

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

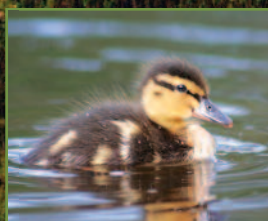
BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST
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The Great Heath: Protected!

273-acre parcel in Penobscot



This wild and beautiful area provides habitat for wading birds and waterfowl as well as other plants and animals. Above: a southerly view over the Great Heath to Pierce Pond and the Bagaduce River.

The largest and most remote peatland on the Blue Hill Peninsula has been added to our conservation land portfolio. In June we exercised a purchase option that we had acquired from the owner a year earlier and in late July we completed the purchase of a 273-acre parcel that includes most of the Great Heath. This wild and beautiful natural area is located in the shadow of Wallamatogus Mountain in Penobscot. A mosaic of wetland communities hosting a variety of plant and animal species, it is a major natural feature in

the Bagaduce River watershed, an estuarine system of statewide significance. The parcel also includes a large area of upland forest on its eastern side that buffers the wetland and provides additional wildlife habitat.

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has designated some of the property as “high-value wildlife habitat” for inland wading birds and waterfowl. Many of the wetland types have been identified as decreasing and of high-priority for protection by the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service. The Maine Natural Area Program identified the Great Heath as worthy of conservation protection in a regional landscape analysis.

This acquisition complements our 2010 acquisition of an abutting and similarly-sized parcel on the northern and eastern slopes of Wallamatogus Mountain, the second-tallest ridgetop on the Blue Hill Peninsula. Both parcels are located at the core of one of our conservation focus areas. We have developed management

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“Uncommon Places” Campaign Conserves 1,100 Acres

Earlier this year we concluded our Uncommon Places, Shared Spaces capital campaign that was launched in 2007. The value of all gifts to the campaign (including gifts of land, conservation easements and cash) exceeded \$4.2 million. Twenty land projects were completed with support from the campaign, conserving almost 1,100 acres.

It turned out to be an unusual campaign because of extraordinary economic events. Both the feasibility study that we commissioned and the early donor responses were encouraging, but in the fall of 2008, things abruptly changed with the



Our Patten Stream Preserve in Surry (shown on left), where we opened a new trail this summer, was acquired with funds contributed to our **Uncommon Places, Shared Spaces** campaign, as was a 108-acre parcel on Blue Hill Mountain (above) which will be showcased by a new trail that is being developed.

dramatic national economic collapse. After some serious reflection, our Board decided to continue the campaign with a revised campaign strategy and timeline to reflect the altered donor environment.

Going forward, the campaign's primary focus was on gifts of land or conservation easements. Gifts of cash were still solicited to complete the land purchase transactions to which we had made commitments and secure the required stewardship funding to complement any new gifts of land or conservation easements.

The campaign thus continued on a low-key but steady

basis until the last of the campaign commitments was met (a partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to fund the purchase and stewardship of Jed Island). This occurred in March of 2012, signaling the end of a remarkably successful campaign that led to the protection of a variety of properties with diverse conservation values located throughout our service area.

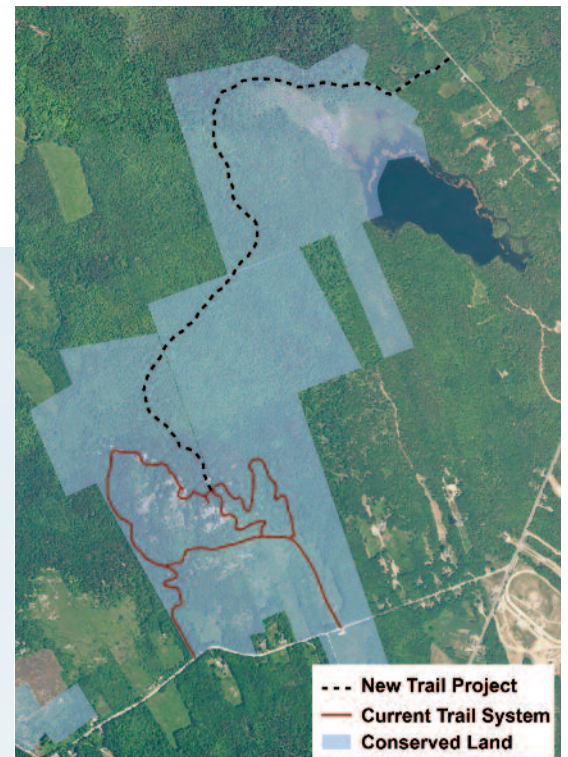


A New Trail on the Mountain

We have designed and begun work on a new trail that will extend from the Turkey Farm Road to the summit of Blue Hill Mountain. This 1.75-mile trail will begin on land donated to us by the Becton Family in 2010, and cross a large forested parcel on the eastern slope of the mountain that we purchased through our Uncommon Places, Shared Spaces capital campaign. It will also cross a portion of the conservation land donated to

the Town of Blue Hill by Ruth Hayes in 1977.

The new trail will give hikers a chance to explore a less familiar side of the mountain, with some unique views and beautiful natural features. We plan to work on this trail throughout the winter and spring and need volunteer help. Contact Adam Bishop, our Conservation Lands Manager, if you want to join the trail crew.



Annual Meeting: Focus on the Bagaduce

Our 2012 Membership Meeting drew a nice crowd of members and friends to Kneisel Hall on September 6th for an enjoyable evening of socializing and reports on our Trust's work.

Board President Mary Barnes highlighted some of the Trust's recent accomplishments, including the success of our Walks and Talks program in presenting the value of our work to our community. Treasurer Terry Moulton reported that the Trust was in good financial shape but that the continuing generous support of both existing and new members would be essential to its continued success. Executive Director Jim Dow highlighted the Trust's recent land projects with photos of the lands protected with the help of the recently concluded Uncommon Places,

Shared Spaces capital campaign.

As always, a special moment in the meeting was the presentation of volunteer recognition awards. This year awards were presented to **John Murphy**, in grateful acknowledgement of 10 years of service as the Trust's Treasurer, and to **Ken Burgess**, in appreciation of his exemplary volunteer service to the Trust's land stewardship program.

The meeting featured a presentation on the conservation values and opportunities within the Bagaduce River watershed, which included a segment of a video created by local resident and photographer **Ann Flewelling** to complement her book *A Moment of Water*.

If you could not make the meeting this year, we hope you join us in 2013!



Volunteers make the difference! Ken Burgess (pictured above with Summer Land Conservation Intern, Hannah Hurvitt) was recognized at our Annual Meeting for his outstanding contributions to our stewardship program. As of October 31, more than 60 volunteers contributed over 1,750 hours of work.

President's Column: Out the Back Door

Remember when you escaped out the back door from a younger brother or teasing older sister? Remember how wonderful it felt to be out in the open space – quiet and free. You felt better and in control of your own world. Have you forgotten the inspirational peace – the few minutes to watch the moon rise, hear the owl, the bark of the coyote out in the natural world around us?

Out the back door is still possible today.

The Trust conserves land that provides opportunities for escapes out the back door – and programming that makes it easy and fun. Our Walks & Talks provide opportunities to explore our landscape

with others. Our volunteer trail crew offers a chance to see new places and help others see them as well. Getting people out the back door is essential to conservation. The landscape needs to be in our hearts – the hearts of all of us who live here – if we want to conserve it.

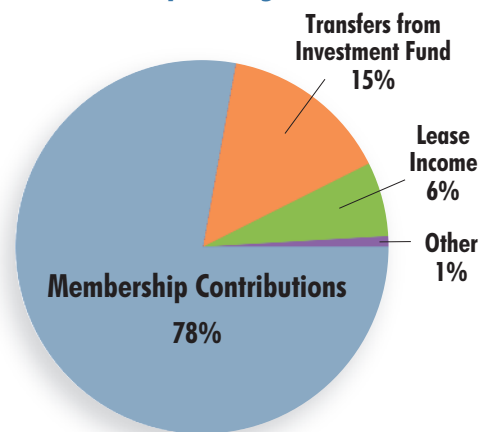
Take someone out the back door. Share something you know, help them understand our landscape. Get them to feel and see the wonder. This is conservation too.

Thank you for your support,

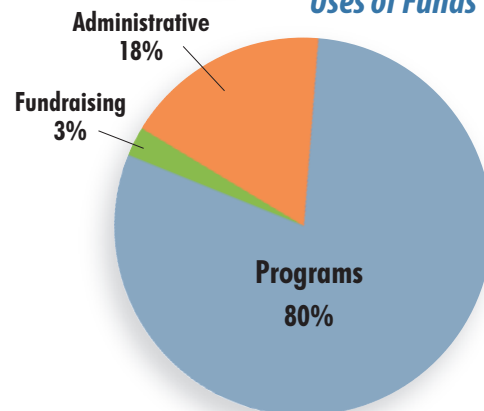
Mary Barnes, President



Sources of Operating Funds 2011



Uses of Funds



Financial Report

As of December 31, 2011,
Prepared by Loiselle, Goodwin & Hinds, CPAs

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$386,870
Certificates of deposit	\$50,151
Deposits and options.....	\$10,000
Prepaid expenses	\$2,797
Long-term investments.....	\$797,446
Pledges receivable.....	\$25,991
Accounts receivable	\$1,925
Grants receivable	\$165,000
Office building and land	\$141,331
Conservation land	\$3,686,886
Total assets.....	\$5,268,397

Liabilities

Payroll taxes and withholdings..	\$3,571
Accrued expenses	\$3,117
Mortgage: office building.....	\$72,423
Total liabilities	\$79,111

Net Assets

Permanently restricted.....	\$1,794,921
Temporarily restricted	\$348,725
Unrestricted, designated	\$2,850,881
Unrestricted	\$194,759
Total net assets	\$3,045,640
Total liabilities and net assets	\$5,268,397



Executive Director's Column: *Taking Stock*

As another year ends, it is time to take stock of where we have come over the last twelve months. We wrapped up a multi-year capital campaign, began an exciting new partnership to conserve land in the Bagaduce River watershed, completed the purchase of a key property in one of our top-priority focus areas, secured gifts of two other conservation properties, opened two new trails, planned and secured the rights to develop three new trail sections, monitored all of our properties, maintained miles of boundary lines, hosted nearly 30 public outreach events, recruited new members and volunteers to serve on our Board and Commit-

tees and completed a time-consuming national accreditation application process.

A busy, productive year! (I hope it will be capped on December 31 by the news that we met our operating budget needs, thanks to end-of-year financial contributions of our members!) But this is nothing new for this energetic and ambitious organization. During the twelve years that I have served as Executive Director, we have steadily pushed forward, welcoming new opportunities, ideas and people, meeting the many challenges that a small organization faces, adding long-term value to our community. Another year will soon arrive. We are ready and able – thanks to your enduring support.

Jim Dow, Executive Director



Our Conservation Lands Manager Adam Bishop monitoring a property on the Bagaduce.

Stewardship: The Challenge of Conservation Easements

When we acquire a conservation easement on a property, the land has been legally protected—*forever*. A conservation goal has been achieved, but in reality, our work has only just begun.

Perpetual Obligations: Conservation easements are legal means by which land owners voluntarily give up certain rights on their property while retaining ownership of the land. As a holder of conservation easements, we have the obligation to ensure that the terms of each easement are respected in perpetuity. We do this through yearly monitoring visits to each property, regular communication with property owners, and meticulous record keeping.

Lots of work! This year managing our conservation easement portfolio included 68 individual property visits and monitor-

ing reports, hundreds of photos, miles of walked property boundary lines, and multiple communications with each easement property owner. It also included dozens of communications with landowners about how to interpret various terms or reserved rights so as to avoid potential violations. Violations do sometimes occur, however, usually through landowner oversight, and this year we successfully worked through three minor violations.

Conservation easements are perhaps best understood as partnerships between our Trust and the owners of the land. It is a privilege to work with our conservation partners to ensure the long-term protection of some of the Peninsula's most spectacular properties.

Adam Bishop, Lands Manager

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

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.

Board of Directors

Mary Barnes, Sedgwick, *President*
 Norman Alt, Brooksville, *Vice-President*
 Pamela Johnson, Sedgwick, *Vice-President*
 Terry Moulton, Blue Hill, *Treasurer*
 David Porter, Brooklin, *Secretary*
 Mitchell Baum, Brooklin
 Peter Clapp, Blue Hill
 Bonnie Copper, Penobscot
 Jim Kannry, East Blue Hill
 John Merrifield, Blue Hill
 Norman Mrozicki, Surry
 Joy Richardson, Blue Hill
 Phyllis Taylor, Blue Hill

Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
 Adam Bishop, *Conservation Lands Manager*

Join us for a winter discussion about land!

As part of the annual Colloquy Downeast program, Executive Director Jim Dow and Board President Mary Barnes will facilitate a session entitled "The Land Ethic: Conservation from Yellowstone to Blue Hill," a four-part discussion about the history of the American land conservation movement, its philosophical underpinnings, and how it influences our lives in Maine and on the Blue Hill peninsula.

The group will meet Mondays, Jan. 14-Feb. 4, from 4-6 pm at the Blue Hill Public Library. To register or for more information, visit Colloquy Downeast's website: <http://colloquydowneast.org>

Spread the conservation spirit
 by giving a
GIFT MEMBERSHIP
 to your family and friends.

Walks and Talks



Lots of programs serving lots of people

An active corps of volunteer leaders and assistants made our 2012 program of public outdoor and educational events a great success. 28 scheduled events will have attracted more than 700 participants by the end of the year. A HUGE THANKS to the following volunteers:

Fred Beck, Beth Bisson, Quatie Bryan, Aram Calhoun, Leslie Clapp and Blaise deSibour, Bonnie Copper, Andy Felger, Ann Flewelling, Pam Johnson, Leda Beth Gray, Gary Hartz, Lynn Havsall, Emilie Hermans,

Judi Hilliker, Roger Hooke, Stacie Jacques, Richard Lawrence, Jerome and Charlotte Clews Lawther, Val Libby, Paula Mrozicki, Marjorie Peronto, Peninsula Montessori, David Porter, Tricia Quirk, Steve Ressel, Phil and Heather Retberg, Dorothy Robertson, Jackie Sartoris, Mark and Renata Scarano, Paul Schultz and Amanda Provencher, Susan Hand Shetterly, Bob Sullivan and Colleen Prentis, Jen and Andy Traub, Eric Walberg, Greg Weaver, Terry Wessel, and Laurie White.



Farmland Forever Farms Host Tours

This year we teamed up with the Blue Hill Co-op to co-sponsor a series of farm tours throughout the Blue Hill Peninsula. Four of our Farmland Forever Farms hosted tours (Blue Zee Farm, King Hill Farm, Old Ackley Farm, and Quill's End Farm). These tours attracted over 120 participants.

Mountain Day Celebration: music, food, and family fun

Our third Annual Mountain Day Celebration drew over 200 participants to the town-owned field on the slope of Blue Hill Mountain. Free and open to the public, this event was conceived as a family-friendly way to celebrate the value of conservation lands to the health and well-being of our community. The celebration featured yoga on the summit, live music, food, guided walks, and a variety of children's activities.

The event was powered by solar panels provided by American Sun Electric & Wessel Electric Inc. and was made possible by the following sponsors: Cadillac Mountain Sports, Camden National Bank, The First, and Ellsworth Builders Supply. A special thanks goes to Board President Mary Barnes for organizing this year's event.



The Great Heath: Protected

Continued from page 1

plans for these properties and envision their availability for low-impact recreational and educational use. We are currently in the process of planning appropriate access routes for that type of use. In the meantime, we look forward to adding a guided visit to this land to our 2013 Walks and Talks program.

The purchase was made possible by major funding support from the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program, a partnership of state, federal and non-profit agencies that distributes wetland mitigation funds to wetland protection projects throughout the state. Funding support was also provided by the North American Wetland Conservation Act program (NAWCA), the Davis Conservation Foundation and other private donors.



People of All Ages Enjoy the Benefits of Conserved Land

The entire student body of the Blue Hill Consolidated School hiked to the top of Blue Hill Mountain in June, while members of the Downeast Senior College visited the Peter's Brook Trail in September.

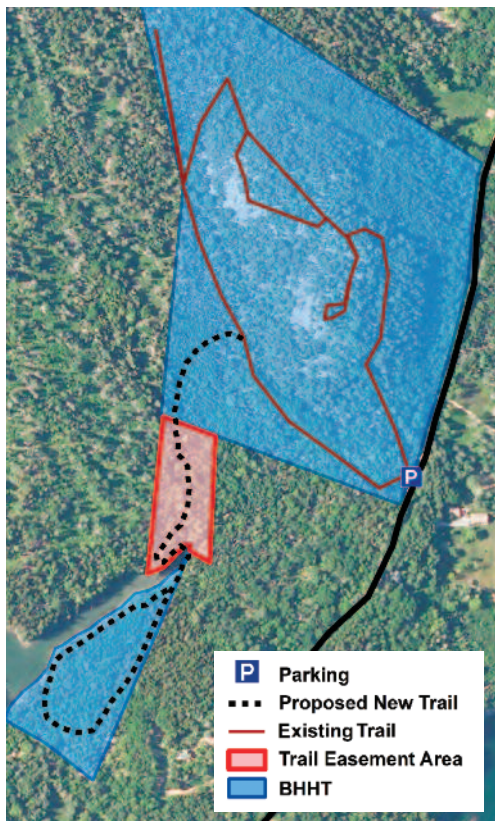


New Trail Easement Will Link John B and Sea

Thanks to the same generous landowners who donated John B Mountain to our Trust so that it could continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors into the future, hikers will soon be able to extend their walk from the mountain to the shore of Horseshoe Cove.

The donation of a trail easement across land that lies between our John B Property

and a shorefront parcel that was donated earlier this year will allow us to link the two with a new trail. We look forward to opening this new trail next year, enriching the outdoor experience available to those who visit this beautiful conservation land.



Land Report

As of November 1, 2012

Conservation easements (54 easements)	3,369 acres
Conservation lands owned (45 lands)	2,486 acres
Other land protected	294 acres
Miles of trails maintained	approx. 14 miles
Trail easements	2
Farmland Forever Program (parcels)	18

Blue Hill Peninsula
approx. acres142,000+/-

Total acres protected
by BHHT since 1985..... 6,149

Percentage of Peninsula
protected by BHHT 4.3%

Percentage protected by
other organizations 4%



Wild Flower Notes:

The cardinal flower

The fiery hues of autumn are anticipated in late summer by the brilliant species of one of our most stunning native plants, *Lobelia cardinalis*, the cardinal flower. These scarlet flares are startling, especially when seen in the deep green shade along waterways, among the filigreed leaflets of royal fern, *Osmunda regalis*.

Lobelia cardinalis is the iconic plant of our Patten Stream Preserve, though annual populations vary; the minute seeds, ripening three to four weeks after bloom, must drift and settle sometimes through turbulent water, into silty niches along the streamside. Our newly-constructed trail loop at Patten Stream offers an opportunity to enjoy these splendid native plants.

Pam Johnson