

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

FALL 2004

**Annual
Meeting
Report** page 4

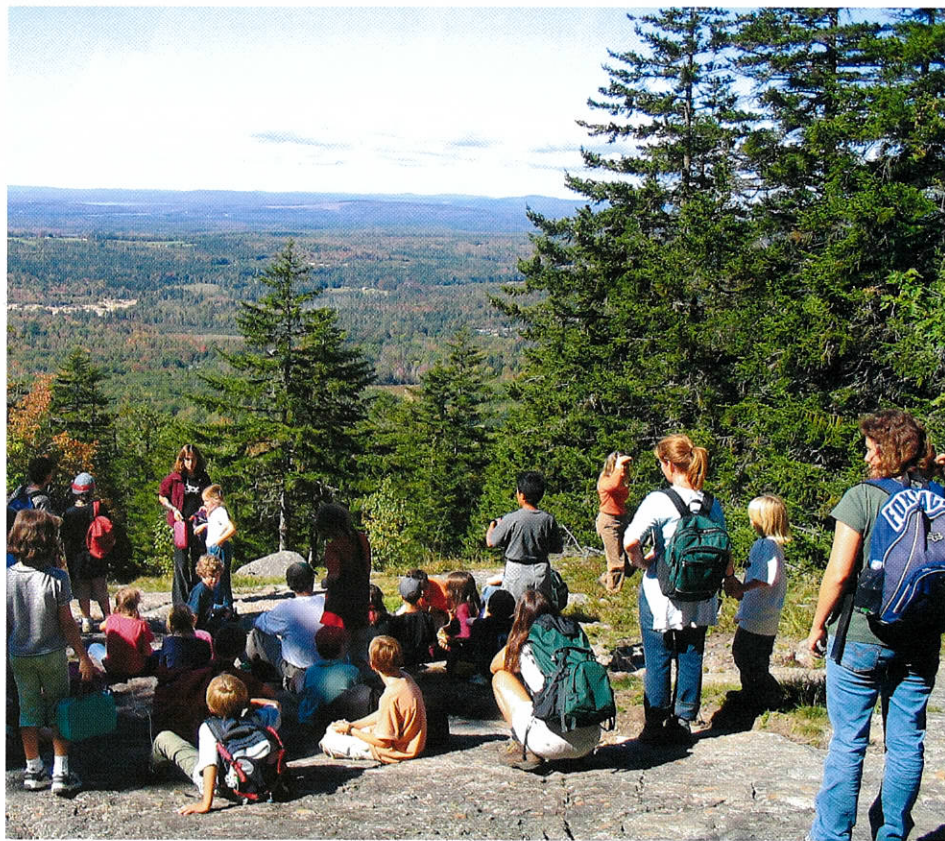
BLUE HILL / BROOKLIN / BROOKSVILLE / PENOBSCOT / SEDGWICK / SURRY

New Conservation Land on Blue Hill Mountain

BLUE HILL MOUNTAIN is a land-form of central importance to all who live or visit our peninsula. Some value it for its scenic beauty – a “monadnock” (isolated mountain) seen from a thousand different vantage points, others for the recreational opportunity it provides – a place for a hike that is rewarded with a captivating view. For some people the mountain holds strong spiritual importance. For a variety of

People and Land: Places to Walk

Part of our work as a land trust is to provide opportunities for people to connect with the land. This issue of our newsletter features reports on several aspects of that work, including new land projects that will allow us to create new trails (pages 1, 2, and 8), the opening of a new trail at our Kingdom Woods Preserve (page 3), and the important help that volunteers provide in maintaining existing trails (page 6).



A group of local school children enjoy the view from the Trust's new land.

plants and animals it is simply home – high quality wildlife habitat. Rising amidst us and above us, it is one of the enduring symbols of our place.

The conservation of the land on Blue Hill Mountain has always been a high priority for our Trust. It began in 1989 with a partnership with the late Louise Frederick to protect the land that had been in her family since the earliest settlement of this area, land that includes the summit and most of the Osgood hiking trail on the mountain's south side. It has continued since then with the addition of several other tracts.

The conservation work now continues with the recent acquisition of a 35-

acre tract of high land on the north side of the mountain. This latest acquisition abuts the Trust's existing ownership at a point just north of the summit and stretches over the mountain's northwestern shoulder. It also shares a boundary with the parcel acquired earlier this year and announced in our summer newsletter. It includes the portion of the mountain that we see as we drive south on Route 15 or Hinckley Ridge Road.

This new parcel also includes a section of the Osgood hiking trail, a section that affords a wonderful view to the west from a ledge outcropping that often serves as a resting place for hikers. Until

Continued on page 2



PHOTO BY BRYAN GAGNER

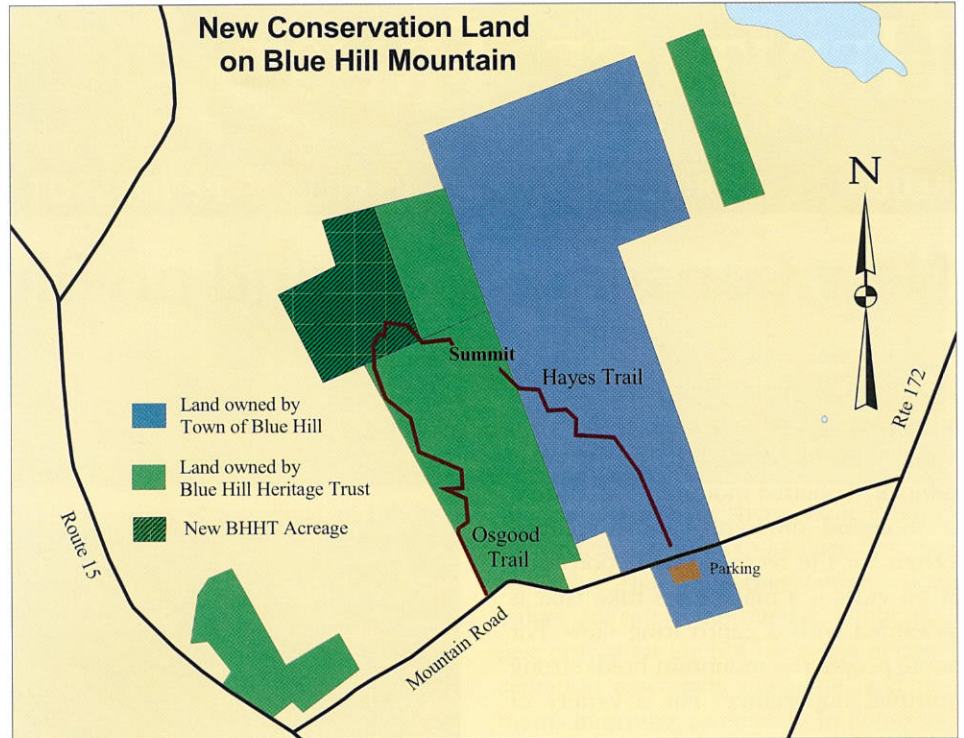
35 Acres Added on Blue Hill Mountain

Continued from page 1

some recent boundary work, no one had realized that the trail left the former Frederick property. Since that discovery the acquisition of this tract has been of highest priority.

The land cover is a mixture of hardwood and softwood trees of varying ages, with scattered ledge outcroppings in the highest sections and a small section of blueberry ground near its lower northern boundary. It provides a diversity of habitat types, including that enjoyed by black bears. The views of the landscape to the north, including Great Pond Mountain and Toddy Pond, and to the west, including Mt. Waldo and even the Camden Hills, are magnificent.

"This is a major accomplishment," says Jim Dow, the Trust's Executive Director. "It not only ensures that this prominent portion of the mountain will remain in its natural condition, it also provides us the opportunity to do some additional trail building that will give hikers a chance to experience the wonderful view to the north."



The Trust is grateful to the former owners, Kermit Allen, Wayne Allen and Joan Allen Dillard for their cooperation in arranging this transaction. We are also

grateful for the enduring contribution of Louise Frederick whose bequest made this acquisition possible.



A Gift of Access: Furth Wildlife Sanctuary in Surry

Thanks to the gift of one of our faithful members, we will be able improve walking access to one of our conservation properties at the head of Morgan Bay in Surry.

The 27-acre property, known as the Furth Wildlife Sanctuary, was purchased by the Trust in 2000 as part of our Peninsula 2000 capital campaign, as a complement to our nearby Carter Nature Preserve. The Friends of Morgan Bay (FOMB), a group of Surry residents, worked closely with us on this project as they have on others in the Morgan Bay area. The late Dr. Eugene Furth played a special role in the conservation of this land, and in honor of his

contribution it bears his name.

As part of our work of providing walking opportunities where possible and appropriate, we have been working with FOMB to locate and design a suitable footpath to access to this property. When it became clear that the best solution required crossing abutting property that we did not own, Mary Furth, Eugene's wife, offered the gift of a corridor of land for just this purpose. Her gift has inspired the promise of a similar gift from another abutter. Now, with the pieces in place, we will soon be working with the FOMB to create a trail that provides a new walking experience. *Thank you, Mary.*

A Walking Celebration: New Trail at Kingdom Woods

ON A DAMP and windy Saturday morning in October, twenty hearty souls ventured out to celebrate the opening of the new hiking trail at our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area. After some comments about the history of this conservation property, accompanied by coffee and pastries, former Board President and current Stewardship Committee Chair Peter Clapp cut a ribbon marking the official opening of the new trail. Executive Director Jim Dow and Stewardship Coordinator Erika Rowland then led a walk along a section of the three miles of trails that have been developed over the last two summers with the help of a crew of high school students from the Landmark Volunteers program.

The Kingdom Woods Conservation Area is the Trust's largest property. Now totaling nearly seven hundred acres, the property has been acquired in pieces over several years, beginning in 1998 with the purchase of a 320 acre parcel that included the entire shoreline of 50 acre Fourth Pond, one of the few undeveloped ponds in this section of coastal Maine. In addition to the pond, the land includes diverse forestland, wetlands and open blueberry fields.



As BHHT Board Member Susan Hand Shetterly and others look on, Peter Clapp cuts a ribbon officially opening the new trail.

Our primary conservation purpose in owning this land is to protect a large area of unfragmented wildlife habitat. A secondary goal is to provide educational and low impact recreational opportunities that are compatible with the conserva-



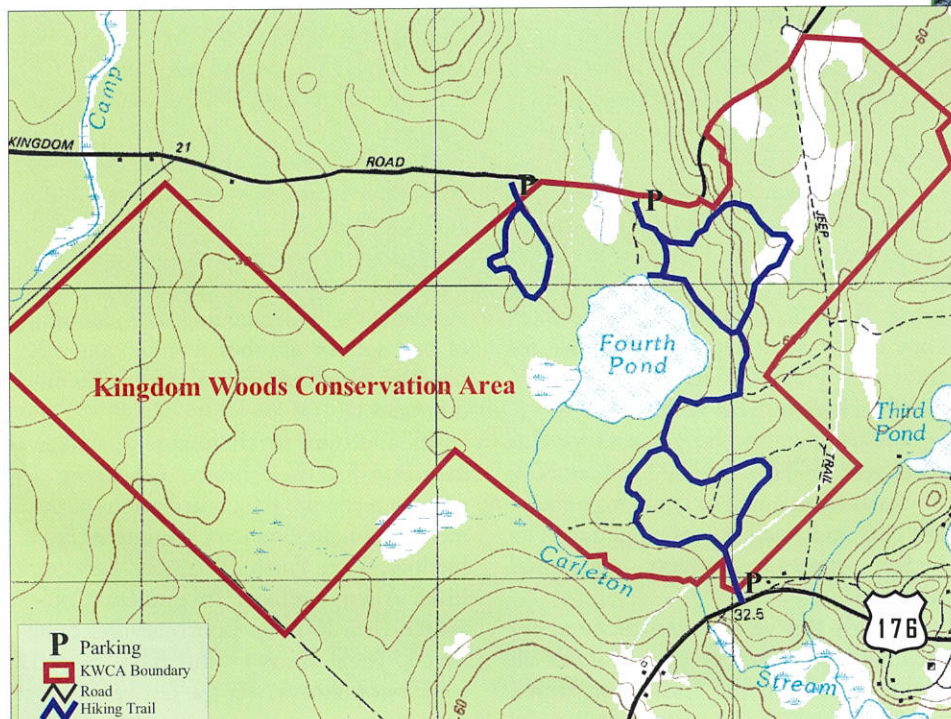
PHOTO BY BRYAN GAGNER

A snapping turtle encountered at the trail opening.

tion of wildlife habitat. A wide variety of wildlife uses this land including deer, black bear, and moose, and many bird species.

There is a growing demand for hiking opportunities on the Blue Hill peninsula, but a shortage of trails available to the public. We are pleased to be able to offer this opportunity for a long walk in a wonderful place.

The new trail, to the east of Fourth Pond, includes connected one mile loops at its northern and southern ends.





Annual Meeting 2004

**Bob and Jean Meyer receive special recognition
Bruce Kidman of The Nature Conservancy is guest speaker**

THE BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST held its 19th Annual Membership meeting on August 3rd at the Bay School's Emlen Hall in Blue Hill. The business portion of the meeting included approval of the minutes of 2003 Annual Meeting, reports from Board President Ben Emory, Treasurer John Murphy, and Executive Director Jim Dow and an election of Board members. The following members of the Board were nominated and re-elected to new 3 year terms: Mike Allen of Brooklin, LouAnna Perkins of Penobscot, Peter Clapp of Blue Hill, Katrina Parson of Brooklin, Pam Johnson of Sedgwick and Susan Hand Shetterly of Surry.

A highlight of the business meeting was the presentation of a special recognition award to Bob and Jean Meyer, long-time members and recent conservation easement donors. In presenting the award, President Ben Emory noted that to be successful in fulfilling its mission over the long term, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust needs members like the Meyers, who believe deeply in our work, who faithfully help support the work year in

and year out, who step up at some point to assume larger volunteer roles, and who lead by example.

The Meyers, who retired to Blue Hill in 1983 after spending most of their working lives abroad working with the United Nations and CARE, have been dedicated members since 1986, shortly after the Trust was founded. Bob served on our Board in the early 1990's, and helped us get off to the right start in the important work of monitoring conservation easements. Earlier this year, Bob and Jean demonstrated their ensuring commitment to our work by donating a conservation easement on their land in the center of Blue Hill, 69 acres of green that links the bay with the mountain.

Following the business meeting, guest speaker Bruce Kidman, Director of Communications and Government Relations for the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy provided a statewide perspective on our local land conservation work, reporting on land conservation successes, trends and challenges throughout Maine. He emphasized the growing importance of local land trusts.

PHOTO BY BRYAN GAGNER

Treasurer's Report

As presented at the Annual membership meeting on August 15, 2004 by Finance Committee member Whitney Landon on behalf of Treasurer John Murphy.

The Blue Hill Heritage Trust's financial condition is very sound, thanks to our devoted membership. During 2003 (our fiscal year is the calendar year):

- We met our operating budget of approximately \$120,000 with new revenue, thanks to your generosity.
- We continued to receive gifts fulfilling prior pledges to our Peninsula 2000 capital campaign.
- The value of our endowment/investment account, which is intended to help provide income to help support our annual operating and stewardship costs, grew significantly thanks to an upturn in

the stock market.

- We finished 2003 with net assets, which includes the book value of conservation lands we own, worth slightly over \$2.65 million.

- As we have done each year since the Trust was founded, we had our 2003 financial records audited. This year the audit was again performed by the accounting firm of Loiselle, Goodwin and Hinds. A copy of the audit report is available for those who wish to see it.

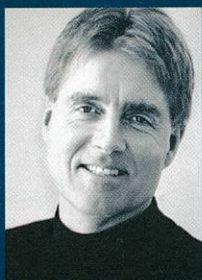
For the current fiscal year:

- Our operating budget goal for this fiscal year (2004) is \$145,000, about 80% of which is budgeted to come from member gifts and small operating grants. The budget increase reflects additional staffing.
- Early this year we re-structured our membership renewal process to invite all renewals early in the fiscal year, which

seems to be working. We have also been working to both expand our Conservator level members and to recruit new members.

- As of the end of July, the value of our endowment/investment account fund stood at \$545,000. I want to note that this fund is very important to ensuring the long-term well-being of this organization. As each of you engage in estate planning of one sort or another, I hope you will consider a planned capital gift to this endowment.

In addition to thanking all of our members for their financial support, I want to recognize the contributions of the members of our Finance Committee (Fred Heilner, Don Furth, Whitney Landon, Mike Allen) and our Investment Committee (Jim Kannry, Bob Marville, Stan Myers, Rick Tonge), who have helped guide our finances over the last year.



*Executive Director's
Column...*

Inspiration and Challenge

IN SEPTEMBER I had the pleasure of spending a few days hiking in Baxter State Park, which has long been one of my favorite places on this earth. It is a place of extraordinary beauty, a place to find temporary refuge from the busyness of one's day to day life and a place that invites reflection. For those of us engaged in the business of conservation, it is also a place of inspiration, an example of the enduring good that can be accomplished with vision, determination, perseverance and generosity.

PERCIVAL BAXTER had a vision for Katahdin and the surrounding land as a place that would be forever available to be enjoyed by the people of Maine. When, as state senator and then as governor, he could not convince the state government to take action on this vision, he did so himself. Over 32 years, using his own money, he steadily assembled what he called his "puzzle," one piece at a time. The completed puzzle, given

to the people of the Maine, included over 200,000 acres of magnificent land.

Not many of us have the means to do what Percival Baxter did by himself. Yet today, unlike in Baxter's time, we have land trusts, such as Blue Hill Heritage Trust, that provide a way for us to join together, to pool our resources, to protect some of the places that matter to us, to take private action for the public good. And, each of us can find inspiration in what Mr. Baxter accomplished through years of hard work, dedication and unyielding perseverance in the face of major challenges.

Protecting the character of the Blue Hill peninsula by conserving its special places – local places as meaningful to us as Baxter State Park – will require the inspired action of all of us. May we be as determined as Governor Baxter in piecing together "our puzzle."

Jim Dow

Caterpillar Hill Update

New signs at scenic turnout, abutting land on the market



Caterpillar Hill remains one of the places most valued by residents of the Blue Hill peninsula and visitors. At almost any time of day, there is usually someone stopped at the Maine Department of Transportation's scenic turnout, enjoying the view across our Cooper Farm property. That turnout now has some new interpretative signs, etched in granite, to inform visitors of the history of the area.

Meanwhile, we are currently completing a management plan for our land that addresses, among other issues, the challenge of managing the blueberry fields. We also hope to be able to lay out some new walking trails next summer that will allow people to enjoy this land in a new way.

The abutting property, about 16 acres that includes the small roadside buildings at the crest of the hill, has been placed on

the market for \$2 million. There is widespread interest in protecting the full Caterpillar Hill viewshed that is so prized by the public. That work began with our acquisition of the Cooper Farm in 2001. Continuing the conservation of this scenic jewel presents a real challenge in the current soaring real estate market. If you have thoughts about how that challenge can be met, please share them with us.



Trail maintenance – volunteers make it happen

This fall a crew of hearty and energetic volunteers completed the reconstruction of a section of our Osgood Trail to the summit of Blue Hill Mountain. High trail use combined with the steady seepage of water had created a messy stretch of trail. The solution involved some strategic ditching and the rebuilding of the trail bed. We are grateful to all of the volunteers who worked very hard to complete this over the course of one weekend. A spe-

cial thanks to Peter Colman who designed and helped lead the project.

The Osgood Trail is hiked thousands of times each year, in all seasons, by both residents and visitors. It, like all trails, requires regular maintenance. Fortunately many of the people who enjoy the trail are also willing to help take care of it. As we develop other walking opportunities the need for volunteers to assist with trail maintenance will grow. We cannot do it without them.



Erika Rowland and Peter Colman (above), and Mike Laub (above left), work on the trail repair project.

Team BHHT Takes First Place at YMCA Triathlon

The Blue Hill Heritage Trust staff, small but able, raced as a team in the 6th Annual Down East Family YMCA Mountain to the Sea Triathlon this August. The Trust's Stewardship Coordinator, Erika Rowland (shown below), led the team to a strong start in the 10K run. Executive Director Jim Dow and Program Assistant Misha Mytar managed to hold onto the lead throughout the 4K kayak paddle and 16K cycling legs to bring the team to a first place finish in the Mixed Team category.



WE ARE GRATEFUL to the following lecturers, trip leaders, committee members, trail workers and office volunteers who have donated their time and expertise to our work over the last year: Robert Baldwin, Anna Bourakovsky, Louise Bourne, Ann Brayton, Leslie Clapp, Peter Colman, Naomi Courtemanche, Peter Dennett, Don Furth, Brian Gagner, Fred Heilner, Andy Kandutsch, Jim Kannry, John Kennedy, Mike Laub, Nicholas Lindholm, Bob Marville, Mark McCullough, Lorenzo Mitchell, Stan Myers, Sally Rooney, Tricia Rouleau, Rick Tonge, Anne Walker, Greg Williams, and the Landmark Volunteer crew (shown in photo above).



Stewardship Coordinator Erika Rowland finishing the 10K run at the YMCA Triathlon.

Our Wish List

Clinometer

Legal Sized File Cabinet

Flat File, Laminating Machine

and a Special Thank You

to Dick and Gail Bartlett for responding to our spring Wish List by donating a round office table.

Summer 2005 Intern Position Opening

We expect to have an opening for an intern to help with our work next summer (June–August 2005). The ideal candidate would have local roots, outdoor skills and interests, work experience and a demonstrated interest in land conservation and/or natural history. If you or someone you know might have interest, please contact Misha.

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

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Ben Emory, *President*, Brooklin
 Pamela Johnson, *Vice President*, Sedgwick
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 Bruce Norelius, Brooksville
 Katrina Parson, Brooklin
 Susan Hand Shetterly, Surry
 Nicholas Sichterman, Blue Hill

Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
 Erika Rowland, *Stewardship Coordinator*
 Misha Mytar, *Program 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.

Lessons in stewardship

Native plants suffer new threat: Viburnums are Leaf Beetles' preferred food

by Pam Johnson

NATIVE VIBURNUMS constitute a valuable group of shrubs in our woods and in our gardens. Viburnums have showy clusters of cream-coloured flowers in May and June, various, attractive leaf shapes, and colorful autumn fruit and foliage. The viburnums' common names reflect both historical uses and familiarity in the landscape: *Viburnum dentatum*, for example, is called Arrowwood for its strong, straight branches; while Hobblebush, *Viburnum lantanoides* (alnifolia), refers to this species' penchant for footing where its arching stems touch the ground, forming challenging thickets in moist woods.

Until recently the viburnums have had no serious pests or diseases. Now, however, a European beetle, *Pyrrhalta viburni*, brought into Canada in the 1940's, has moved south and begun to attack viburnums in Maine. *Viburnum dentatum* is listed as the beetles' preferred food, but all the

native viburnums (as well as European and Asian ornamental viburnums) are susceptible.

Affected shrubs are easy to spot with their skeletonized leaves in sum-



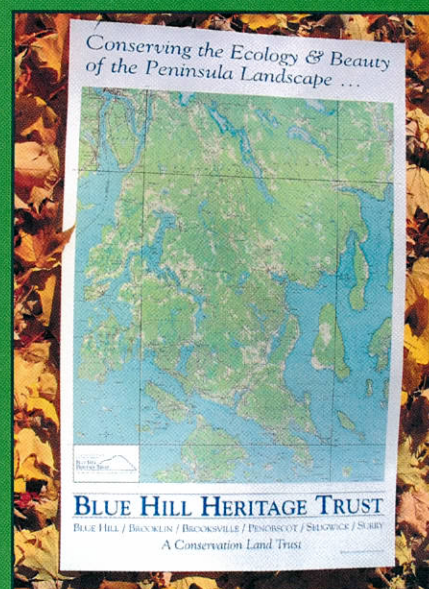
Viburnum foliage and twig with egg scars.

mer and scabbed excavations, containing the beetles' eggs, on the undersides of new wood. Continuous egg-laying by female beetles throughout the growing season makes control difficult. Inspection of potential nursery purchases for beetles or larvae may help avoid spreading this devastating insect to your garden and woods, and further into the wild landscape.

Pam Johnson is a member of the Trust's Board of Directors. She has a special interest in native plant species.

Special Holiday Gift Offer

Give a \$35 BHHT membership to a friend or loved one this holiday and we will include a Blue Hill Peninsula Map Poster. Your gift will help support our continuing efforts to protect the natural beauty of this peninsula. Stop by our office or call 374-5118 to order.



New Conservation Easement on the Salt Pond

A donation that protects open space, views and traditional access

Marilyn Miller and Joy Biddle love their property in Sedgwick along the western end of the Salt Pond. They also understand the public benefits it provides- the views to the Salt Pond across their fields enjoyed by people driving the Hale's Hill Road between Sedgwick and Brooklin, the wildlife habitat offered by the fields and the shoreline, the open space that is part of the traditional rural character of the area, the access to the water. For these reasons they have worked with us to develop a conservation easement that will protect these values.

As with all conservation easements the property will remain the private property of the owners; however, the property will now have a set of permanent restrictions against certain future uses that would compromise the land's conservation values. It will be the Trust's responsibility, as the "conservation easement holder," to ensure that those legally binding restrictions are upheld by the current owners and all future owners.

The property includes 11 acres of fields and lightly forested land lying between the Hale's Hill Road and the Salt Pond. It includes 800 feet of shore frontage on the Salt Pond, an estuary that is rich with wildlife including bald



eagles, a variety of waterfowl and shorebirds.

The terms of the easement will limit development to a one-acre "building envelope" along the public road, the site of the existing house. The remainder of the land will remain as open space, including the shore frontage. As development pressures continue to transform the other undeveloped land along the Salt Pond into house sites, this stretch will remain undeveloped.

Aware of the steady loss of traditional public access points to our waterbodies that is occurring across our landscape, Marilyn and Joy are also including a public access provision in the conservation easement grant to the Trust. This will allow walking access across a portion of

their property to the shore, while leaving the owners the right to manage that use to ensure that the other conservation values are not compromised. Public access provisions are not the norm in conservation easements since the land remains in private ownership. In doing so, these owners are acting with unusual generosity and foresight.

This new conservation easement project is near a 68-acre parcel on which we also hold a conservation easement. Covering part of the property known as Meadowbrook Farm, that easement was donated earlier this year (and reported in our Spring/Summer newsletter). Perhaps this latest gift will inspire other landowners in this area to follow suit.

By the Numbers

Protected Acres

since 19854,369

Conservation Easements on
privately owned land.....2,982

Conservation land
owned by BHHT1,387

Projects completed since 1985 ..

Conservation easement projects
on privately owned land 40

Conservation land
acquisition projects26

New Projects completed in 20038

New Projects expected to be
completed in 200410

Conserving the Ecology & Beauty
of the Peninsula Landscape

**BLUE HILL
HERITAGE TRUST**

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

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