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BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST NEWS

Rockin' Out in Sedgwick

By **BONNIE COPPER,**
BHHT VOLUNTEER

On the cold and blustery first Sunday of November, an intrepid group of adventurers gathered at Blue Hill Heritage Trust's Snow's Cove Preserve in Sedgwick. They were there to join Maine Master Naturalist, MMA lecturer, and WERU host Sarah O'Malley on an exploration of the geology of the area. This was one of a number of walks & talks the trust has designed especially for families with children.

Sarah began by asking everyone what they would answer if aliens came to Earth and wanted to know what a rock was. She then asked what you would get if you had some flour, eggs, butter and milk and mixed them all together. What a variety of answers—cake, cookies, muffins, breads,

cupcakes. In the same way, rocks are made up of a variety of ingredients, and many different types of rocks come from the same basic mix.

Gathered in a circle, the group examined samples of the three types of rocks, igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic, that Sarah distributed. She encouraged everyone to see, feel, taste and smell for differences. Next we looked at the rocks around us and tried to determine what type they were.

The group continued along the path, stopping from time to time to think about what we were seeing and how those rocks got there. What caused their shapes and cracks? A large boulder provided the opportunity for investigation. About 16,000 years ago the weather in Maine was quite different. Glaciers covered most of the terrain, and they have formed the landscapes around us by moving and polishing rocks and depositing debris. Many of our rocks are

igneous and granite because of volcanoes that were here millions of years ago.

Through the use of metaphors and guided exploration, Sarah led each of us to a better understanding of our surroundings. She opened our eyes to what is right there in our own backyards.

Are you interested in exploring the history and ecology of the Peninsula? Blue Hill Heritage Trust is currently planning our 2014 series of walks and talks. Please call us at 374-5118 or email info@bluehillheritagetrust.org if you have any suggestions to help us build an interesting calendar of events. Check our website (bluehillheritagetrust.org) for updates.

A nationally accredited, member-supported local nonprofit, Blue Hill Heritage Trust has conserved over 6,400 acres on the Blue Hill Peninsula since 1985. BHHT also maintains 18 miles of public access hiking trails.



Sarah O'Malley encourages children to use all five senses in getting to know our native rocks.

Photo courtesy of Blue Hill Heritage Trust

