

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

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

Conservation Along the Bagaduce

Bluff Head Becomes Conservation Land *More Bagaduce land projects, see pages 2 & 4*

Bluff Head, a dramatic headland along the main stem of the Bagaduce River, is now conservation land. This 58-acre parcel located in Sedgwick was purchased by our Trust from its long-time owner as part of our **Bagaduce River Watershed Partnership Project** with funds awarded to the project by the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA).

Viewed from the water, Bluff Head presents itself as a striking 90+ foot wall of rock at the place where the river takes a major bend to the south. From the land, atop this wall of rock, the view out over the Bagaduce River is beautiful and expansive. As much as any place along the river, Bluff Head offers a vantage point that provides a sense of the scale and beauty of a major section of the Bagaduce

that is mostly hidden from public view.

This land holds important wildlife habitat values that were key to our ability to use NAWCA funds to acquire it. Its 58 acres include a diversity of both terrain and forest types, a stream that is an important freshwater input into the Bagaduce estuarine system, and productive wetlands on a cove where the stream joins the river. Fish, ducks, geese, eagles, osprey, otters, and horseshoe crabs all take advantage of the wetland areas, while a variety birds and mammals rely on its upland habitat.

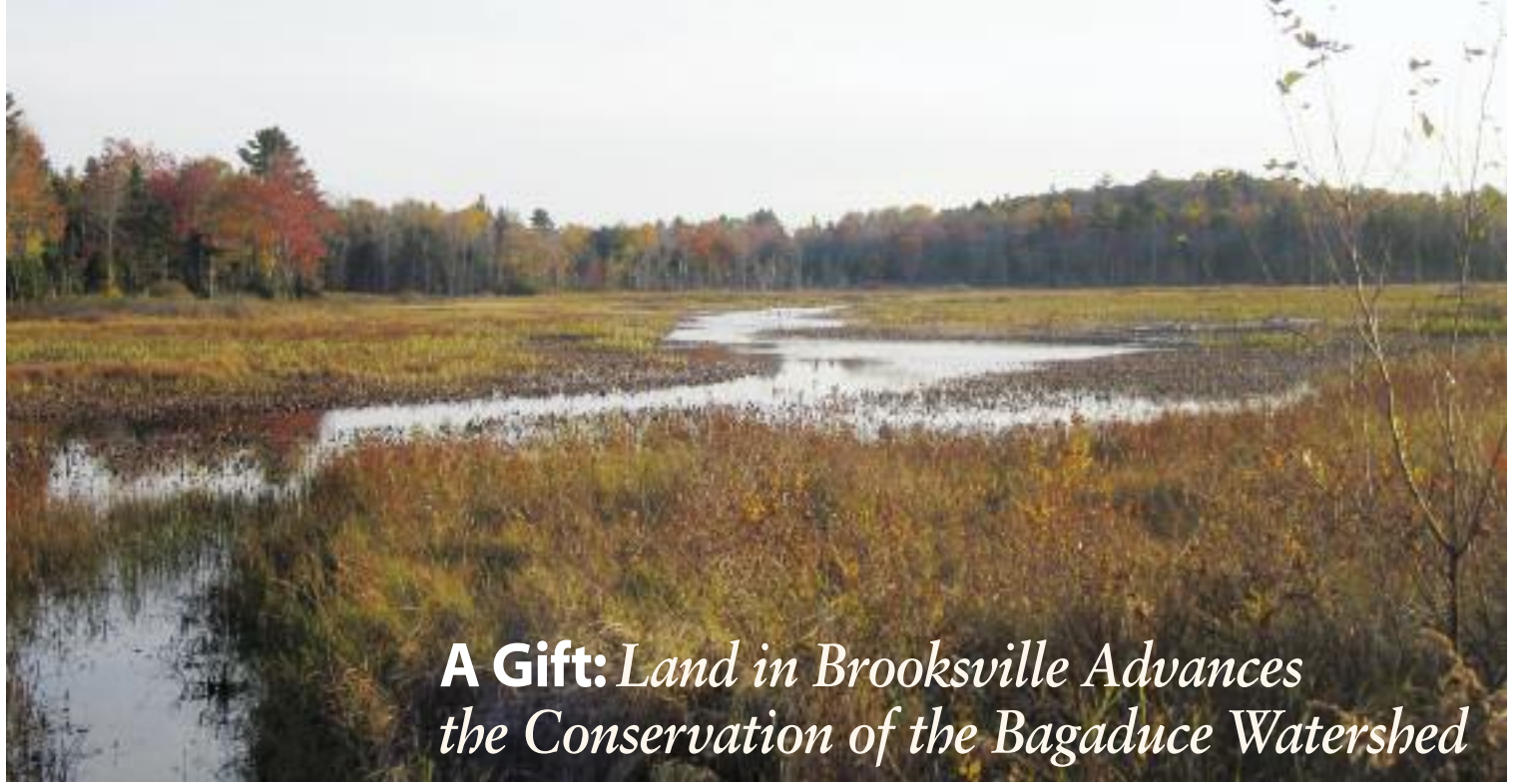
The wonder of this parcel of land attracted its former owner to buy it forty

years ago. She was inspired to do so as a result of a canoe trip on the Bagaduce as a youngster that left an indelible impression on her. Left alone as a natural area during those forty years, this land will now continue as such under our Trust's stewardship.

After a thorough natural resource inventory, we plan to create a trail on the property that will provide public access to this special place. Like our Snow's Cove Preserve further up the river, it will be one of "a

string of pearls" of conservation lands along the Bagaduce River where the public will be able to see and appreciate the natural wonder of the Bagaduce.





A Gift: Land in Brooksville Advances the Conservation of the Bagaduce Watershed

Forests and wetlands provide prime wildlife habitat for a diversity of species

The conservation of an important component of the Bagaduce River watershed began this summer with the gift to our Trust of a large tract of land in Brooksville that includes extensive frontage and associated wetlands on one of the river's major tributaries as well as many acres of upland forest.



PHOTO BY LESLIE CLAPP

The land is part of the largest freshwater wetland complex on the Blue Hill Peninsula, one that extends for more than four miles from a small pond just north of the Bucks Harbor Road in South Brooksville along a stream to a second remote pond and then along another stream to the Bagaduce. The ponds and wetlands in this complex support a diversity of plant and animals. Fish, waterfowl, beavers, otters, muskrats, herons, osprey, swallows, flycatchers and a host of invertebrates and aquatic plants inhabit the ponds and marshes, while woodcock, grouse, voles and other small mammals, deer and songbirds use the scrubby and wooded upland habitats. Because this area is a haven for wildlife and forms a significant part of the Bagaduce River drainage, it was identified as a potential conservation focus area in a planning report that was completed for us in 2009.

Donated by Oliver and Kathleen Carr, seasonal residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula, this 100+/- acre parcel of new conservation land provides us an 'anchor parcel' in this habitat rich focus area that may stimulate further conservation work there. With its public road frontage and network of old woods roads, the land also has the potential for an interesting trail system, which we will consider more fully once we have com-

pleted a survey and a natural resource inventory.

This gift (like the gift of a conservation easement on Wight Pond described on page 4), not only protects a significant parcel of land, but also provides important and necessary matching value for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant that was awarded to our Bagaduce River Watershed Partnership Project to protect other lands in the watershed. We are very grateful to the Carrs for this generous act of conservation.

Merger: One Land Trust for the Peninsula

Two become one! The Blue Hill Heritage Trust Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees of The Conservation Trust of Brooksville, Castine and Penobscot (TCT) have agreed that the two organizations should merge, creating one local land conservation organization for the seven towns on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

The two organizations, both looking ahead to the challenges of sustaining small organizations and of keeping the promises of perpetual conservation for

the lands that they each hold, have been discussing this possibility for several years. The merger will result in one local land trust, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, serving Castine and the six other towns on the Peninsula. The membership, operations, and programs of the two trusts will be merged, resulting in more efficient and sustainable conservation in our local communities. Read more about the merger on our website: <http://bluehill-heritagetrust.org/press/>

Page 3, photo of the Ferry Landing Natural Area on the Bagaduce in Brooksville, one of the TCT properties that we will now manage.

Annual Meeting: *Lands Merger & Awards*

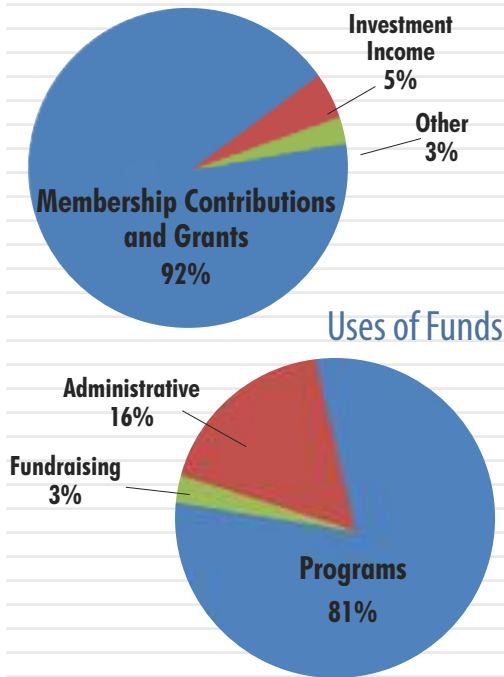
Our Trust's twenty-eighth Annual Membership Meeting, hosted again by Kneisel Hall, was once more an enjoyable combination of socializing and reports from Board officers and staff about our recent work. News about the merger with The Conservation Trust and a variety of new land projects were highlighted.

Our Board and staff used this occasion to present special awards to two individuals who have made outstanding contributions to our land conservation efforts. **Ciona Ulbrich**, a senior project manager

with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, was recognized for the critical role she played in securing the North American Wetland Conservation Act grant that is helping to fund our Bagaduce River Watershed Partnership Project. **Mitchell Baum**, a member of our Trust's Board of Directors, was recognized for his gift of a conservation easement on his land on Wight Pond that has unusual significance to the Bagaduce project (see story on page 4).

We look forward to seeing you at next year's meeting.

Sources of Revenue



Financial Report

As of December 31, 2012,
from a review report prepared by BHA, LLC, CPAs

Assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 516,667
Prepaid expenses	\$ 3,003
Pledges receivable	\$ 483
Long-term investments	\$ 853,517
Office building and land	\$ 142,716
Conservation land	\$4,125,268
Total assets	\$5,641,654

Liabilities	
Payroll taxes and withholdings ..	\$ 3,626
Accrued expenses	\$ 988
Mortgage: office building	\$69,466
Total liabilities	\$74,080

Net Assets	
Permanently restricted	\$2,065,921
Temporarily restricted	\$ 189,587
Unrestricted, designated	\$3,013,762
Unrestricted	\$ 298,304
Total net assets	\$5,567,574
Total liabilities and net assets	\$5,641,654

Executive Director's Column:

An Investment in the Future



We have been busy!

New land projects, new trails, a host of outdoor programs and even an organiza-

tional merger—all exciting and all part of a bigger picture. With your help we are investing in the health and long term well-being of our community. We are protecting an array of land resources that provide the foundations of our local economy and the quality of life that can be found on the Blue Hill Peninsula, and developing an organization that has the capacity and know-how to continue that work.

We are helping people become acquainted, or in some cases re-acquainted, with the wonders of this landscape. We are providing places where people can exercise their bodies and find solace amidst fast-paced lives. We are helping to ensure that our children and grandchildren will have the opportunity to experience the remarkable beauty and community life that we have known here.

Though most of us cannot solve the large problems that plague our country at the national and state level, we can have a direct, meaningful and long-term impact on the health and well-being of our Blue Hill Peninsula community by engaging in the work of local organizations like ours. Thank you for providing the financial support that makes our Trust's work possible.

With your help we are investing in the health and long term well-being of our community.



The Ferry Landing Natural Area on the Bagaduce in Brooksville, one of the TCT properties that we will now manage.

Wight Pond: Conservation Easement Donation Plays Key Role

Thanks to a generous and conservation-minded landowner, twenty-four acres of shoreline property on Wight Pond in Penobscot will retain its value as both wildlife habitat and as a scenic resource. A conservation easement donated to our Trust in August will prevent future development of the land yet allow it to remain in private ownership.

This gift had a triple conservation effect. It conserved a key parcel of land within our Wight Pond focus area that was also a key parcel in our Bagaduce Watershed Partnership Project. It provided essential matching value for the North American Wetland Conservation Act grant that is funding conservation purchases in the watershed. It freed up funds from that grant for the purchase of the Bluff Head property (see page 1).

The newly conserved land, the shoreline portion of a larger parcel that was once a family farmstead, includes two hayfields with stands of oak trees along the waterfront that make the land unusually scenic when viewed from the waters of the pond. It also includes a stream and the western end of a stretch of wetlands that are especially important for waterfowl and wading birds, as well as other wildlife.



Aerial and shorefront views of the newly protected land on Wight Pond.

Mitchell Baum, a Trust Board member, acquired this property from two siblings who had grown up on the land and retained strong feelings for it. We had been working with them for several years to arrange a conservation purchase, but before that could happen they were compelled to place the land on the open market. Attracted by the land's beauty and the wildlife that abounded there, Baum

purchased the land. The former owners were excited to find a buyer who shared their affection for the land. They were thrilled to learn that Mitchell had donated a conservation easement to protect it.

This conservation easement does not include a grant of public access rights, but it has helped encourage an abutting landowner to work with us on a similar easement, which would grant us the right to create a walking trail.



Land Report *As of October 31, 2013*

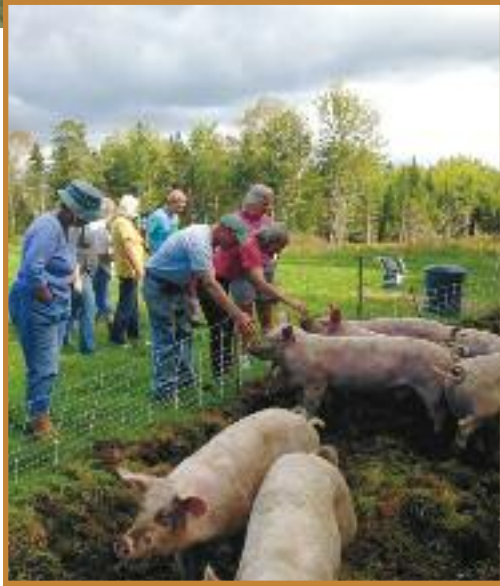
Conservation easements (55 easements/70 parcels)....	3,396 acres
Conservation lands owned (50 parcels)	2,791 acres
Conservation Assists.....	294 acres
Trail easements	4
Trails maintained.....	18 miles
Farmland Forever Program.....	18 parcels
<hr/>	
Blue Hill Peninsula	142,000+/- acres
Total protected by BHHT since 1985.....	6,481 acres
Percentage of Peninsula protected by BHHT	4.6%
Percentage protected by other organizations.....	4%



The Power of Bequests

Join the growing number of members who have created a lasting legacy by naming Blue Hill Heritage Trust in their wills. Bequests help ensure that our conserved lands will be cared for long into the future. For more information please call or email our office.

People



Over 30 BHHT programs and events drew more than 1,000 people of all ages to explore the wonders of the Blue Hill Peninsula and learn about our land conservation efforts.

These diverse educational and recreational programs ranged from glacial geology to tide pools, birding to mushrooming, art walks to wood lot management, farm tours to full moon hiking.

Clockwise from top: The opening of the new trail at Hundred Acre Wood; volunteer Paula Mrozicki leading a children's activity at Mountain Day; a forest ecology walk at Kingdom Woods led by Nathan Rutenbeck; people and pigs get acquainted at a farm tour at Horsepower Farm.



Thank You, Volunteers!

Blue Hill Heritage Trust could not advance its mission without the amazing people who volunteer their time and talent.

Volunteer presenters, leaders, and assistants made our 2013 community outreach program of educational and recreational events a great success. Stewardship volunteers designed and constructed two new trails and maintained 18 miles of public access trails. Volunteers were active on nine Trust committees throughout the year.

Our gratitude to the following volunteers for their countless hours of dedicated service:

Enoch Albert, Brad Allen, Norman and Maryann Alt, Tony Aman, John Banks, Rainette Bannon, Mary Barnes and Peter Neill, Dick Bartlett, Mitchell Baum, Kristina Beal, Fred Beck, Deb Belyea, Warren and Nancy Berkowitz, Ellen Best, The Birdsall Family, Holly Bixby, Steve Blaisdell, Oliver Broughton, Quatie Bryan, Ken Burgess, Margaret Capehart, Alan Chapman, Juni Charlton, Alyssa Chesney, Jim Church, Leslie Clapp and Blaise deSibour, Peter and Sandy Clapp, Pete Colman, Bonnie and Merle Copper, Constance

Dickey, Noah Dow, Downeast Audubon, Merrie Eley, Randy Ewins, Andy Felger, Larry Flood, Birgit Frind, Benjamin Gifford, Daniel Gray, Hannah Gutow, James Hall, Meg Harrop, Lynn Havsall, Healthy Peninsula, Fred Heilner, Emilie Hermans, Judi Hilliker, Jon and Peggy Hopkins, Pat Horton, Pam Johnson, Whitney Landon, Charlotte Clews and Jerome Lawther, Val Libby, Jim Linnane, Jim and Marsha Kannry, Bill MacDowell, Reeser Manley, Isabella Martin, John and Carol Merrifield, Chris Miller, Terry and Bebe Moulton, Norman and Paula Mrozicki, John Murphy, Sarah O'Malley, Kate O'Rourke, John Piotti, Alan Pooley, David and Jean

Porter, Amanda Provencher and Paul Shultz, Tricia Quirk, Joy and Tom Richardson, Penny Ricker, Nathan Rutenbeck, Mark and Renata Scarano, Frank Schweizer, Carolyn Sedgwick, Katherine Semlar, Sage Shaheen, Susan Hand Shetterly, Nick Sichterman, Karina Steenberg, Bob Sullivan and Colleen Prentiss, Dr. Beatrice Szantyr, Phyllis and Will Taylor, Colleen Teerling, Charlie Todd, Jen and Andy Traub, Kip Warren, Courtney and Greg Weaver, Hannah Webber, Terry Wessel, Laurie White, Betty Wilkins, Holbrook Williams.

Our apologies if we inadvertently omitted someone.



Trails

Hikers at the half-way point of the new Becton Trail on Blue Hill Mountain.

New conservation land on Patten Stream in Surry

A thirteen-acre parcel in Surry with 1,400 feet of frontage on Patten Stream now joins our nearby **Patten Stream Preserve** as conservation land. Our Trust completed the purchase of this land in late October from a family that had owned it for decades, who were pleased that we were able to acquire it.

Patten Stream is a three-mile watercourse that flows from Lower Patten Pond and empties into Patten Bay. It is a stream ecosystem rich with wildlife, including

trout and alewives, and the lands along it serve as a wildlife travel corridor. The lower section of the stream near Surry village was identified as a potential conservation focus area in a planning report that we commissioned several years ago because of its ecological values as well as its potential educational and recreational values.

We began our land conservation efforts along Patten Stream in 2007 with the acquisition of our 41-acre Patten Stream Preserve, which now hosts a beautiful and popular walking trail. This new parcel lies at the heart of this focus area, across the stream from and just north of our Preserve. It is forested with diverse tree species and includes some wetland areas that feed Patten Stream. It fronts on wide and remote-feeling sections of Patten Stream that give the stream the feel of a small river. Its value to and use by a variety of wildlife is obvious.

Although we have no immediate plans to create a walking trail on this property, it has the potential for one. In the meantime, we look forward to sharing this natural area with our members through our Walk and Talk program.



Great places to walk

People in our community are out walking and we are providing great places to walk. Our new trail guide has flown off the shelf, introducing both residents and visitors to a wide selection of places to explore and exercise. The new **Becton Trail** up Blue Hill Mountain was featured at this year's Mountain Day and has received steady use ever since. A new trail at our **Hundred Acre Wood** preserve in Brooklin was formally opened in September, and the sign-in sheets are indicating that there has been lots of use and enjoyment since then. We have just completed a new parking area at the trail-head of our conservation lands at the head of **Morgan Bay** in Surry, which will make it safer and easier to enjoy them. We are now beginning work on a new trail connection from that parking area to our well-loved **Carter Nature Preserve**. Meanwhile, we are already planning new trail projects for next year.

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, *Co-Vice President*
- Pam Johnson, Sedgwick, *Co-Vice President*
- Terry Moulton, Blue Hill, *Treasurer*
- Phyllis Taylor, Blue Hill, *Secretary*
- Mitchell Baum, Brooklin
- Peter Clapp, Blue Hill
- Bonnie Copper, Penobscot
- Jon Hopkins, Brooklin
- Jim Kannry, East Blue Hill
- John Merrifield, Blue Hill
- Norman Mrozicki, Surry
- David Porter, Brooklin
- Joy Richardson, Blue Hill

Staff

- James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
- Eileen Mielenhausen, *Membership Coordinator*