

# BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

BLUE HILL / BROOKLIN / BROOKSVILLE  
PENOBSCOT / SEDGWICK / SURRY



*Public Access to Scenic Lands and Water*



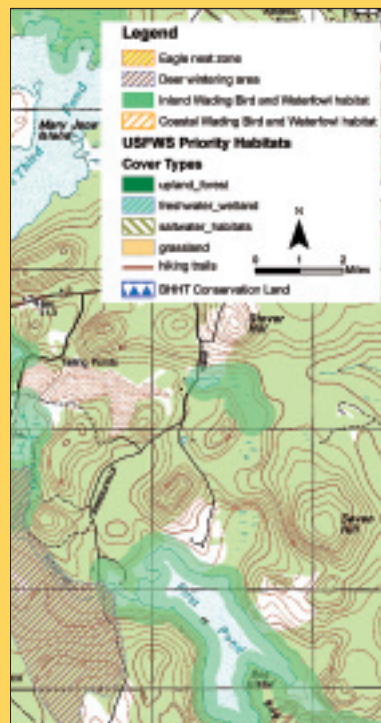
*Educational Opportunities*



*Recreational Trails*



*Farmland*



*Wildlife Habitat*

*Community-Based Land Conservation since 1985*



## More on the Mountain



**B**LUE HILL MOUNTAIN is a singular, defining element in our landscape. Its beauty provides scenic enjoyment to all who live or visit her. Its trails provide recreational opportunities, and the grand reward of remarkable views from the top. Its woods and streams and fields provide important habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. For some, its very presence provides a spiritual connection to things bigger, older, more powerful and longer lasting than human enterprises.

The mountain has been one focus of the Trust's conservation work since its founding in 1985. That work continues in 2007 with our recent agreement to purchase and protect an additional 108 acres on its eastern slope.

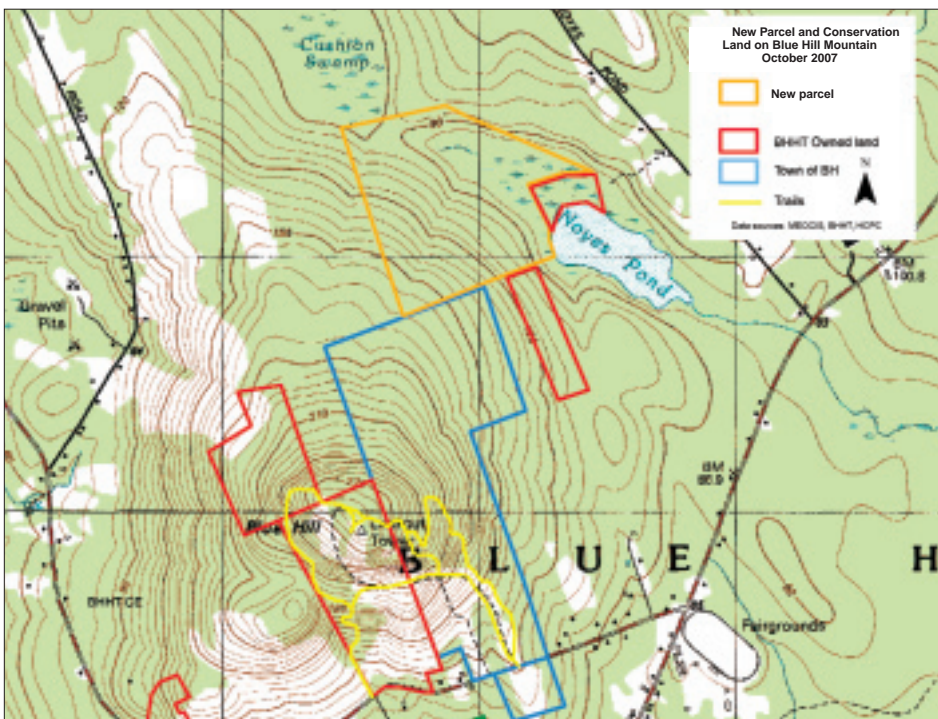
The new parcel is remarkable for several reasons, most notably, the quality of its forest. Largely undisturbed for many decades, the feel of this woodland is different than much of the woodland in our landscape that has undergone heavy har-

vesting activity in recent history. As Erika Rowland, our Conservation Lands Manager who holds a Ph.D in forest ecology, notes, "This forest has exceptional structural and compositional diversity." It also provides a variety of wildlife habitat.

This parcel has strategic value from a conservation perspective. It abuts conservation land near the top of the mountain as well as two other parcels owned by the Trust on the mountain's eastern side. Significantly, it also has frontage on the western shore of Noyes Pond, which itself hosts both natural resource and historical value. Its adjacency to other lands and to the shore expands the size of this natural area as well as providing an opportunity to expand the recreational trails on the mountain that so many people enjoy.

Although size alone is not determinative of conservation value, this parcel's size is noteworthy. Parcels of 100 acres or more are increasingly rare in our area as ownership changes create divisions of land into smaller sized parcels.

Thanks to a cooperative landowner, who patiently resisted overtures from potential buyers who saw long-term development potential in this land, and a generous member who is loaning us money to complete the sale, we hope to finalize the acquisition before the end of the year. Though fundraising will be required to repay the loan, we are confident that those who love Blue Hill Mountain will welcome our call for help.



*New acreage on Blue Hill Mountain will connect other conservation parcels and provide walking trail opportunities, including walking access to Noyes Pond.*



# Trail Work Continues: A Popular Trail Gets Better

*Stage One began in 2003 with the construction of 400' of stone steps.*

*Stage Two will correct some major erosion problems and provide scenic views for hikers.*

by Erika Rowland,  
Conservation Lands Manager

IF YOU DRIVE down the Mountain Road on any given weekend during the summer, it is not uncommon to see cars filling the parking areas and lining the road. Heavy recreational use of the Blue Hill Mountain trails is wonderful. That is why they are there. But heavy foot traffic and accompanying soil compaction, erosion caused by flowing water, and the freeze-thaw cycle are all forces that break down trail conditions, requiring regular and sometimes substantial maintenance.

This year BHHT, with the support of the Town of Blue Hill, has undertaken a re-route of the upper part of the Hayes Trail on the Town's (Morse Farm) land. This is the second stage of a trail restora-

tion project begun in 2003 with the construction of a 400 foot long set of stone steps to cure a major erosion problem on the trail's lower section. The rationale for the change of route was primarily to alter the alignment of the existing trail, which was established as vehicle access and acts as a streambed during rain events. The upper section of the Town's trail is highly eroded, and as many of you already know, the loose rocks and steep bedrock make a treacherous walking surface. If you hike the mountain in a steady rain as I recently did, you witness just how much water flows down the trail, making the current route a never-ending maintenance challenge.

A second reason for the route change was to improve the "hiking experience."

The new route across the south slope and up a talus slope not only lessens long-term maintenance, but also provides open views in both directions. After reaching the exposed face below the communications tower affording views to the east, the trail follows familiar paths, winding into the woods around the tower and snaking its way back toward the summit and its views to the west.

Work on the new route began in June and has proceeded through the summer with help from groups and individual volunteers. Construction on the new route

and closing the old trail continues each Friday morning from 9 am – 12 pm. We could sure use some help, with much work still left to do. ■



*A crew of high school students from the Landmark Volunteers program joined us again this summer to assist with trail projects. We are grateful for their help.*

## Special IRA Gift Opportunity Ends This Year

Recent federal legislation allows our members to make "qualified charitable distributions" to Blue Hill Heritage Trust in 2007 of up to \$100,000 from their IRA if they are at least 70½ years of age at the time of the distribution. These distributions are not taxable (as are normal distributions from an IRA) and are deductible without a "percentage of gross income" limitation. The transfer must be made directly from the IRA to Blue Hill Heritage Trust and must be done before the end of the year.

Why not take advantage of this special incentive to help our work? Please call us at 207-374-5811 for more information. ■

## Invasives in Our Landscape: Autumn Olive

by Pam Johnson, Vice President,  
Board of Directors

EVEN AFTER strong autumn storms have stripped most deciduous trees and shrubs of their leaves, a few foliar surprises linger in our landscape: the ghostly silver of autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) persists, aiding in identification of this non-native shrub. Autumn olive is spreading throughout the Blue Hill Peninsula, and its proliferation is a concern for stewardship of our properties. This summer, for example, we removed colonies of autumn olive from our Gold Stream Marsh land in Surry and from Blue Hill Mountain.

Birders still sometimes extol the wildlife benefits of autumn olive. Indeed, the shrubs were long-promoted by conservation groups, both for their adaptability and vigor in difficult soils, and as good fruit sources for birds. But invasiveness



PHOTO BY J.H. MILLER, USDA.BUGWOOD.ORG

has exceeded wildlife value. Autumn olive is now regarded as a scourge throughout New England, largely because the shrubs dominate any place birds distribute their seeds. Dry, infertile blueberry barrens, transitional fields and woods margins are all vulnerable to these invasive shrubs.

For more information about invasive species, contact our office or the University of Maine Cooperative Extension office. ■

# Annual Membership Meeting 2007

CENTRAL HALL in South Blue Hill, a venerable community building with a rich history of its own, was the site of the twenty-second annual membership meeting of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. A great turnout of members and friends joined the Trust's Board of Directors and staff on the evening of September 5th to celebrate another year's work, to elect new Directors as well as express gratitude to those whose terms ended at the meeting, and to hear reports from the Board and staff on our work.

## 2006 Program Highlights

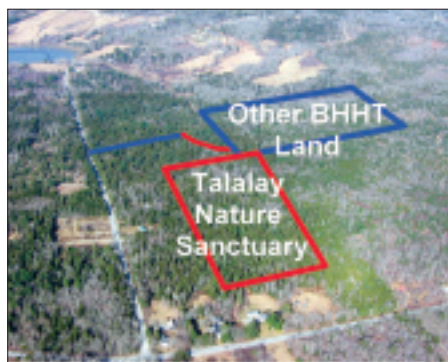
**New land projects** brought the total of acres conserved by the Trust to 4750. Our new project work in 2006 included:

- The purchase of two key parcels adjacent to our Kingdom Woods Conser-



vation Area protects habitat for osprey and other wildlife, provides the opportunity for extending our walking trails and brings the size of our largest conservation property to 878 acres.

- A gift from Paul and Pamela Talalay of 33 acres in Surry created the Talalay Nature Sanctuary, which



lies adjacent to other protected land at the head of Morgan Bay.

- A gift of a 15-acre parcel adjacent to our other conservation property near Peters Brook in Blue Hill protects additional wildlife habitat and provides views of Blue Hill Mountain and the Bay.
- The creation of two new trail corridors helped expand walking opportunities. Ellsworth Building Supply (EBS)



gave us permission to develop a trail along their property in Blue Hill that is a critical link in a trail from the village to the mountain. A gift of a deeded right-of-way in Surry links two parcels of conservation land and permitted the construction of a new trail.

Our **Stewardship Program** focused on "the nuts and bolts" of conservation land management, including boundary maintenance, monitoring conservation easements, drafting management plans, conducting natural resource inventories, managing vegetation and public use. We also continued our commitment to provide public walking opportunities in a variety of natural areas by creating, restoring and maintaining trails. In 2006, the South Street to Parker Point Road Connector Trail was rebuilt with the help of many volunteers and a new trail was constructed at the Furth Wildlife Sanctuary in Surry.

Our **eighth season of Walks and Talks** outdoor educational programs covered a variety of subjects including stream ecology and forest management, and attracted over 200 participants. Special thanks to all our program leaders. ■

## Susan Hand Shetterly and Trina Parson Honored



Past President Pam Johnson (left) presents a recognition gift to Trina Parson (center) and Susan Hand Shetterly (right) at the Annual Meeting.

Two retiring members of the Board of Directors were honored at the 2007 Annual Meeting. Susan Hand Shetterly and Trina Parson each served nine years on the Board, and enthusiastically contributed to the Trust's work. In presenting a recognition gift to each, President Pam Johnson made these comments: "For Susan, in

recognition of a unique and passionate spirit which has contributed enormously to conservation in Surry and on the greater Blue Hill Peninsula. For Trina, who embodies the very best of volunteerism and civic-mindedness, with warm gratitude for the advancement of our organization."

## Four New Board Members Welcomed

FOUR NEW members of the Board of Directors were elected and welcomed by the membership at the Annual Meeting. They bring diverse experiences and skills to the Board, now numbering 14.

**Kim Ridley**, a Maine native and Brooklin resident, is a journalist and editor who writes primarily about people creating social change and the links between human and environmental health. She is a contributing editor to *Ode*, an international magazine about people and ideas that are changing the world, editor-at-large for *Bioneers*, a nonprofit that focuses on solu-

*Continued on page 5*



## New Board Members

*Continued from page 4*

tions to environmental and social problems, and the former editor of *Hope*, a magazine that for nine years reported on people making a positive difference. She is married to the painter Tom Curry.

**Norm Alt**, a resident of Brooksville and New York City, is an attorney practicing in the areas of international transactions and antitrust compliance. A graduate of Brown University with an M.B.A. and a J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, he has also been vice president and chief counsel of a major specialty chemical company and general counsel of the country's largest dialysis provider. He currently provides pro bono legal services to several non-profit corporations. He and his wife Maryann share a commitment to conservation of the natural environment and the preservation of antiquities.

**Ruth Davis**, a resident of Brooksville, has extensive experience as a Board member and volunteer for various non-profit organizations, both on Cape Cod and on the Blue Hill Peninsula, including Kneisel Hall, Blue Hill Concert Association and Colloquy Downeast. A graduate of Radcliffe College, she and her husband of 57 years, Joel, have four children and a fine collection of grandchildren.

**Norman Mrozicki**, a resident of Surry, has worked as a carpenter all of his adult life. He was a founding member of the Friends of Morgan Bay, an organization focused on protecting the area near the head of Morgan Bay where he has lived for 35 years. He has been a long-time Trust member and an active volunteer in the stewardship of Trust property in Surry. He and his wife Paula Mrozicki, a teacher at the Surry Elementary School, have two daughters. ■

## President's Column:

### Some Fundamental Questions, and Answers

by John Merrifield



AS I BEGIN my term as President of the Trust's Board of Directors, I have been asking myself some very fundamental questions. Let me share some of these with you, and my answers.

**First, why do we love this place where we live and what can we do to keep it special?** The answers seem to center on the importance of our "common ground": the extraordinary landscapes that enhance the lives of all that live here. My friend Paul Sullivan sums it up this way: "You don't live in Maine to become rich and famous. You live in Maine to lead a decent life in a beautiful place and that is what most of your neighbors will be doing, too." Community-based conservation is a way that we can work together to protect this common ground that we share. It is also a way of sharing these places we enjoy with generations to come.

**Second, what is BHHT's role in conserving this "common ground."** It seems apparent to me that BHHT has a critical role to play, that it serves as a vehicle through which local people can work together on a voluntary, non-gov-

ernmental basis, to protect this common ground. That is why I joined as a member and why I became a Board member. I wanted to help with this important community work.

**Third, how can we best accomplish this goal?** Simple: get as many people involved as possible—on the Board, on our committees, as stewardship volunteers, as financial supporters. I know first hand that it is rewarding. I have also learned that it is fun! This organization attracts great people.

**Fourth, what are the near term challenges?** Building our financial and organizational capacity to take advantage of the new land protection opportunities as well as caring for the land we own. This organization has done a lot of great work and has developed into a first class community non-profit. But there is clearly more to be done. It seems clear that a capital campaign will be necessary to maintain our momentum.

**Finally, who will help?** We will need to ask our neighbors and friends to join us in this work. It is our place and our responsibility – it is our common ground. I am confident that BHHT can help us protect it, if we each do our part. Over the course of my term as President, I will be asking each of you to do just that. ■

## Treasurer's Report

*As presented by John Murphy  
at the 2007 Annual Meeting*

### For Fiscal Year 2006 (ended December 31, 2006):

- General operating expenses of \$174,258 were met with new revenue, approximately 78% of which came from annual member gifts

- The value of our endowment/ investment account, which provides annual income to help support our annual operating and stewardship costs, increased by 12% to \$775,164.

- Net assets totaled \$3,189,364, which includes the book value of conservation lands we own and our Carleton House office property at 258 Mountain Road in Blue Hill.

- Our sole long term liability is a loan obligation, secured by a mortgage, on the Carleton House office, with an outstanding balance of \$75,900.

- End of year financial records were reviewed by the outside accounting firm of Loiselle, Goodwin and Hinds, which found that our financial statements conformed to generally accepted accounting principles.

### For Fiscal Year 2007 (January–December 2007):

- Our operating budget income goal is \$199,500, 72% of which is budgeted to come from member contributions. Through August we were on track to meet our projections. Since about 30% of those contributions arrive during the month of December, we have our fingers crossed as always.

- We are constantly working to expand our membership, which of course spreads the financial load.

- We are highly aware of the importance of building our operating and stewardship endowment accounts, which are critical to ensuring the long-term well-being of this organization. Planned capital gifts (bequests or other planned giving vehicles) from our members will be essential to accomplish this.

Thank you if you have made a member contribution this year! If you have friends or relatives who should be members but aren't, please recruit them! ■

## Local Land, Local Farms, Local Food!

LOCAL FARMS producing food for the local market on agricultural land protected by conservation easements held by the Trust were showcased on October 14th at a well-attended **Foliage, Food and Wine Festival** organized by the Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce at the Blue Hill Town Park.

Amidst an array of booths where festival goers could sample various food products produced locally, Trust volunteers staffed a booth that presented information on local working farms that have agricultural soils protected from development by conservation easements, including each farm's location, the types of food it produces and where you can find the farm's products. We also raffled off an organic turkey for Thanksgiving, provided by Ruth and Bob Sullivan, owners of the Old Ackley Farm in North Blue Hill.

A special thanks to Board member John Richardson, and volunteers Skip Lang, Jen Traub and Lee Holmes, for their work on this wonderful outreach event.

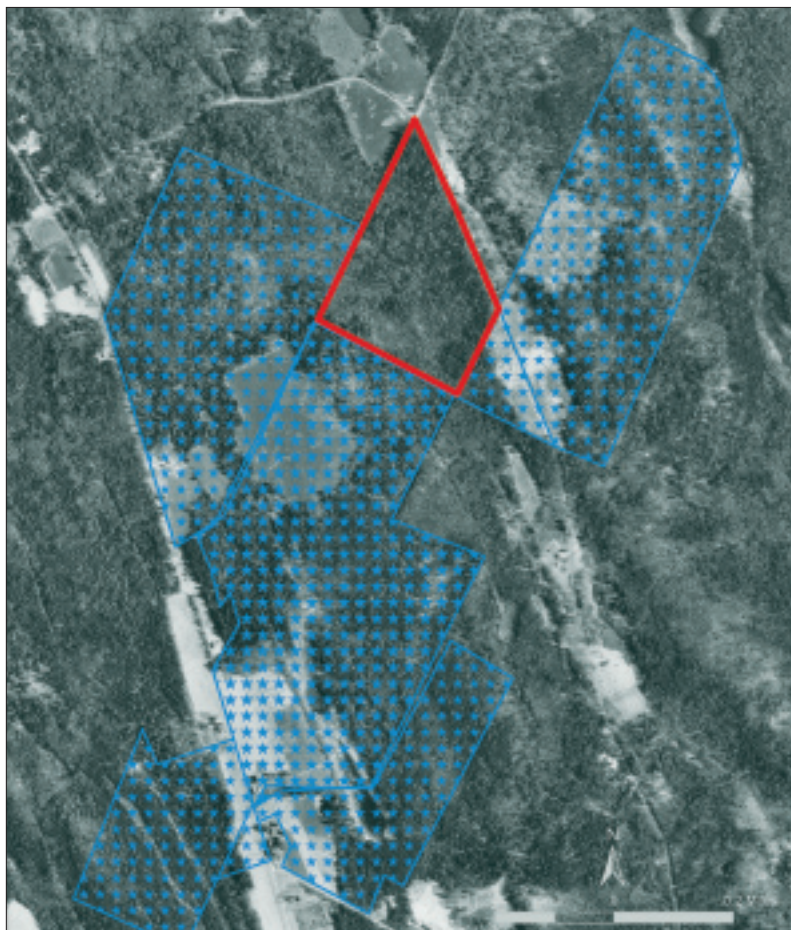


Volunteer Skip Lang and local farmer Bob Sullivan greet visitors at our booth at the October food festival, which highlighted the connection between protected local farmland and the production of local food.

### New Guide to Local Farms

The same volunteers who organized our participation in the Food Festival have created a new brochure that helps guide residents and visitors to local farms that produce food on land protected by conservation easements held by the Trust. Eight local farms are featured. Copies are available at the Trust office. We have plans to make it widely available for next year's harvest.

## New Farmland Forever Project in Blue Hill



### 47.5-Acre Parcel Added

A NEW DONATION of an agricultural conservation easement continues our "Farmland Forever" program.

Over the past 22 years Blue Hill Heritage Trust has worked with willing landowners to protect over 1600 acres of local farmland heralded by the USDA as the best agricultural soil in Hancock County. Under the banner of "Farmland Forever," this work has been largely focused in the Route 15 corridor from North Blue Hill to Orland, where fine agricultural soils were deposited long ago by the glaciers.

This 47.5-acre parcel abuts several other parcels protected with similar easements. As with other agricultural easements, it creates a small homestead area where building is allowed while ensuring most of the land remains undeveloped but available for agricultural purposes.

Paul Birdsall, one of our founding Board members and a long-time leader in farmland conservation locally and statewide, donated this conservation easement prior to selling the property to a young local family who will be living and working on it.

*A new farmland easement protects land that abuts three previous "Farmland Forever" projects.*



## What's Next?

THANKS TO the support of our members, we have built a fine community organization with a wonderful record of conservation accomplishment over the last few years. But where do we go from here? Our Board and staff have spent considerable time over the last few months considering this question.

What we know is this: the work is not done. A portfolio of conservation lands that reflects the significant scenic, recreational, wildlife, and agricultural elements of our landscape and yields clear public benefits to our communities is not yet complete. The stewardship of the lands already protected will be a perpetual obligation.

We also know that as we move forward, working to complete that portfolio

and to attend to that stewardship responsibility, we will need to maximize our limited resources by focusing our efforts. This will require careful planning and strategic decision-making in our project selection. We will also need the involvement of more people and new partnerships with other community organizations. I am happy to report

### Exciting new land projects, and a capital campaign

that we are actively addressing these needs.

Moving forward will also require one other essential ingredient: additional capital, money, to fund new acquisitions and to "endow" the long-term stewardship costs of the lands we own and monitor. There is no way around it. As a way to address this need, our Board of Directors hired a consulting firm to study the feasibility

of commencing a new capital campaign. With the final report now in hand, we are in the process of discussing if, how, when, and for what such a campaign might work.

What's next? **New land projects** – we have an array of exciting possibilities before us; our capacity to act on them will be determined by whether or not we can raise the necessary funding. **First class stewardship**, including the creation of new trails. **Continued development of a vibrant community organization.** With appreciation for your past support, we look forward to your continued help as we push forward.

Jim Dow



## Blue Hill Heritage Trust

### Board of Directors

John Merrifield, *President*, Blue Hill  
Pamela Johnson, *Vice President*, Sedgwick  
John Murphy, *Treasurer*, Sedgwick  
John Richardson, *Secretary*, Blue Hill  
Norman Alt, Brooksville  
Paul Birdsall, Penobscot  
Peter Clapp, Blue Hill  
Ruth Davis, Brooksville  
Tim Garrity, Blue Hill  
Jim Kannry, Blue Hill  
Whitney Landon, Brooksville  
Norman Mrozicki, Surry  
Kim Ridley, Brooklin  
Peter Sly, Brooklin

### Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*  
Erika Rowland,  
*Conservation Lands Manager*  
Sheila Corbett,  
*Membership/Administrative Coordinator*

### 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.

## Conservation Lands: An Educational Resource ...ponds, meadows, wetland, salamanders, oh my!

WE ARE ALWAYS delighted to see our conservation lands used by young and old as an educational resource. That use is growing.

Now totaling over 1600 acres, the conservation lands that we own offer a variety of ecological and recreational possibilities for incorporation into school curricula: diverse natural communities in a range of settings, from undeveloped ponds, streams, and wetlands in coastal and inland locations to meadows and blueberry fields, not to mention the 13-miles of walking trails we manage.

Local teachers and students have used our properties to study wetland types and vernal pools and their inhabitants, to conduct a salamander population study, to track the seasonal changes on Blue Hill Mountain and even to learn about trail maintenance. We welcome and encourage any use of our lands for purposes consistent with their conservation values.



Leave a Lasting Legacy  
Name the Trust  
in your will.

For more information: 207-374-5118

## Land Report

As of October 31, 2007

### Protected Land

Easements on private land. 1184 acres  
Land owned by BHHT ..... 1613 acres  
Total since 1985 ..... 4797 acres

### Land Projects

Conservation Easements..... 49  
Owned (via gift or purchases) ..... 35  
Total since 1985 ..... 84

### New Land Projects

Projected completions in 2007 ..... 6



Our 2007 Walks and Talk program took participants to both familiar places and new ones. Our **Cooper Farm** property at Caterpillar Hill was one of the familiar ones (top left).

**Long Island** was one of the new sites, where Denny Robertson led a walk that focused on the human history on this 4600-acre island in Blue Hill Bay, most of which is protected by a conservation easement held by Acadia National Park (top right).



**BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST**  
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## New Public Access Land on Billings Pond

THE STATE OF MAINE assisted conservation efforts on the Blue Hill Peninsula this summer by acquiring a parcel of land on one of our local ponds. With funding from the **Land for Maine's Future Program** and the **Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**, the State purchased a 4.3 acre tract at the south end of Billings Pond, also known as First Pond. The purchase, intended to ensure public access to the pond, includes a corridor of land that runs south to Route 172, allowing the public to drive to a small parking area near the pond's outlet and a shallow launch site appropriate for canoes, kayaks and small boats.

Billings Pond is fed by Carleton Stream, which collects water from Fourth Pond, the centerpiece of our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, as well as Third and Second Ponds. The stream serves as the outlet of the pond as well, draining into the Salt Pond. Billings Pond is a largely undeveloped pond of recognized value to wildlife, including a population of a native brook trout. A water-



powered lumber mill was once located beside a now-breached dam at the outlet of the pond. (This mill site was likely used at one point in history by relatives of William Carleton, who "migrated north" in 1815 or so to marry an Osgood and build the house that is now our office).

This acquisition required the cooperation of many people at both the state and local level, including Blue Hill's selectmen and Trust staff, who assisted the Land

for Maine's Future Program staff on several occasions as they evaluated the funding request. The key persons in the acquisition of this important new local public asset, however, were the former landowners, Roland and Gloria Tarr, local residents who presented the opportunity and patiently remained dedicated to seeing the transaction completed throughout a complicated, multi-year process. ■