lands we own or monitor, and by Jim Dow about the land conservation challenges ahead. Special treats this year were a musical interlude provided by Alison, Board member LouAnna Perkins and LouAnna's sister, and wonderful floral arrangements of native flowering plants by Board member Pam Johnson. If you did not make it this year, please join us in 2003!

Excerpts follow from reports presented

by Trust President Alison Dibble and Treasurer John Murphy, and a note on awards presented to two exceptional volunteers.

### **President's Report - Alison Dibble**

The last year was one of great progress and achievement for the Trust, both on the land conservation front as well as on the organizational front. At the top of the list of achievements is the completion of the Peninsula 2000 capital campaign. We did it!! We successfully completed one of the most ambitious capital campaigns ever undertaken by a local land trust in the State of Maine.

***Last year was one  
of great progress and  
achievement for the Trust.***

***On the land front:*** with lots of help, including the help of two sets of far-sighted and generous landowners, we acquired some of the most scenic land on the coast of Maine on Caterpillar Hill. With those acquisitions the Trust passed the 3600 acre mark in lands protected: we now

hold conservation easements on 2621 acres of land and own and manage 1022 acres.

***On the organizational front:*** we passed the 500 mark in membership (as of the end of the year we had 504 members); we hired an Executive Director who has already helped us make great strides in building the organization; we revitalized our committee structure to make ourselves both more efficient and more productive; we fulfilled our monitoring and stewardship responsibilities; we continued to improve the recreational opportunities available on our lands, most notably by continuing the restoration of the Osgood Trail on Blue Hill Mountain; we continued to provide fun and educational outings through our Walks and Talks program; and importantly, we ended the year on firm financial footing.

In 2002 the Board began work on a strategic plan for our work over the next five years. We think this organization has important work to do and that with some strategic thinking and your help, it can do it. I invite your ideas. Meantime, the land conservation opportunities keep rolling in.



### ***The Cooper Farmhouse Remembered...***

Last February, only two months after we had acquired the Cooper Farm property on Caterpillar Hill, the old abandoned farmhouse burned to the ground. Despite an immediate investigation by the state fire marshal, we do not know who or what caused the fire. What we do know is that we all feel a real sense of loss. It was an adored element of that spectacular view. Local artist Randy Eckard recently presented us with this wonderful watercolor painting of the farmhouse, as a remembrance. Thanks, Randy.



**Blue Hill Heritage Trust**  
**is in excellent financial shape.**

#### **Treasurer's Report - John Murphy**

Blue Hill Heritage Trust is in excellent financial shape. Our operating costs for the year 2001 were covered by revenues, primarily through membership gifts. Our 2002 operating budget is \$133,500, which we are on target to meet, based on the revenues to date.

Primarily because of gifts to the capital campaign, the organization's net assets, which includes conservation lands acquired by the Trust, grew in 2001 by 47%, to \$2,455,000.

As part of our efforts to engage in the best possible financial management practices, we solicited bids for our annual audit and subsequently chose a new auditing firm this year, Loiselle, Campbell and Hinds, located in Bangor. The audit of our 2002 financial statements has been completed and are available for any member who is interested in reviewing them.

**Energetic volunteers are key**  
**to important projects.**

#### **Volunteer Awards**

Volunteer service is key to our success as an organization. At the annual meeting, Volunteer Recognition Awards were given to **Mike Laub** and **Martha Murphy**, two people who have given exceptional service in two different but equally important aspects of our work. Mike has been at the center of all the trail restoration work that has occurred on our property on Blue Hill Mountain over the last few years, logging more volunteer hours on the project than anyone else. Martha was one of the energetic "doers" who made our capital campaign a success, pushing forward our "Farmland Forever" projects, designing and organizing an event to kick off the Caterpillar Hill leg of the campaign, and even organizing and performing at a benefit concert to raise funds and public awareness about the Trust and its campaign.

## **Summer Walks and Talks: Blueberries, Bogs, Birds, Botany**

Our Summer 2002 Walks and Talks events were once again a hit with members and friends. The events this summer included birding at Caterpillar Hill, a wildflower walk on Blue Hill Mountain, a session on the history, geology and culture of

wild blueberries, and a botany walk at our Carter Nature Preserve. Many thanks to this year's trip leaders: Sue Schaller, Chip Moseley, Sally Rooney, Heather McCargo, Alison Dibble, Dave Yarborough, and Rob McCall.



Above, children enjoy the "Nature Beyond the Naked Eye" program at our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, while (below) adults learn about the ecology of peat bogs as part of the "In Search of Orchids" program.





## President's Column...

### What we can do together!

Dear Members and Friends,

At our annual 17th Annual Membership meeting in August, we celebrated the completion of our Peninsula 2000 Capital Campaign. That ambitious campaign not only met its fundraising goal and protected nearly 1000 acres of land, it also made us a stronger organization.

When we began the campaign, a few people did most of the heavy pulling; we are grateful for their vision and work. During the campaign many others joined the work because they recognized the importance of what we do – protect lands of value to everyone here on the peninsula. Now we not only have a larger network of people, we also have an Executive Director with many years of land conservation experience.

Thank you for standing with us in this campaign. Your support means so much. Indeed we could not do any of this work

without you. You can take extra pleasure each time you drive by the Farmland Forever lands along Route 15,

or visit the Kingdom Woods Conservation Area or enjoy that marvelous view from Caterpillar Hill. You helped make it happen.

Although the capital campaign is complete, the Trust's work continues. So does our need to continue to build our network of support. Please invite a friend to join the Trust – someone who cares, as we do, about what our landscape will look like in the future. If each of us recruits a friend, then we can build on the momentum that the capital campaign has provided.

I am excited to see what we can accomplish together.



Alison Dibble

## Volunteers Wanted

We have a variety of volunteer opportunities available, both indoor and outdoor. Call the office at 374-5118 if you are interested in donating your time and energy to a great cause.

## Jean Nickerson's Violin Donated to the Trust

Jerry Nickerson recently made an unusual but very special gift to the Trust. He gave us his late wife Jean's violin. Jean was one of the founders of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust and its first President. Jerry has asked us to turn the violin into conservation, so we now have a "tiger maple cased violin with a French bow" for sale. Anyone interested? We are very grateful to Jerry for this gift which will help us continue the work to which Jean was so devoted.

## Planning a Gift...

ONE OF OUR MOST devoted members recently engaged in some estate planning, that activity that we adults are so often encouraged to undertake but so frequently put off until another day. This member's major financial asset is her home, a beautiful old cape located on a piece of land that she has carefully stewarded for many years. She has decided that she would like the Blue Hill Heritage Trust to have her home when she dies.

Recognizing that her property probably does not have the qualities that would warrant the Trust keeping it as a nature preserve, she has provided in her will that the Trust may sell the house and use the proceeds to further the Trust's conservation work elsewhere on the peninsula. She sees this planned bequest as a way to make a major gift to an organization that she cares deeply about, the sort of gift she is not able to make during her lifetime. We are honored and very grateful. With members like this, how can we fail?

Bequests, like the one planned by this member, are wonderful legacies to this place we love and to those that come after us. Bequests to BHHT will help us 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).

## WISH LIST

- Digital camera
- Hand-held GPS unit
- Flat file (for maps, charts, photos)
- Microwave oven
- A permanent home for our office!

Please call our office at 374-5118 if you can donate any of these items.

THANK YOU.

## Doing What You Can: The Granite Person Challenge Raises \$500

THIS SUMMER Justin Pollard, an avid Trust member, and his friends organized and participated in a benefit event called the Granite Person Challenge. On a hot August day, the "granite persons" jumped into Blue Hill Bay and swam from Long Island to the mainland (over 2 miles) and then jumped onto their bicycles and rode north 100 miles to Millinocket. After a few hours sleep, they completed the final leg of the challenge by climbing mile-high Mt. Katahdin, Maine's highest peak. Their uncommon efforts raised over \$500 for the Trust, which included the sponsorship of Cadillac Mountain Sports. For those of us who can barely imagine doing such a thing, it was an amazing undertaking. For those who think such a challenge would be a fine way to spend a summer weekend, start training – there are plans to do it again next summer.



## Staffing News: A Farewell and A Welcome

In August, we were sorry to say goodbye to **ANDREA LATVIS**, who had been coordinating our membership and stewardship work. Recently engaged, Andrea relocated to the Camden area. We will miss her hard work and rich sense of humor.

We are very pleased to welcome **DENISE BLACK** as our new part-time Membership Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. Many of you may know Denise from her work with the Blue Hill Memorial Hospital Foundation and the Blue Hill Chamber of Commerce. Denise resides in East Blue Hill with her husband Phil and their two children. Among her many other skills, Denise holds a black belt in karate.

### BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

#### Board of Directors

Alison Dibble, *President*, Blue Hill  
Ben Emory, *Vice President*, Brooklin  
John Murphy, *Treasurer*, Sedgwick  
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  
Nicholas Sichterman, Blue Hill

#### STAFF

James Dow, *Executive Director*  
Denise Black, *Membership Coordinator/  
Administrative Assistant*

**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.

♻️ Printed on recycled paper.

## Executive Director's Column... *Moving Forward*

THE COMPLETION of the Peninsula 2000 capital campaign is a great achievement worthy of celebration. But then what? I suggest that there is not only more work to do, but that it is important to press forward aggressively. Consider the following:

■ **WE LIVE** in the fastest growing section of Hancock County, which is one of the fastest growing counties in the state, a population increase fed by in-migration rather than a high birth rate. People want to live here.

■ **REAL ESTATE** values on the peninsula are increasing rapidly despite the economic turbulence we have experienced over the last 2 years. Some waterfront properties have doubled in value during that period, and even the value of backland continues to escalate steadily. People are competing for the scarce land resources.

■ **BUILDING SUPPLIES** is the product group that topped the list in total retail sales on the Blue Hill peninsula for the 12 months ending in September 2001. There is lots of construction activity.

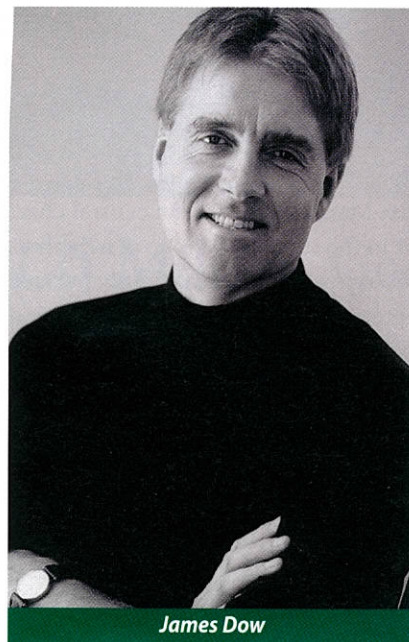
■ **TOURISM EXPENDITURES** pumped an estimated \$66 million dollars into the Blue Hill economy during 2001. People are attracted to this place.

In sum, increasing numbers of people want to be here, to visit here and live here, fueling changes in the landscape. It is a trend that seems unlikely to change, in fact looking at what is happening on the coast to the south of us, it is likely to accelerate.

### ***Why is it important to meet the challenges presented by this pressure?***

**FIRST**, to protect the emotional, spiritual, and aesthetic values that the people who live here derive from the land and its human communities, the very thing that makes people who are born here want to stay, and those who are not, want to come.

**SECONDLY**, to protect the engine of our local economy. Conservation and economic health have not



James Dow

always been regarded as compatible bedfellows. But here they ought to be seen as just that. The place and its natural resources are at the center of economic activity here. Traditionally it was fishing, farming and forestry. More recently, real estate, residential construction, and tourism have become central elements in the economic life of the peninsula. It is a question of protecting the goose that lays the golden egg.

**THIRDLY**, if not us, whom? Neither our state or local governmental institutions have the capacity to do this work alone.

We have work to do. But as we move forward, we must approach the work strategically and we must work in partnership. We must decide what are the pieces of the landscape that we as a community cannot do without, and then focus our efforts on their conservation. We must find occasions and ways to work together to achieve what is, in the long run, a common end.

Our work is focused on land, yet it is really about people. Because increasing numbers of people are joining us in this work, I approach the work ahead with great optimism. Onward and upward!



## Moving Forward...

# New Project Completed at Gold Stream Marsh

THE FIRST CHAPTER of a wonderful new conservation story was completed in mid-September when the Trust purchased 18 acres of land along Gold Stream Marsh in Surry. The central characters in the story are a group of neighbors and friends who have tenaciously pursued the protection of this land for several years.

Gold Stream Marsh is a place familiar to many people in the area because of its proximity to the well-traveled Toddy Pond Road. It is also known to many young people in Surry as "Lorado's Marsh," a place they visited on school field trips to learn about the wonders of nature from a local resident who created nature trails on his land near the marsh.

The land purchased by the Trust includes a large portion of the wetland complex as well as upland road frontage that offers scenic views of the marsh. It is a place that attracts the eye as you drive by, and a place birders often stop. It is the

**Community-based  
conservation at work:  
Surry neighbors worked to  
protect a place they love.**

sort of place that that we too often take for granted as part of our visual landscape until it is blocked from view by a house or other development.

The protection of this land would not have happened but for the devotion of the "Friends of Gold Stream Marsh." They identified the opportunity, made initial contact with the landowner, advocated for its protection, and even began holding yard sales in anticipation of a chance to purchase the land. What they lacked was a partner with experience in land conservation transactions, one able to receive charitable donations and assume the responsibilities of ownership. They came to the Trust. Because the place had the natural values that fit our



*Highly scenic Gold Stream Marsh in Surry is rich with wildlife habitat.*

mission, we quickly formed a partnership. The Trust agreed to negotiate the purchase and handle the donations, and the "Friends" agreed to raise the money and assist with the stewardship.

It worked! Thanks to the fundraising efforts of Lucy Woodward, the generosity of people who know and love the place, and the cooperation of the landowners, the deal was done. Now, on to the second chapter: an abutting landowner is preparing to donate an additional 34 acres!

Other conservation projects nearing

completion: The Trust is working with landowners on a variety of new conservation projects, a number of which we expect to complete by the end of the year. These include a donated conservation easement on a large tract with saltwater frontage, the purchase of development rights on a 100+ acre farm along the Route 15 corridor, a gift of a saltwater access point in Blue Hill and a "bargain sale" purchase of an unusual peat land. We look forward to reporting to you on these exciting and diverse projects.

*Conserving the Ecology & Beauty  
of the Peninsula Landscape*

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HERITAGE TRUST**

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**Successful Capital Campaign Brings 3,600 Acres Under Conservation**

*Story on page 1 and 2*