

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Community-Based Land Conservation since 1985

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

The Becton Trail

A New Way Up the Mountain

With the help of a dedicated team of volunteers, we have created a new trail to the summit of Blue Hill Mountain that offers a different and longer walking experience. Unlike the existing trails, each about a mile long, and ascending on the south side of the Mountain, the new trail offers a two mile hiking experience from the east and north.

The new trail begins at a trailhead on the Turkey Farm Road and travels through several parcels of conserved land owned by our Trust as well as a section of

town-owned conservation land. It skirts Noyes Pond as it winds through coniferous low land forest for a mile or so before entering stands of hardwood as it begins its ascent. Before connecting with the Osgood Trail just west of the summit, it offers hikers a wonderful sweeping view to the north over Toddy Pond to Great Pond Mountain and beyond (*See above*).

In 2010 the Becton Family, long-time members of our Trust, donated a parcel of land with frontage on the Turkey Farm Road that helped make this trail possible.

More recently they have contributed to the development and long-term stewardship of the new trail. To honor these contributions, our Board of Directors voted to name the new trail the Becton Trail. It now joins the Osgood Trail and the Hayes Trail in memorializing donations of land that make public enjoyment of the Mountain possible.

We have plans to hold a formal trail opening this summer when members of the Becton Family can attend. In the meantime, the trail is now open and



ready for hikers. Please help us care for it as you enjoy it.

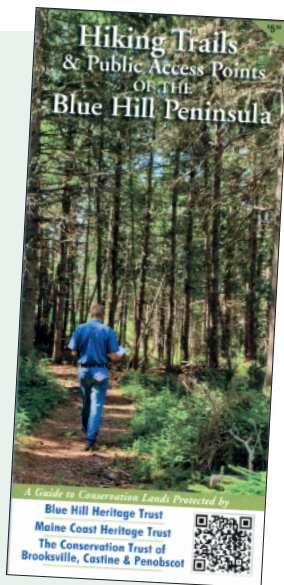
New Trail Guide!

Our new trail guide is fresh off the press. Produced by our Trust with the cooperation of Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Conservation Trust of Brooksville, Castine and Penobscot, the 32 page guide features 18 trails, four islands and five water access points available to the public on lands owned or managed by the three organizations on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

A grant from the Maine Community Foundation's Land Conservation Fund helped make this guide possible, as well as financial contributions from each organization and the support of nine local businesses who bought ad space in the guide.

The guide will be offered for sale at various local shops, with proceeds from the sale used to help fund the stewardship of our trails.

Current members can pick up a complimentary copy at our office.



Hundred Acre Wood: New Conservation Land in Brooklin

A gift to our Trust of a 113-acre parcel of land in Brooklin will conserve a natural area that hosts a variety of wildlife habitat. It will also allow us to provide a new walking opportunity for our community.

The land, located in North Brooklin, was donated by Stephen Winthrop and M. Jane Williamson, summer residents of Brooklin, where Winthrop's family has owned a home for 90 years. It is mostly forested, with a diversity of tree species and shrubs, and includes small streams, wetland, blueberry ground, and an assortment of ledge outcroppings near the town's highest point.

"When we sold our house in North Brooklin 12 years ago, we kept the land behind the house because we had fallen in love with its trails and varied habitat," said Winthrop. "We couldn't stand the idea of it being chopped up for house lots. Now we have the peace of mind that the land will be protected forever, and that the public will now enjoy the recreational use of the land as much as we have."

Winthrop and Williamson and their two daughters are active walkers, and their gift was motivated in part by the absence of attractive, peaceful off-road

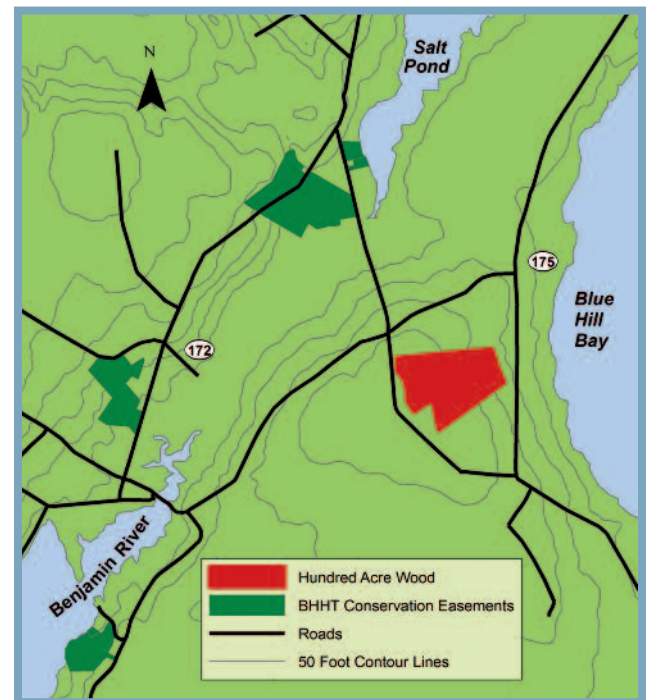
walking trails in Brooklin.

The family has affectionately referred to the land as "Hundred Acre Wood," after land in the classic children's story *Winnie-the-Pooh*. It is a name that the Trust will continue to use.

New walking trail in the future

With the help of a grant from the Maine Community Foundation's Hancock County Fund, a new walking trail will be developed this summer. The grant will allow us to hire members of the local Brooklin Youth Corps to assist with the trail work and to complete a natural resource inventory (NRI) of the property. The NRI, which is being conducted by Brooklin resident Cathy Rees, an experienced ecologist, will provide us more in-depth information about the property to guide our long term stewardship. It will also help ensure that the trail avoids sensitive areas of the property.

The donors' children are sharing in their parents' pleasure in making the gift, according to Winthrop. "Our daughters were concerned at first when they heard we were donating our 'Hundred Acre Wood' but were relieved and thrilled when they learned that we and everyone else will enjoy walking and picking blueberries in those woods for years and years to come."



Our Bagaduce Work Continues



PHOTO: ANN FLEWELLING

An immature bald eagle surveys the Bagaduce.

Last summer we announced that a partnership that includes our Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Conservation Trust had been awarded a major grant from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) to fund new conservation projects in the Bagaduce River Watershed.

Since then we have been hard at work on a series of new projects that will either be funded by the grant or help provide the necessary match for it. We expect to reach agreements with several landowners this summer that will result in the conservation of a series of new properties with exceptional natural values. Stay tuned!

Executive Director's Column – Jim Dow

Accreditation Brings National Recognition



I am proud to report that our Trust has been awarded accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission, one of only 207 land trusts in the United States—and one of only 9 in Maine—to be accredited.

We undertook the accreditation process to give our members confidence that the work of our land trust was being done to the highest standards. Our accreditation certifies that it is. We also saw this process as a way to help ensure the sustainability of our organization, which is essential given the perpetual land conservation responsibilities that we assume as part of our work.

The process was long and intensive. It forced us to take stock after more than 25 years of work. We reviewed and refined our operating policies and practices, we attended to important record-keeping issues, we revisited our portfolio of nearly 100 land projects, and we considered our financial needs over

the near and long term. We did all this while also carrying on the everyday work of our land trust.



There are some immediate benefits that flow from our accredited status. For example, we are eligible for a significant discount on an insurance program in which we participate. More important, however, are the long-term benefits. This status will provide assurance to our donors—both foundations and individuals, landowners, governmental entities and our non-profit partners. It will open doors. It will help us be successful as we move forward into the future. Thank you for your continuing investment in our work, which made our accreditation possible.



Wildflower Notes: Rhodora!

Among the delicate tints of late Spring's native landscape is the gorgeous, and unexpected, rosy violet of *Rhododendron canadense*, or Rhodora.

The flowers of Rhodora, our northernmost rhododendron, are precocious, appearing before their leaves emerge and making their colors all the more emphatic. The flowers of individual shrubs can vary in color from pale pink to dark purple, but the overall effect is a magenta haze, singular at this time of year.

You will find a large population of these ericaceous shrubs when you visit our new conservation land in Brooklin.

— Pam Johnson

Lecture Series Fills the House



The second annual spring natural history lecture series co-sponsored by our Trust and Downeast Audubon filled the Howard Room at the Blue Hill Public Library for three evenings in April. Brad Allen, a long-time state wildlife biologist, opened the series with an animated talk on waterfowl on the Bagaduce River, followed later in the week by Charlie Todd, who shared information from his decades-long experience in the conservation of bald eagles and other raptors. The series was completed by Reeser Manley's presentation about strategies for using our home gardens to help mitigate the continued loss of

"From my experience surveying waterfowl along the coast of Maine, I find the Bagaduce as the number three most significant tidal estuary in Maine, rivaled only by Cobscook Bay and Merrymeeting Bay... The Bagaduce possesses an incredibly biodiverse community of fish, shellfish, invertebrates, waterfowl and eagles."

— Brad Allen

the Earth's biodiversity. A special thanks to Mary Barnes and Leslie Clapp for organizing this series.

Mountain Day

A free community celebration for the whole family!

Saturday, August 10, 12-3 pm

Blue Hill Mountain, Hayes Trail Field
Guided hikes on our new Becton Trail

A special thanks to this year's sponsors: TradeWinds, The First, Hydro-Photon, Cadillac Mountain Sports and Bar Harbor Bank and Trust, with solar power provided by American Sun Electric/Wessel Electric

Hello and Goodbye

We were pleased to have EILEEN MIELENHAUSEN join our staff in December as Membership Coordinator. Eileen is a resident of Blue Hill and has worked with various other non-profits. You will hear Eileen's voice when you call our office and find her name on letters thanking you for your contributions. She replaces Jen Plowden who moved to the Boston area with her husband.



We are also pleased to have CAROLYN SEDGWICK as our summer intern. Carolyn, a Cornell University graduate, is currently pursuing a master's degree in environmental management at Duke University and has a special interest in land conservation. We are

giving her a hands-on experience in all aspects of land trust work.

We are sorry to say goodbye to ADAM BISHOP, our Conservation Lands Manager who left our staff at the end of May to move closer to his family. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him well.

KEN BURGESS, our Trail volunteer extraordinaire, has joined our staff on a part-time basis to guide our various trail projects in Adam's absence.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

BHHT is pleased to report that 100% of our current Board of Directors support our work with their financial donations, along with contributing many hours of time on our volunteer board and committees.

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Eileen Mielenhausen,
Membership Coordinator
Carolyn Sedgwick, Summer
Intern/Stewardship Assistant
Ken Burgess, Trail Manager

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 increase public understanding of the importance of land and water conservation.



2012 Donors

Membership follows the calendar year.

Thank you to our members whose 2012 unrestricted membership gifts made last year’s work possible. A special thank you to our Heritage Society members whose major support provided core operating funds.

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We apologize if we have misspelled or omitted any of our donors' names. Please advise us of any error or omission.



Burn for the berries

Our land stewardship work this spring included a prescribed burn on one of our blueberry fields on Caterpillar Hill. We are grateful to Maine Forest Ranger John Cousins and Sedgwick Fire Chief David Carter and their crews for conducting the burn as a training exercise.



Events

For more details, please check our website or call us. Most events are FREE and open to the public. Please contact us to pre-register.

- July 10
Story Walk at Cooper Farm, Sedgwick
- July 13
Blue-Zee Farm Tour, Penobscot
- July 22
Full Moon Hike, Blue Hill Mountain
- July 24 & July 31
Invasive Insects Discussion, Blue Hill Public Library
- Mid-July to mid-August
Blueberry Pick in Our Fields, Cooper Farm in Sedgwick
- August 3
Tour of Good Life Center, Cape Rosier
- August 10 (No pre-registration)
Mountain Day Celebration! Blue Hill Mountain
- August 14
Children’s Tide Pool Walk, Carter Nature Preserve, Surry
- August 17
King Hill Farm Tour, Penobscot
- August 21
Sketch & Walk, Blue Hill
- September 7
Forest Ecology Walk & Talk, Kingdom Woods
- September 12
Annual Meeting
- September 14
Horsepower Farm Tour, Penobscot
- September 28
Mushroom Walk & Talk, Patten Stream Trail, Surry
- September 29 ■ MEMBERS ONLY
Mushroom Workshop, Blue Hill
- October 6 ■ Visit our booth!
Taste of the Peninsula, Blue Hill
- October 19
Making Fall Leaf Bookmarks
- November 2
Children’s Geology Walk

A Will to Help

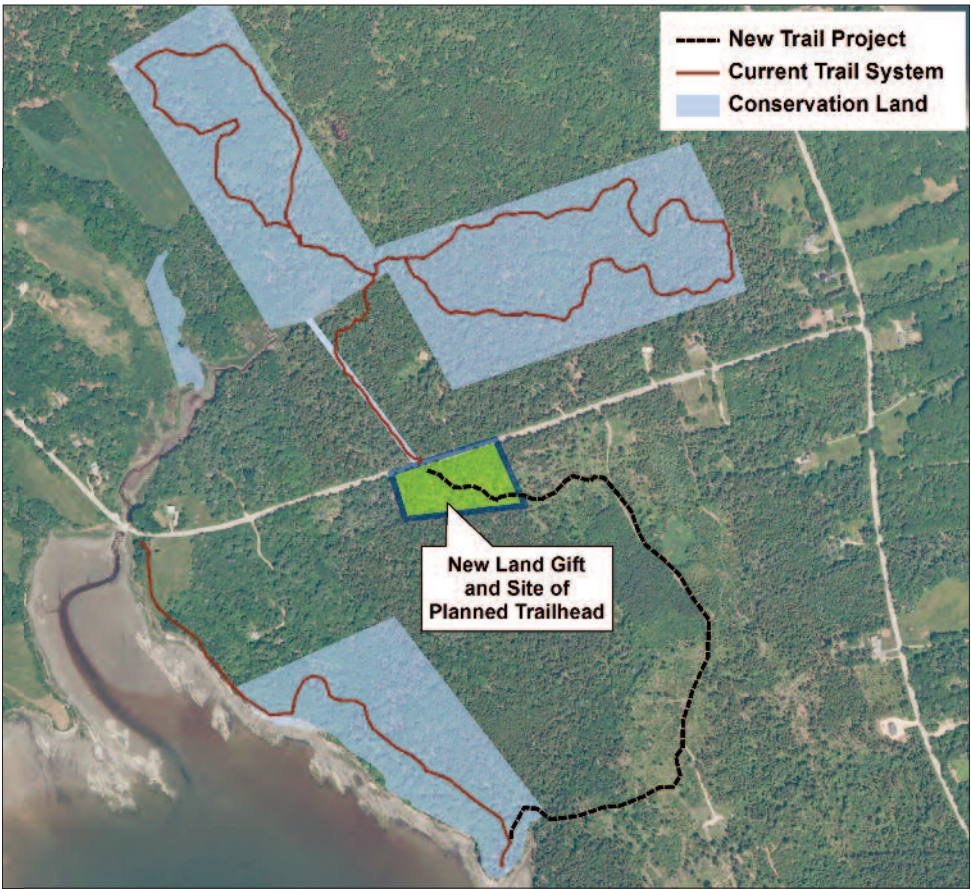
One of our members recently reported that she had updated her will to include a bequest to our Trust and that it made her feel really good to have done so.

You, too, can capture that good feeling by naming Blue Hill Heritage Trust as a beneficiary in your will. Your gift will help ensure the long-term stewardship of the conservation lands that we have worked so hard to protect.

A Gift of Land in Surry

A gift of a small parcel of land on the Cross Road in Surry will have a big impact on our nearby trail offerings. Thanks to the generosity of Ruth and Max Brenninkmeyer, long-time Trust members, we now have the opportunity to create a safe parking area for visitors to our Furth Wildlife Sanctuary and Talalay Nature Sanctuary properties on this four-acre parcel located just opposite the existing trailhead. It will also serve as a

trailhead for a new trail to our shorefront Carter Nature Preserve, allowing visitors the choice of a “loop” walk rather than an “out and back” walking experience. Thanks to a grant from the Fields Pond Foundation, we expect to be able to construct the parking area this summer. With the help of trail volunteers, we hope to complete the new trail this summer as well. Call us if you would like to help.



Getting Young People Outdoors

Our Trust is engaged in the fight against “nature deficit disorder” in our youngsters by offering a variety of opportunities to experience the natural world on our conservation lands. This spring our Conservation Lands Manager Adam Bishop led the third and fourth grade class from the Brooksville Elementary School on an exploration of a vernal pool at our Kingdom Woods preserve (photo above), and Eileen Mienhausen, our Membership Coordinator, talked with George Stevens Academy students about volunteer opportunities at the school’s community service fair, which led eight students to join us in constructing the new Becton Trail (photo right). Meanwhile our

Community Outreach Committee has organized a new program to encourage children to get out on our trails (See article below).



Be an Explorer

Looking for something fun to do with your children? In addition to the variety of guided Walk & Talks and other programs, we are also providing a new “Passport to the Trails” program to encourage children and their families to explore the outdoors.

On ten of our trails there is a letterbox somewhere along the trail with a unique stamp and ink pad inside. When children find the letterbox, they stamp their passport.

Passports are available at the Trust office, the Blue Hill Library, and the Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce. When children fill the passport with at least eight stamps, they can claim their explorer certificate.

Thanks to Penny Ricker for creating the nature stamps, to Ken Burgess for building and installing the letterboxes, to Hawkes & Quirk, LLC for the passports, and to the Outreach Committee for coordinating this program.



Join us today!
Or give a gift membership

The contributions of our members make our work possible.

- Heritage Society\$1000 and up
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