

# BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

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

SUMMER 2008

## New Conservation Land

The Bagaduce River is unquestionably one of the Blue Hill Peninsula's natural treasures. It is a place of unusual beauty that supports a diverse array of wildlife, including bald eagles, osprey, harbor seals, and horseshoe crabs. Over the last decade or so, it has also been a place that has attracted lots of new residential development, particularly along the stretch of shoreline in Sedgwick. To help balance that development with conservation, we have long wanted to add some conservation land along the upper Bagaduce. Now that has happened through a gift of land.

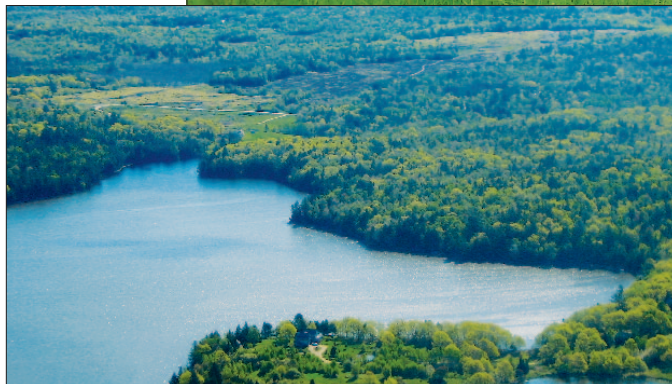
A 58-acre parcel of land with nearly 2200 feet of Bagaduce frontage became protected conservation land at the end of 2007, thanks to the generosity of local residents Bill Brown and Paul Trowbridge who donated the land to the Trust.

The land includes a diversity of topographical features and vegetation, interesting to people and great for wildlife habitat. In addition to the extensive shore frontage on the Bagaduce, it hosts forested uplands, a wetland and a small stream. This summer we will be conducting an ecological inventory of the property that will provide us more detailed information about its natural features and guide our planning for its long-term stewardship.

### A new walking trail will provide access

The property also easily lends itself to low-impact public recreational use, which we plan to provide. It came to us with a right of way from Route 15, as well as the right to have a small parking area near the public road. We are currently in the process of designing a walking trail that will show off the property's diversity

## Bagaduce Beauty



as it makes its way to the water's edge. We hope both the trail and the parking area will be ready next summer, when we plan to have a "grand opening." (Those who participated in our June 28th "Fern Walk," part of our Walks and Talk series, got a preview of the land.) Meanwhile the land can be reached by water from a small canoe/ kayak access site that the Trust owns just opposite our new land on the Brooksville side of the Bagaduce or from the new access site owned by the Town of Brooksville near the Reversing Falls Bridge.

The donors of this land first approached us about conservation options for it in early 2004, as they considered the best uses for it and other nearby property they own. After lots of further conversation with us and others, including the town's planning board, they decided making a gift of this land was the right thing to do.

We are thrilled. Our goal in owning and managing this land will be the same as Bill Brown's and Paul Trowbridge's in donating it: to ensure that the conservation and natural resource values of the property are maintained for future generations while providing the public managed recreational access to the property and its special features. Thank you, Bill and Paul!

## Jed's Island:

A unique  
opportunity  
to protect a  
13-acre gem in  
Blue Hill Bay

In partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust we are working to take advantage of an opportunity to conserve the island and keep it available to the public.

STORY ON PAGE 2.



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## Join us for a Walk & Talk!

### The Magic of Fireflies

Thursday, 10 July  
7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

### Morning Paddle on First Pond

Saturday, 19 July,  
9am to Noon

### Woods Walk and Tree Identification

Saturday 26 July  
8:30 a.m. to Noon

### Blueberry Pick on Caterpillar Hill

Mid-July to Mid-August

### Sunrise on Blue Hill Mountain

Saturday, 9 August  
5 a.m. to 6:30 a.m.

### Stream Ecology at Patten Stream

Saturday, 23 August  
10 a.m. to Noon

### The Secret Life of Fungi

Saturday, 20 September  
10 a.m. to Noon

For a full schedule, for  
more information or to  
register, please call our  
office at 374-5118.



## Stewardship: Beauty and the Burn



**B**LUEBERRY FIELDS are one of the special features of our landscape. Beautiful in themselves, they also open up long views across the landscape. And of course they yield that marvelous fruit that we humans and lots of wildlife species love. But these days maintaining blueberry fields is both difficult and expensive.

We are thus deeply grateful to the **Maine Forest Service** and **Sedgwick Fire Department** for their help in burning our 10-acre field on the east-

ern side of Route 15 opposite the scenic turnout at Caterpillar Hill.

Thanks also to our volunteers who carried five-gallon water tanks to help control the fire around its perimeter. After setting a "black line" along the eastern boundary of the property, the entire field burned within 20 minutes of its ignition. Look for the wonderful blueberry crop produced next season as a result of the nearly complete burn!

## Jed's Island: A Unique Opportunity to Protect a 13-Acre Island Gem

**O**NE of only a few islands in upper Blue Hill Bay, Jed's Island is a real beauty. Bald eagles love it, seals love it, people love it. Now, thanks to a pair of cooperative landowners and a partnership with the Maine Coast Heritage Trust, we have a chance to protect this island gem.

Jed's has long been on our "conservation wish list." When the island was first offered for sale a few years ago, we were interested but the price was too daunting. However, various recent news stories of island conservation projects inspired the owners of Jed's to think again about what they wanted to happen to their island and about its importance to the people and wildlife around it. As a result, they decided to negotiate with the land trusts to find a way to preserve the island. A deal was struck with a financing arrangement that provides us time to raise the purchase price.

The 13-acre island was named after early settler Jedediah Darling of East Blue Hill. It has a couple of small beaches, is covered mostly with mixed woods including some nice oaks, and has its own attached sand bar and islet. It has hosted a productive bald eagle nest for two decades and includes one of the most important harbor seal ledges in Blue Hill Bay. It is also a popular spot for picnic and island explorations by local residents and visitors.

**We invite your help in  
funding this purchase.**

We are excited to work in partnership with MCHT to take advantage of this opportunity to conserve the island. We are hopeful that people will respond to the fundraising challenge before us.

Marian Long, one of the owners, said to us, "An integral part of long-term environmental health and sustainability is having each individual step up and take responsibility for leaving the world a better place. Helping to make Jed's Island become a land trust preserve constitutes such an action and it is personally very gratifying."

The two trusts will share responsibility for long-term stewardship of the island. MCHT will own and manage the island. Blue Hill Heritage Trust will hold a conservation easement that will ensure that the island remains undeveloped and natural and will regularly monitor the island's condition and use.

## The Magic of Bequests

Bequests have a huge impact, for generations! They provide the funds that ensure the long-term care of our conservation lands. Please consider naming the Blue Hill Heritage Trust in your will.

## Executive Director Jim Dow's Column

### The Rewards of Conservation

**T**HE OPENING EVENT in our 2008 Walks and Talk series reminded me once again of the rewards of being involved in the conservation of our landscape. Gold Stream Marsh is one of the many special places that we have helped protect. Seeing it in all its June glory in the company of other people who both appreciated its natural riches and who, as members, helped ensure its protection, was a special reward. (Seeing an American bittern was a wonderful bonus!)

Whether we were born here or chose to move here, whether we spend all year here or just a few months, the chance to live amidst the simple, beautiful natural wonders of the Blue Hill Peninsula is a privilege. The rewards of working

to protect what we have are not only immediate but enduring – something we can enjoy ourselves right now, but also something we can share with our children and grandchildren.

Thanks to all of you have helped us protect places like Gold Stream Marsh! Onward and upward!



Members of the Stewardship Committee gather for a photo during a recent meeting at the office.

*Special Thanks*

We offer our special thanks to **Pete Colman**, for all his help designing and building our walking trails; **Lori and Isaac Robbins** of Barncastle for hosting our annual Board retreat; **Dave Gulya, Patrick Allen, Drew Allen** and **Bobbie Ebert** of the Sedgwick Fire Department for their help burning our blueberry field on Caterpillar Hill; **Win Turner** for building trail kiosks; all our **volunteers, trail and property stewards** who help care for our conservation lands and all **volunteer committee members** who advance our work in so many ways.

## Focusing on what is most important

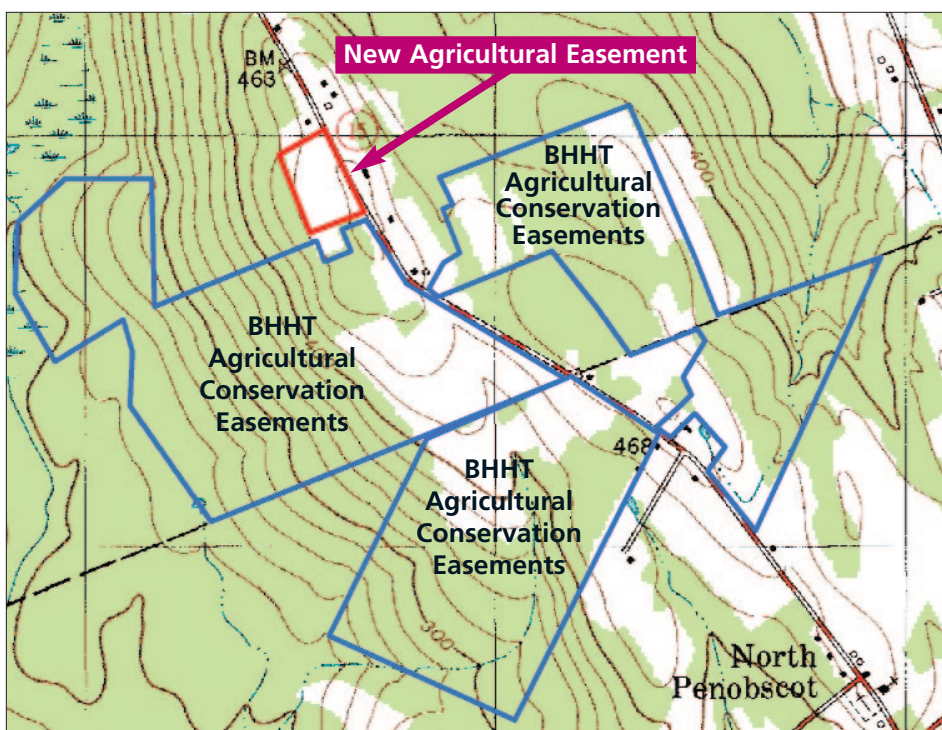
**W**e cannot and should not protect every parcel of land that becomes available. To help us continue to focus our conservation efforts on those lands which are truly outstanding places in our landscape, and thus ensure that we use our limited resources to maximum conservation advantage, we have contracted with **JANET McMAHON**, one of Maine's most respected conservation planners, to work with us on a new conservation planning initiative.

Janet will review maps of the area's natural resources, existing conservation lands and ownership patterns, review municipal and state conserva-

tion goals, research traditional recreational and historical sites, view the peninsula from the air and visit sites on the ground. Working with the Trust's Board and staff, Janet will then help us identify a series of "focus areas" that deserve special attention, as well as draft conservation plans for each.

We are very grateful to the **MAINE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**, through its Hancock County and Ocean Ledges funds, and the **LAND TRUST ALLIANCE/MAINE COAST PROTECTION INITIATIVE** for their funding support for this work.





## Farmland Forever: New Agricultural Easement on Route 15

Our work to protect local agricultural lands that are a source, or potential source, of local food production continues. It was advanced in the last days of December by a gift of a conservation easement on a prominent parcel of highly productive blueberry land along the Route 15 corridor.

**RAY MERRILL**, a local blueberry grower, purchased the land earlier in 2007 because of its productive capacity. Aware of recent federal tax law changes that provide incentives for farmers to donate conservation easements on agricultural land, Ray contacted us in early December expressing an interest in placing an easement

on the land. Working in expeditious fashion with the help of attorneys and an appraiser, we were able to design, draft and complete the conservation easement before end of the year. The easement allows the land to be used for agricultural purposes but removes all other development rights.

Ray's parcel abuts other agricultural land protected through our Farmland Forever program and, like that neighboring land, it boasts prime agricultural soils. It was a parcel we had hoped to someday have the chance to protect from development. Though only 6.5 acres in size, its highly visible location on Route 15 added to its conservation value. Together with the other protected land along the Route 15 corridor this land helps protect not only prime agricultural resources, but also the scenic qualities of this gateway onto the Blue Hill Peninsula.

## 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.

### Board of Directors

John Merrifield, *President*, Blue Hill  
Pam 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, East 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 and Administrative Coordinator*  
Misha Mytar,  
*Capital Campaign Manager*  
Peter Jenkins, *Summer Trail Steward*

## Give us a pickup!

We need a reliable pickup truck of relatively recent vintage for use by our stewardship staff. Do you have one you would like to donate to a great cause? The value is tax deductible.

## We thank our Business members

We are grateful to these local businesses which invested in our communities by supporting our work in 2007. Please consider supporting them as well.

Aqua Development Corporation  
Art @ The Flower Farm  
Autograff, Inc.  
Barncastle Hotel and Restaurant  
The Bay School  
Blue Hill Books  
Blue Hill Gallery  
Blue Hill Garage  
Blue Hill Hydraulics  
Blue Hill Inn  
Blue Hill Food Coop  
Blue Moon Gallery

Blue Poppy Gardens  
The Bourne Studio Gallery  
Elliott Elliott Norelius Architecture  
EBS, Inc  
Knight Associates Architects  
Mainescape, Inc.  
Mary Greene Design  
ME Astbury and Sons, Inc.  
Mendlowitz Photography  
Michael Hewes and Co.  
New Cargoes  
Pathmaker Trail Services  
Prin Allen and Sons, Inc.  
Rooster Brother  
Union Trust Company  
Wanamaker Raphael Architecture

## President's Column

## Uncommon Spaces, Shared Spaces

This newsletter highlights several exciting new land projects that protect wonderful parts of our landscape – uncommon places in our midst that are also our shared spaces. These represent just a few of the many opportunities being presented to us by landowners interested in working with us to protect places of local significance and of clear public benefit.

Our excitement about the possibilities ahead carries with it a certain tension. Can we find the resources to take advantage of the best of these opportunities? We have the necessary technical talent — we are extremely fortunate to have a very experienced staff and legal counsel and a very capable Board. But we will also need new capital — *money*. While that is not a surprise, we sometimes have difficulty talking about it. In the weeks and months ahead, we will do a lot of talking about our financial needs.

We are in the early stages of a major capital campaign entitled



**UNCOMMON PLACES – SHARED SPACES**, and we have had some convincing indications that we will be able to achieve our goals.

Does new conservation property on Blue Hill Mountain and Wallamatogus Mountain sound exciting to you? How about Jed's Island in Morgan Bay? New walking trails along Patten Stream in Surry and along a beautiful stretch of the Bagaduce River in Sedgwick? All of these opportunities need financial support in the form of both acquisition and stewardship funds. Yes, opportunities abound and, with your support, we hope to keep the excitement growing.

John Merrifield

Save this date!

Sept. 10, 2008

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for a review of the past year's work as well as a look ahead. See old friends and make new ones, and share your interest in conservation.

(Time and place to be announced).

## New Staff



We are delighted to welcome **SHEILA CORBETT** as our new Membership and Administrative Coordinator. Born and raised in Maine, Sheila is pleased to be working to conserve some of Maine's beautiful and varied



landscapes that she so loves. Sheila works Monday through Thursday and will often be the person to answer your morning phone calls. She lives on Hatch Cove in Castine with her husband, Bill, their two Rat Terriers, and Jennerific, their 19-year-old cat. She enjoys hiking, rowing, gardening and other outdoor activities.

We also welcome **PETER JENKINS**, a senior at the College of the Atlantic (COA) in Bar Harbor as our Summer Trail Steward, a vital position as we continue to expand our trail system. Peter will also conduct ecological inventories on at least two of the conservation properties that we have acquired in the last year, as a first step in our management planning process and as his senior project at COA. Peter comes to us with several years of experience in ecological field work and trail maintenance. If you see him on the trails, give him lots of encouragement. Peter plans to pursue a career in natural resource management.





Aerial view of the field in Blue Hill village now protected with a conservation easement.

## a window on the harbor in Blue Hill

**A gift of a conservation easement**  
This is one of those small special places that are often taken for granted until they are gone.



**"We are very happy about this... We hope it will help protect the character of the town."**

— Nancy Butler

TONY AND NANCY Butler have given a special gift to all who pass along Main Street in Blue Hill – a permanently protected view across their field to the waters of inner Blue Hill Harbor. That gift came in the form of a conservation easement donated to Blue Hill Heritage Trust early this spring.

The easement prevents any structures from being built on the five-acre protected area and provides that the field and other vegetation will be managed so as to maintain the view from Main Street. It will ensure that the public "window" from the village to the harbor that the Butlers' land provides will remain open, for residents and visitors and future generations to enjoy. It will also help maintain the character of the inner harbor enjoyed by boaters as well as users of the Town Park.

The Butlers have owned the property for decades and have been long-time summer residents. As they considered the future of this land as part of an estate planning process, this seemed like the right time to give something back to a place that means so much to them.

"We are very happy about this," said Nancy Butler. "We love Blue Hill. It has been a big part of our lives. We hope this will help protect the character of the town."

"What a gift to us all!" remarked Jim Dow, the Trust's Executive Director. "This is one of those small special places in our landscape that add to the quality of our life here, that are often taken for granted until they are gone. I have been asked countless times if this field and its view are protected. Now, thanks to Tony and Nancy, I can at last say 'Yes!' "

Ellen Best, a local attorney and former President of the Trust's Board of Directors who assisted with the development of the conservation easement on the Butlers' land, was thrilled by the result. "This was one of the most important parcels of land in the village to protect. Personally, I treasure that open space and that view."

The five acres of land covered by the conservation easement remains private property, which the Butlers continue to own. No right for public use of the property was granted.

In accepting the easement, the Trust assumed responsibility for enforcing in perpetuity the legally binding restrictions on future use of the property that are described in the easement.

Next time you walk or bike or drive by this land, take an extra moment to enjoy your gift.

### A Happy Hiker...

"Over Thanksgiving I climbed the Mountain twice (with nimble-footed grandchildren) and I was delighted with the trail work – it is most impressive, and makes the climb up 'possible' (even for the likes of us 'grands.') I have been hiking the mountain for at least 75 years and never enjoyed it more. Thank you! Great work!"

— Dottie



**Help conserve the places that both wildlife & people need.**

**YES!** I want to become a member and 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.

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City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Please make your check or money order payable and mail to:

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P. O. Box 222  
Blue Hill, ME 04614

**Help us preserve Jed's Island.**

STORY ON PAGE 1



### Finding Inspiration on the Landscape

Local piano teacher Holly Weinberg wanted her students to try to create music of their own. So she took them out on some of our lands for inspiration. It worked! Here, some of the young composers are shown with their parents.

