

# Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Conserving Land for Our Community since 1985

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

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**A view of the Bagaduce.** Each year in May we take to the air to monitor all of our conservation lands. During this year’s flight we took this aerial photo of the Bagaduce River, which stretches from Sedgwick to Castine, one of the many special natural features of our Peninsula landscape. Even if you cannot take to the air, you will be able to get a long view of the Bagaduce from our new Bluff Head trail described below (located on the head land shown in the lower right-hand corner of the photo).



## New Conservation Easement Gift

*On Page 4*

## New Trails!

The lands that our Trust has conserved over the last 31 years offer a variety of places of where we can all connect with the natural world. This year we are creating several new walking trails that will offer residents and visitors the opportunity to explore more of these shared community spaces. Take a walk and see first-hand what you, our members, make possible!

■ **BLUFF HEAD, SEDGWICK.** A mile-long trail at one of our newer properties in Sedgwick provides a wonderful walk through a forested landscape, past a variety of woodland plants and glacial erratic boulders, to a high point of land (the bluff) that overlooks the Bagaduce River. We acquired this property in 2013 as part of the Bagaduce Watershed Partnership Project with funds from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Program. It is

a great place to appreciate the beauty and expanse of the Bagaduce River as well as to have a relatively flat walk through a peaceful landscape. A parking area on the Rope Ferry Road provides easy access to the trail-head.

■ **CARTER NATURE PRESERVE, SURRY.** A new trail connects our trail head parking area on the Cross Road in Surry to our Carter Nature Preserve, a shore-front property at the head of Morgan Bay that we acquired in 1995 in partnership with the Friends of Morgan Bay. The new trail creates a second way to access the preserve and the opportunity to walk a loop rather than only an “out and back” hike as was formerly the case. The creation of this trail segment was a multi-year effort that involved the cooperation of various landowners, whom we applaud for their help.

■ **HATCH COVE, CASTINE.** We are enhancing the opportunity for people to enjoy our Hatch Cove Preserve, which we acquired as part of our 2014 merger with a neighboring land trust and which provides a scenic “gateway” to Castine. A walking trail will soon pass through the fields that make up most of the property as well as through a lovely wooded section. It is a great place for birders, for wildflower enthusiasts and for those who simply enjoy a quiet walk.

■ **PETERS BROOK, BLUE HILL.** Our popular Peters Brook trail will soon be extended to the western side of the brook, allowing trail users to have a longer walk and a new perspective on the stream and the nearby landscape. The new trail will wind through a 62-acre parcel donated to our Trust in 2014 by Posie and Doug Cowan. Permitting and design work for a short bridge over the brook is in the works. With luck, we hope to open the new trail this fall.



### People making trails for people.

Creating new walking trails takes time and effort. We first get to know the land, then create a trail design appropriate for the land, and finally do the physical work of building the trail. Here, our Associate Director George Fields and summer trail steward Oliver Broughton work on our new Bluff Head trail. On right, our newest staff member Laura Blandford enjoys the view at the end of the trail.



### Revised Trail Guide in the works!

We are planning a revision of our popular trail guide that will include these and other new trails. Until then we will post maps of new trails on our website. Meanwhile copies of the trail guide are still available at our office and at several local shops.





# Change

## Jim Dow, Executive Director to step down at end of the year

Certain truths apply to organizations as well as nature. One of these truths was put forth a very long time ago by Heraclitus, a pre-Socratic Greek philosopher: “The only thing that is constant is change.” Blue Hill Heritage Trust has certainly experienced many changes over the last 31 years. Now it is time for one more: at the end of this year, Jim Dow will be stepping down as Executive Director. Below, Jim and Board President Norm Alt comment on that change.

### Jim:

I have been deeply engaged in this organization for nearly 23 years, first as a Board member and for the last 15+ years as its first Executive Director. It has been an honor to help lead this organization forward, but the time seems right for a change, for the good of the organization as well as for my own good.

Our organization is in great shape. We have a remarkable portfolio of conservation lands. We are financially sound and nationally accredited. We have a fine staff, an engaged Board of Directors, a wonderful volunteer corps and an expanding membership. We have a new strategic plan and an array of new projects in the works.

My years as Executive Director have been both enjoyable and intrinsically rewarding. I am very proud of what we have accomplished. It is gratify-



ing to know that the product of my work will endure for the long-term benefit of our community. I am confident that the good work of this fine community organization will continue under new leadership.

Thank you to everyone who has joined me in this important work over the years. Onward!

### Norm:

We will be celebrating Jim Dow’s legacy of remarkable accomplishments at the Trust during this year’s annual meeting. More information will be forthcoming but in the interim, please be sure to save the date of August 23.

Many of Jim’s achievements in the form of land acquisitions and trail building are highly visible but perhaps just as importantly, he has worked with our Board to build an organization that is more than a “one man band;” one with the resources and aptitude to “go the distance.”

The Board is now deeply engaged in the search for Jim’s successor and we hope to identify the person who will be leading us into the future in the next month or two. As we interview prospective candidates, we are struck with their recognition of the high quality of our staff and the procedures that we have put in place to insure a smooth transition.

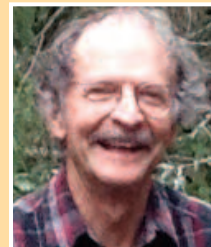
Much to his credit, Jim continues to work as hard as ever at bringing new projects to fruition and at being sure that we nurture and care for the properties that are already under our aegis.

The Trust has come a long way under his leadership and we have no intent to slide backwards. Rather, we are dedicated to pursuing our mission with vigor for decades to come.



## In Memoriam

Our dedicated trail volunteer and friend **STEVE TITCOMB** passed away unexpectedly this spring on an adventure in the Italian Alps, doing what he loved. We were honored that his family named our Trust as the recipient of memorial gifts. Those gifts will help us continue caring for the trails that Steve so valued as a member of our community.



## New Faces

We are pleased to welcome Laura, Oliver and Tom to our staff.

**LAURA KENNEDY BLANDFORD**, our new Administrative Assistant, lives in Brooksville with her husband Jerry. She has a BS in Wildlife & Fisheries Ecology and Forestry, as well as an MS in Ecology & Environmental Sciences. She is a former Peace Corps volunteer, with experience in environmental education and a special interest in seabirds, who is excited to re-enter the conservation field.



**OLIVER BROUGHTON**, our part-time seasonal Trail Steward, is a 2016 graduate of George Stevens Academy who brings a variety of skills as well as experience working with a neighboring land trust. He plans to hike the Appalachian Trail before beginning at Unity College in the fall of 2017.



**TOM FAST**, our Stewardship Intern, hails from Cumberland, Maine and has been studying Environmental Policy at the University of Puget Sound in Washington State. During his eight weeks at BHHT he will assist with a variety of projects and have the opportunity to experience land conservation work at the ground level. Tom comes to us from a program funded by Maine Coast Heritage Trust to help attract young people to employment opportunities in the land conservation field.



## A Bequest from an Old Friend

Dr. Virginia Biddle was a longstanding member of our Trust, offering us her steady annual financial support. A physician with a practice in Ellsworth, Ginny was a woman with a wide range of other interests, and one of those was land conservation. Her gifts often came with a note of encouragement or a comment on something she had read in our newsletter or a description of her hike up Blue Hill Mountain. She passed on last year, but before doing so, left us one last gift in her will. That gift will be added to our Stewardship Fund, which will help us meet the long terms costs of managing our conservation lands. We are very grateful for this final expression of her commitment to the conservation of the place she loved.





### Leave a Legacy

Make a planned gift and join our **STEWARDS' CIRCLE**

For information about planned giving opportunities, contact:  
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207-374-5118  
info@bluehillheritagetrust.org



## BHHT GEAR!

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## Save the Date!

# 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting & Lobster Bake

## August 23, 2016

### at David's Folly Farm, Brooksville

Meeting at 5:30 PM  
Open to all. Light refreshments  
Lobster Bake at 7 PM  
Tickets available at our office July 15



## Blue Hill Heritage Trust

### Mission Statement

To conserve in perpetuity land and water resources that support the long-term health and well-being of the natural and human communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

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Oliver Broughton, *Seasonal Trail Steward*  
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We apologize for any errors or omissions on this list. Please let us know if you see one.



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# Events and Collaborations Galore!



## Igniting Creativity! Open-Air Arts Initiative

■ In partnership with the **CYNTHIA WININGS GALLERY** in Blue Hill, we launched the Open-Air Arts Initiative in June. Young artists from across the peninsula trekked easels, drawing pads and other supplies to the top of the mountain for a morning of observation and creation. The goal is to have school aged children visit our trails and conservation properties and create something that expresses their inspiration from and connection to that place. All participants' work will be displayed and celebrated at an art show in February.

■ An eager crowd turned out in late May to view the new fishway on Patten Stream in Surry and to celebrate the completion of this multi-year project that will help restore a spring alewife run. Plenty of alewives were also in attendance to demonstrate just how great their new fish ladder worked! **SURRY'S ALEWIFE COMMITTEE** and many other partners helped bring this fish passage restoration project to its successful completion. Other similar projects are now in the works elsewhere on our Peninsula.

We have a host of programs and events scheduled this year: our annual **WALKS & TALKS** series, covering everything from geology to mushrooms to horseshoe crabs; our popular **FARM TOURS**, in collaboration with the Blue Hill Co-op; and new programs, some just for kids.

• CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE FOR DETAILS •

## Sharing Outdoor Fun! Trail Run & Egg Hunt

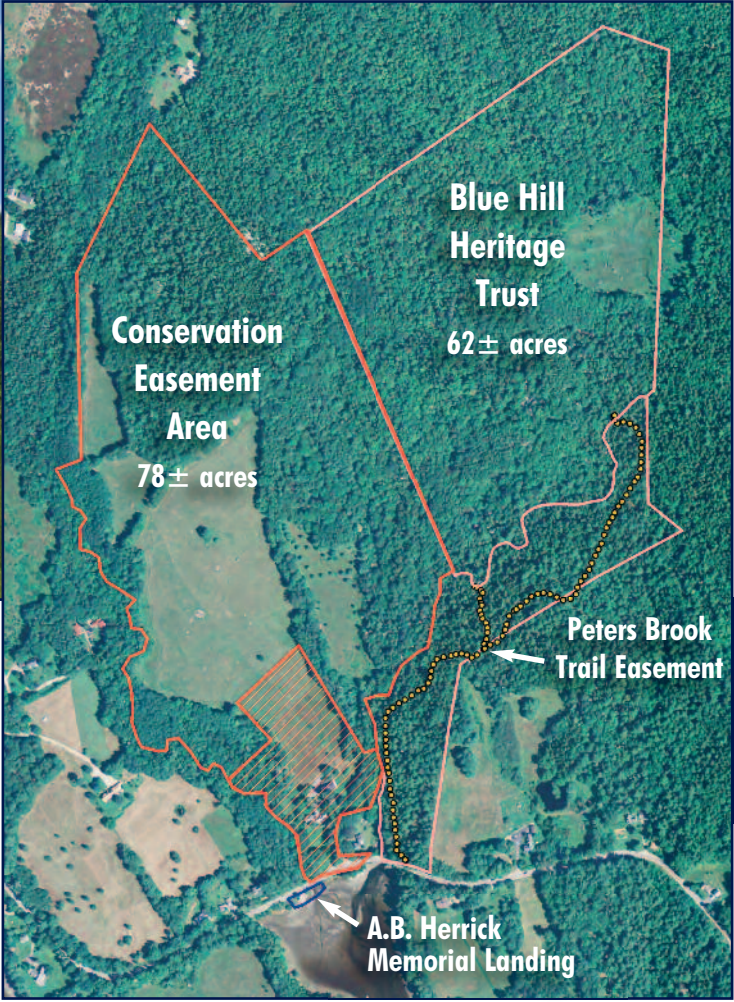
■ More than 200 community members participated in the First Annual HOP! Trail Run & Egg Hunt in March. We collaborated with the Blue Hill YMCA to organize a family run that traveled over one of our trails, which was followed by an egg hunt for children, with support from Blue Hill Hospital, the local Rotary Club, the Blue Hill Co-op and Tradewinds Market. Join the fun next year on April 8th!

## Celebrating Success! Alewives



## New Conservation Easement Gift

At Left: Field near Peters Brook in Blue Hill protected by a new conservation easement. Below: Map showing the property and other nearby conservation lands.



Our conservation work near Peters Brook in Blue Hill continues. A gift of a conservation easement on 78 acres of privately owned land complements the conservation of an adjacent 62-acre parcel that was donated to us in 2014. It will advance our open space and wildlife habitat conservation goals for the Peters Brook watershed.

The easement prevents development of the land yet allows agricultural uses in the fields,

which have been recently used for pasturage of beef cattle by a local farmer. The easement does not grant public access or allow us to build trails, but it will serve as an open space buffer for the new trail we are planning to create on our adjacent land, which will connect with our popular trail along Peters Brook. We are very grateful to Posie and Doug Cowan, who previously donated the 62-acre parcel, for this additional gift.