

# BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST



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

SUMMER 2007

## Land for Wildlife, Land for People

### 49 Acres Added to Kingdom Woods Conservation Area

THANKS TO a cooperative landowner with strong feelings for the land, a 49-acre parcel has been added to our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, in Blue Hill, providing additional unfragmented wildlife habitat as well as the opportunity for additional walking trails and educational uses.

Because of its location near Fourth Pond, the diverse habitat it provides and the fact that it bordered on two sides by the Trust's other land, this tract was highly ranked in the list of possible future additions to KWCA. By simplifying the boundaries of KWCA, its acquisition also makes our long-term stewardship responsibilities easier to manage.

George Leach, the former owner, had acquired the property from his parents nearly four decades ago and it held sentimental value for him. Yet the idea of the land remaining as a natural area available for both wildlife and for people appealed to him. He thus agreed to sell it to the Trust. Funding for the purchase came from a bequest to the Trust and from a loan which we are working to repay.

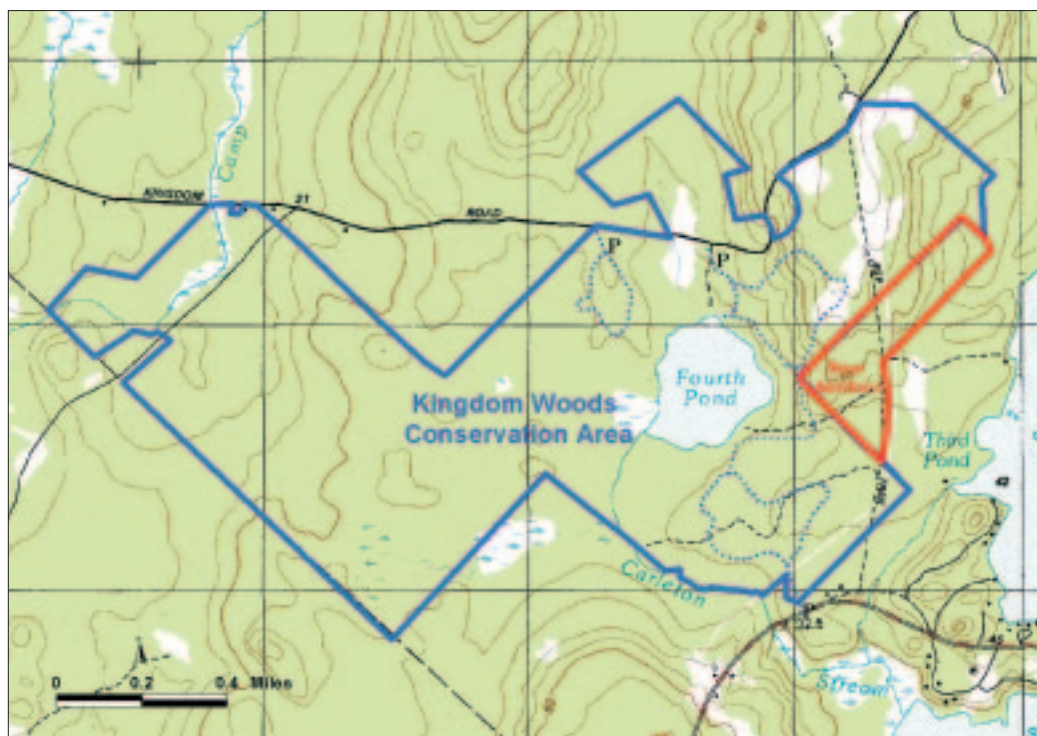
#### 878 Acres Nine Years Later

Our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area now includes 878 acres and has been assembled through nine transactions beginning in 1998. It is our largest conservation property. Tracts of this size that are unfragmented by roads or development are now rare on the Blue Hill peninsula but are essential to support a diverse wildlife as well as to provide a place where people can experience the natural world.

We celebrated this latest addition by hosting our first Walks and Talks program of 2007 there in April, taking advantage of a beautiful pocket wetland to investigate "the secret lives of frogs, newts and salamanders." We look forward to trail planning for this land, expanding the three miles of public walking trails that are currently available to the public at Kingdom Woods.



IN APRIL, Enoch Albert led an enthusiastic group of adults and children in search of amphibians on our new land in the Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, in Blue Hill.



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Blue Hill Heritage Trust  
P. O. Box 222  
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## Walks & Talks

### Map Reading and Orienteering

For Ages 10-14  
Thursday, July 12  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### A Walking History of Long Island

Saturday, July 21  
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

### Full Moon Hike Up Blue Hill Mountain

Monday, July 30  
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

### Blueberry Pick at Cooper Farm on Caterpillar Hill

Saturday, August 11  
9 a.m. to Noon

### Having Fun with Fungus

Saturday, September 15  
10 a.m. to Noon

### Focus on Species Forestry

Saturday, September 22  
— 9 a.m. to Noon

## Annual Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2007

Mark Your Calendar! Our 2007 annual membership meeting will be held Wednesday September 5th (at a time and place to be announced). Please plan to join us for a review the past years work as well as a look-ahead. It's a chance to see old friends and make new ones, all of whom share an interest in the conservation of this place.



## Walks & Talks

Our ninth annual series is under way! These outdoor programs are intended to help us become better acquainted with many special places found on our Peninsula, with a focus on conservation properties that the Trust owns or monitors. We hope that you will join us — they are family-friendly, free and open to the public. To register or get more information, call 374-5118.

# EBS Helps

THANKS to EBS Building Supplies, one of our local business members, we have been able to add a key section to a managed trail corridor from the Blue Hill village to the Blue Hill mountain.

In 2004, Bob and Jean Meyer helped us begin this project by donating a conservation easement on their 69 acres of land that almost, but not quite, connects Main Street and the Mountain Road in Blue Hill. That easement not only ensured that this forested "green center" would remain undeveloped, it also allowed us to develop and manage a walking trail available to the public.

However, two necessary links were missing. One was a connection from the Meyer land to Main Street. EBS granted us permission to develop a short trail section behind their warehouse that provides a convenient trailhead behind the post office. With the volunteer assistance of trail expert Pete Colman, we have created some stone steps to begin the trail and a series of bog bridges that lead it through some wet areas.

We are grateful for EBS for their community-minded spirit reflected by their help with this project. A special thanks to Ken Burgess, who manages EBS's Blue Hill store.



**Please Note:** *There is still one more missing link yet to be arranged: formal permission for a section from the north end of the Meyer property to the Mountain Road. A frequently used path exists that crosses unposted private property, but no public right exists to use this property or manage this section of trail. Also, those using this trail may not park in the post office parking area.*



Bell's Point

## Aerial Monitoring

With the generous help of LightHawk, a non-profit organization that arranges flights for other environmental organizations, and pilot Al Rollins, who donates his time and the use of his plane, we successfully completed our annual spring monitoring flight over our conservation properties. These flights help us monitor the 48 properties totaling 3100 acres on which we hold conservation easements, and the 1600 acres that we own. There is nothing like the view from above. Thank you, Al and LightHawk!

## Global Climate Change: A Global Issue Needs Local Action

**IF CLIMATE CHANGE is not addressed with urgency, the consequences will be devastating for America's natural areas.** From the vast wilderness areas to the small community land trust lands, from the pathbreaking efforts of Theodore Roosevelt to today's conservation efforts – our protected areas are now at risk. We are on the brink of the greatest tragedy in American conservation history – if we let it happen.”

– James Gustave Speth, Red Sky at Morning: America and the Crisis of the Global Environment

Climate change is an issue of concern for us all. The public debate about whether it is an issue seems over- the debate now is what to do about it. As we continue our local

land conservation work, we all need to give attention to this over-riding issue, finding ways to be part of a solution that averts the tragedy James Speth warns us about.

## Business members

We are grateful to these local businesses which are investing in our communities by supporting our work. Please consider supporting them as well.

- |                              |                                |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aqua Development Corporation | Eggmoggin Textile Studio       | ME Astbury and Sons, Inc.      |
| Art at the Flower Farm       | Elliott Elliott Norelius       | Michael Hewes & Co.            |
| The Bay School               | Architecture                   | New Cargoes, Inc.              |
| Blue Hill Accounting         | The First                      | The Photographic Curators      |
| Blue Hill Antiques           | Gabrielle Wellman, Feldenkrais | Resource                       |
| Blue Hill Books              | & Shiatsu                      | Piot Associates, LLC.          |
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Continued on page 3

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### Executive Director Jim Dow's Column

## Leaving a Legacy



The Blue Hill Heritage Trust recently and regrettably lost two members of our family. Rufus Canda, a local businessman deeply connected to this place, helped create this organization, serving as one of our founding Board members in 1985. Ruth Holbrook, a native New Englander who found her true home here more than four decades ago, donated a conservation easement on her land. Both, in their own way, left an enduring legacy; one, an enduring local organization that has now conserved nearly 4800 acres; the other, a beloved parcel of land whose natural scenic qualities will remain unspoiled.

Not everyone can to serve on a

board or grant a conservation easement. But we can each make a contribution to protecting the landscape that is our common heritage: by becoming a member of our Trust, by encouraging others to join, by volunteering, by sharing your ideas with us about the places that matter. One easy way to leave an enduring legacy is to name the Trust in your will (as I have done). Bequests provide essential support for new land projects as well as enduring support for the day to day work of our organization.

We are grateful to both Rufus and Ruth. Their legacies endure.

## Summer Trail Work Planned for BH Mountain

THIS SUMMER we will be completing the second stage of a trail restoration project begun in 2004 when a highly eroded stretch of trail on land owned by the Town of Blue Hill was transformed into a 400-foot set of stone stairs, thanks to the help of the Maine Recreational Trail Program, the Maine Conservation Corps and a variety of local donors and vol-

unteers. This summer the upper section of that trail will be re-routed to both cure the current erosion problems and poor trail conditions, and to improve the hiking experience. The project will be led by local trail consultant Pete Colman and Erika Rowland, our Conservation Lands Manager, and will include assistance from a crew of teenagers provided by Landmark Volunteers. Financial assistance has been provided by the residents of the Town of Blue Hill at the March town meeting. Want to help? Call Erika at 374-5118.



Summer Trail Intern

WE ARE very pleased to welcome **Samantha Haskell** to our staff as our 2007 summer trail intern. Samantha lives in Sedgwick and is a 2005 graduate of George Stevens Academy, and a 2006 graduate of the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). She will begin her sophomore year at College of the Atlantic in the fall. Samantha will help lead our summer trail projects as well as assist with various other land stewardship tasks.



## A Surprise Visitor

WE KNEW that Meadow Brook was a special place for a diverse variety of wildlife when we worked with Ben and Dianna Emory, the owners of one property there, in 2004 to develop a conservation easement to protect its value as wildlife habitat. However, we never expected to include a Sandhill Crane among the list of species that used it. Yet, this spring, to our surprise, there one was—enjoying the benefits of the landowners' far-sighted commitment to conserving this remarkable part of our landscape. We hope that this latest indicator of the importance of this wetland complex connecting the Salt Pond and the Benjamin River, and forming part of the boundary between Sedgwick and Brooklin, will inspire other nearby landowners to consider joining the effort to protect this very special natural area.

## Blue Hill Heritage Trust

### Mission Statement

Our mission is 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.

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### Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*  
 Erika Rowland, *Conservation Lands Manager*  
 Samantha Allen, *Summer Trail Intern*

# A Gift of Land in Surry Creates a Nature Sanctuary



“For almost 50 years, we have spent our all-too-short summer vacations in this area, ultimately settling on Newbury Neck, Surry. All through the year, thoughts of Maine sustain us, and being there in summer is one of the great joys for all our family. Because of the pleasure we receive from the magnificent landscapes and the closeness we feel to the plants and animals, we hope that the land we have gifted for conservation will give others (both the wildlife that lives there and the visitors who will come there) delight and solace for many years to come.”

– PAMELA AND PAUL TALALAY

## What really makes a gift memorable are the emotions that surround and flow from such a gift.

When a landowner makes a gift of land to the Blue Hill Heritage Trust for conservation purposes, it is always a special event. Several things make such a land donation memorable. There is of course the land itself, unique in its own way and worthy of being conserved in its natural state in perpetuity. There is also the relative simplicity of the transaction, without the need for many complicated negotiations, fundraising or loans. But what really make it memorable are the emotions that surround and flow from such a gift, in particular the pleasure of the donors in completing a generous act that has deep meaning for them and lasting benefits for others.

The recent gift to the Trust of 32.6 acres of land in Surry from Paul and Pamela Talalay was had all these qualities. Inspired by their love of their property on the Newbury Neck Road and the local community that has enriched their lives over the years, as well as by the other nearby conservation work that has been accomplished through a partnership of the Friends of Morgan Bay and the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, the Talalays took great pleasure in making a gift that “gave something back” and that might itself inspire others to engage in similar acts of conservation.

This new forested conservation land, to be known as the Ta-

lalay Nature Sanctuary, abuts other land owned by the Trust, expanding the area of protected wildlife habitat near the head of Morgan Bay while also providing an opportunity to extend the existing nature trail system. The Friends of Morgan Bay, a group of local residents focused on the conservation of upper Morgan Bay watershed, will assist us with the stewardship of this new property. Thank you, Paul and Pamela.



*If you find inspiration*

in what the Talalays have done, and would like to discuss a gift of your land, please call us. There is no obligation. We would enjoy the chance to talk with you.

Help conserve the places that both wildlife & people need.



A cluster of Wood Tree Frog eggs.

**YES!** I would like to help conserve the ecology and beauty of the peninsula landscape.

**Conservator** .....\$1000 and up  
**Benefactor** .....\$500 – \$999  
**Steward** .....\$250 – \$499  
**Sustaining** .....\$100 – \$249  
**Supporting** .....\$50 – \$99  
**Contributing** .....\$35 – \$49

- Please find enclosed my/our tax-deductible gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I have named the trust in my will.
- Please contact me about bequests and other planned giving opportunities.
- I/We prefer to remain anonymous.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check or money order payable and mail to:

**BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST**  
 P. O. Box 222  
 Blue Hill, ME 04614



## GSA Environmental Action Club Helps with Spring Trail Clean-up



GSA students Na Ra Voon, Min Pyo Kim and Smiley Durost restore a waterbar on the Osgood Trail.

Several energetic students from George Stevens Academy’s Environmental Action Club, led by their advisor, teacher Carolyn Bennatti, helped us prepare our Osgood trail to the summit of Blue Hill Mountain for the busy summer season

by cleaning and repairing the waterbars. This popular trail is hiked thousands of times each year. Regular maintenance is thus required, and volunteers, like these GSA students, help us meet that need.

## Trusts Join to Help with “Safe Routes to School”

CREATING walking opportunities in the communities has recently been a focus of our work. Recently that work helped a collaboration of partners qualify for a grant supporting the creation of a system of “safe routes to school” in Blue Hill, intended to provide safe areas for children to walk and bike around town.

The overall goal of the project is create five routes from the center of Blue Hill that connect the four schools, the public library, the recreational fields the town park and tennis. Designed by Healthy Peninsula, the Hancock County Planning Commission, selectman Jim Schatz and road commissioner Mike Astbury, the project includes the trail recently re-developed and maintained by the Trust from South Street to Parker Point Road. The value of the recent work done on the trail helped provide a match for a successful grant proposal awarding \$65,000 to the Town of Blue Hill to finance a major element of the overall project: the construction of new sidewalk on High Street from Union Street to Pleasant Street near George Stevens Academy and the Blue Hill Consolidated School.