

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

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

SUMMER 2011

Blue Hill Heritage Trust
P. O. Box 222
Blue Hill ME 04614

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Farmington, ME
Permit No. 30

Please join us for these special events:



Mountain Day 2011, Sunday, August 7

Our second annual family-oriented outdoor celebration on the slopes of Blue Hill Mountain. Music, food, games, a race up the mountain – fun!



Annual Meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 7, 5:30 pm

Our 26th annual membership meeting at Kneisel Hall in Blue Hill. An enjoyable evening with members and friends that includes a reception and a program reviewing the Trust's work over the past year.

New Trails: *Providing public access to beautiful natural areas*

This summer we will be developing new trails on two of our preserves that will provide additional walking opportunities for residents and visitors interested in exploring the wonder of the Blue Hill Peninsula landscape. We look forward to celebrating the opening of these new trails in late summer.

Snow's Cove Preserve: New 1.6 mile trail in Sedgwick

Our Snow's Cove Preserve in Sedgwick has a diverse array of vegetation, interesting topography and a long stretch of shoreline on the upper Bagaduce River. This 52 acre parcel came to us as a gift in 2007, thanks to the generosity of Bill Brown and Paul Trowbridge. After conducting an inventory of the land's natural resources, developing a management plan, hosting educational programs on the land and laying out a trail route that will provide an enjoyable walking experience without compromising the land's natural features, we are now devoting the time and resources necessary to create the trail.

Patten Stream Preserve: 40 acres in Surry

Our Patten Stream Preserve in Surry has already become a favorite for wild flower enthusiasts, having been the site for several of our Walks and Talks programs since we purchased this land 40 acre parcel in 2008. Last fall we completed the first loop of a double loop trail that features the northern section of the property. This summer we will be developing the southern loop that will allow visitors to enjoy its captivating stream frontage.



A crew of volunteers has been hard at work creating the new trail on Snow's Cove Preserve.

More trail work on Blue Hill Mountain See page 2

King Hill Farm project completed See page 3

Wallamatogus Mountain Raptor Preserve See page 4



The Peterson bequest, in red above, abuts our Emerton Heath property and begins a conservation corridor along Emerton Brook to other Trust land marked in green.

New Land: *A surprise bequest of land in Surry*

A 62 acre parcel of land in Surry will soon become conservation land thanks to the foresight of its former owner, Louis Peterson, who left the land to us in his will. This posthumous gift extends conservation protection from our adjacent Emerton Heath property southerly along Emerton Brook, which links the Heath to the headwaters of Morgan Bay.

Lou Peterson, a musician with a strong environmental interest, lived out of state but often visited friends who lived near this land. He purchased this property over twenty years ago and enjoying walking on it during his visits. During one of those visits, he met Hugh Curran, a member of the Friends of Morgan Bay, one of our partner organizations, who spoke with Mr. Peterson about the natural values of his property and about the concept of a conservation corridor from the Emerton Heath to Morgan Bay.

During the next few years, Hugh stayed in contact with Lou, who, according to Hugh, was "incredibly enthusiastic about the conservation possibilities for his land."

Lou's death was a surprise, as was his decision to leave his land to our Trust. We will honor his memory through the conservation of his land – a legacy that will endure.

The Power of Bequests

Bequests of land or money have a powerful impact on our work – and create a meaningful and lasting legacy for the donor. Please consider naming Blue Hill Heritage Trust in your will.

Stewardship:



An aerial view of the landscape from Blue Hill Falls to Blue Hill Mountain and beyond.

Monitoring our conservation lands from a bird's-eye view

Each year we monitor our conservation lands from the air. It is an efficient way to fulfill our stewardship responsibilities. It also allows us to see our landscape from a different perspective. This year our Stewardship Director Charlotte Clews Lawther and Board member Mitchell Baum took to the air, thanks to **LightHawk**, a non-profit organization that provides flying services to other non-profit conservation organizations. To the left is a one of the photos Mitchell took during that flight and wanted to share with those unable to catch the view from 1000 feet up.

Summer work on the Osgood Trail

Trails Take People, Time and Money

Building and maintaining trails take people, time and money. Financial contributions from our members help support this work as do the gifts of time by volunteers. Grants also help make it possible for us to provide trails for our community's recreational enjoyment. This year we are pleased to have the assistance of a grant from the **Maine Recreational Trails Program** of the Maine Department of Conservation, which will allow to us complete two new trails and continue the maintenance of the Osgood Trail.



The Maine Conservation Corps crew members set stones on a section of the Osgood Trail to harden the walking surface.

Building new walking trails is exciting. The long-term maintenance of those trails is less glamorous but essential. The people who use our trails have an impact: the more use, the more impact. Because the trails on Blue Hill Mountain are heavily used in all seasons, they always appear on our annual list of trail maintenance projects. This year we will be work-

ing once more on the Osgood Trail, implementing another piece of a long term trail restoration plan, hardening walking surfaces and solving erosion problems on various sections of the trail. A crew from the Maine Conservation Corps is assisting with the Osgood Trail work.



Fungi Fun: Getting children onto the land

A delightful group of 3rd and 4th graders from the Brooksville Elementary School along with their teacher Ms. Nada Lepper, joined Charlotte Clews

Lawther, Director of Stewardship, on a field trip to our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area to learn about the many different kinds of fungus, lichens and mosses that live on the edge of Fourth Pond. They safely returned to the bus unfazed by the hungry hordes of black flies.

Providing opportunities for children to learn about the natural world that is such a prominent part of our communities is an important part of our Trust's mission.



Children from the Brooksville Elementary School learn about fungi, mosses and lichens at Fourth Pond, a Trust property.

Join us for a Walk & Talk!

Magic of Fireflies

July 6 at Blue Hill Mountain

Quill's End Farm Tour

July 9 at Quill's End Farm

Art on the Land Workshop for Kids

July 23-25 on Blue Hill Mountain

Art on the Land Workshop for Adults

July 23-24 on Blue Hill Mountain

Mountain Day!

Aug. 7 at Blue Hill Mountain

Intertidal Exploration

Aug. 9 at Carter Nature Preserve

Full Moon Hike

Aug. 13 at Blue Hill Mountain

Riparian Plants

Aug. 20 at Patten Stream Trail



Fern Identification

Sept. 7 at Kingdom Woods Conservation Area

BHHT Annual Meeting

Sept. 7 at Kneisel Hall

Geology of Brooksville Volcanic Rock

Sept. 18 at John B. Mountain

Mushrooms of the Blue Hill Peninsula

Oct. 1 at Snow's Cove

CALL OUR OFFICE FOR DETAILS.



Local Farms Mean Local Food

We are fortunate to have a growing number of local farms producing high quality local food. In addition to King Hill Farm, the following local farms are protected by conservation easements held by our Trust: Horsepower Farm, Blue Zee Farm, Quill's End Farm, Old Ackley Farm, Homewood Farm, Ken-Rose Farm, Lazy C Farm, Living Branch Farm.



King Hill Farm: Signed, Sealed and Recorded

Although it took a couple of months longer than we expected to reach closing, on February 18th a conservation easement was signed by the owners of King Hill Farm in Penobscot that will protect the rich agricultural resources of one of the Blue Hill Peninsula flagship

organic farms. This easement, part donation and part purchase, is one element in a farm ownership succession plan that will aid the process of transferring the farm to the next generation of farmers. Thanks again to owners, Ron King, Dennis King and Jo Barrett for adding

King Hill Farm to the growing list of local farms protected through our **Farm-land Forever Program**, and to the **Land for Maine's Future Program** and the **Maine Farmland Trust** for their financial assistance.

Jed Island: The Final Push

We are going to be working hard this summer to find the funds to complete the permanent protection of Jed Island. With about a year and a half left on a generous five-year fundraising window provided by the sellers, we still need to raise about \$340,000. (\$460,000 of the total project cost goal of \$800,000 has been raised.)

We are planning a series of events to acquaint people with the

value and beauty of this pristine island at the mouth of Morgan Bay. Please call me (374-5897) or Jim Dow at BHHT's office (374-5118) if you are interested in contributing to our joint effort with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to ensure that this beautiful near-shore island remains permanently available to wildlife and people.

John Merrifield,
Jed Island Project Fundraising Chair



Spring Burn at Caterpillar Hill

A May Day burn on Caterpillar Hill will help keep the well-loved view open and blueberries available for those who like to pick their own.

A group of Trust volunteers and a crew of firefighters from the Maine Forest Service and the Sedgwick Fire Department assisted us with a controlled burn of the roadside blueberry field on our Cooper Farm property. After small trees and shrubs were cut by Trust volunteers and wind conditions were deemed safe, the burn crew conducted a flawless sixteen acre burn using the existing vegetation as fuel, with water tanks and a fire trucks on hand as safety measures.

When the Trust acquired this property in 2001, it had not been used for commercial blueberry production, and had

been not burned, for more than a decade. The Trust conducted the first controlled burn five years ago and plans to burn on a five year cycle, which is adequate to protect the view and keep blueberry plants available for public recreational picking. It also allows the burn to be fuelled by the existing accumulated vegetation, avoiding the need to use petroleum or other fuels.

We offer our special thanks to Maine Forest Rangers John Cousins and Rick Henion, Sedgwick Fire Chief David Carter, and the volunteer fire crew that included Dennis Robertson, Dick Doane, Dave Gulya, Bruce Austin, Bobby Ebert, Chrissy Ebert, and Drew Allen from the Sedgwick Fire Department and Bobby Canary from the Orland Fire Department.

President's Column

Community: We are here together

We are here together on this Peninsula. We are a community. A community composed of wildlife and people looking for prosperity, sustainability and health. The land is our playing field, our habitat – the connection to the earth, the wind and the sun. We plant gardens of flowers and vegetables. We walk along trails. We cherish our space. The smell of the fresh woods, the raising mist off the field, the moose footprint in the mud, or the sound of the wood thrush – all make us pause and take note.

The Blue Hill Heritage Trust is working for you every day. We are talking with your neighbors, evaluating properties, looking at the present and assessing what a project will provide the Peninsula in the future, writing grants and raising the necessary funds. These decisions are made for you, our community and to support our environment filled with

plants and animals – the life we cherish.

The Peninsula can use your support. The Trust needs your participation. Remember we are here together and the future matters to every living thing.

Mary Barnes, President



Blue Hill Heritage Trust's Board of Directors

Back L-R: Peter Clapp, Norm Alt, John Murphy, John Mansfield, Pam Johnson, Mitchell Baum, Norman Mrozicki. Front L-R: Heather Albert-Knopp, David Porter, Mary Barnes, Bonnie Copper. Missing from photo: Jim Kannry, and Kim Ridley.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Mission Statement

The mission of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust 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.

Newsletter Editor & Writer – James Dow
Design & Layout – Mary Greene Design

Success: Wallamatogus Mountain Raptor Preserve



A strong partnership and a major gift bring a project to completion

Raptors

These birds of prey, which include hawks, owls, falcons and eagles, are vital for keeping natural systems in balance. This project highlights the importance of protecting raptor habitat.

Two years ago we announced in our newsletter that a partnership between our Trust and the neighboring Conservation Trust of Brooksville, Castine and Penobscot (TCT) had resulted in the joint purchase of 273 acres of land on Wallamatogus Mountain in Penobscot, subject to repayment of a two year \$90,000 purchase loan secured by a mortgage on the land. We are now pleased to report that, thanks to a couple of anonymous donors, the property is now securely and permanently in the conservation fold.

The donors, members of the Maine Falconry & Raptor Conservancy, had a special interest in the conservation of raptor habitat. Discussions followed about whether it would be appropriate to manage this land with special consideration for its potential value as raptor habitat. Based on what we had learned about the land over the last couple of years, we decided it would. We

also decided that it made sense to re-arrange the ownership interests between our two trusts so as to create a double layer of protection.

On November 30th, the loan was repaid, the mortgage released, our Trust took full ownership of the property, TCT became the holder of a conservation easement with restrictions designed to ensure that its use by humans remains compatible with its value to raptors and other wildlife – the Wallamatogus Mountain Raptor Preserve was born!

A very special thanks to the donors whose exceptional gift brought this project to the finish line. Thanks as well to Maine

Coast Heritage Trust for the purchase loan and for the assistance of its staff in the negotiations that resulted in the double layer of protection.

We are now turning our attention to stewardship issues including providing ap-



Barred Owl, *Striz varia*



Broad winged hawk, *Buteo platyterus*

propriate public access to this remote parcel of land. We look forward to introducing this special place to our members and friends through our Walks and Talks program.



You can help

Yes! I want to help conserve the character of the Blue Hill Peninsula landscape for future generations.

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 to:

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

Wednesday Walks



Summer Schedule

- July 6 Furth Wildlife Sanctuary
- July 13 Patten Stream North Loop in Surry
- July 20 Kingdom Woods Nature Loop
- July 27 Caterpillar Hill
- Aug. 3 Talalay Trail in Surry
- Aug. 10 Blue Hill Mountain (Osgood Trail)
- Aug. 17 Snow's Cove Trail Sedgwick
- Aug. 24 John B. Mountain Brooksville
- Aug. 31 Patten Stream South Loop in Surry

It's summer in Maine, so slow down and take your time and join us on our Wednesday morning family walks that began on June 1. Children, parents and elders are all welcome as we meander down a new Blue Hill Heritage Trust trail each

week. There is always plenty of time to smell the roses, eat the blueberries and photograph the ferns, so come prepared to enjoy all that our land has to offer! Please join us! The schedule is to the left.