



2018 SUMMER NEWS

NEW LAND AND NEW PEOPLE

COMMUNITY BASED LAND CONSERVATION SINCE 1985

BLUE HILL
HERITAGE TRUST



Hans M. Carlson
Executive Director

The summer is upon us, 2018 is already half over, and what a year it's been already! A great deal has happened since the beginning of the year, and I'm happy to tell you that BHHT is in strong shape, thanks to your generous support and the hard work of staff and volunteers.

Your support has helped us add new lands, and within you will read about a wonderful gift property and the purchase of another 2000-acre forest. This new forest is roughly three miles northeast of the 2100-acre Surry Forest we acquired in 2017, and these properties represent the two largest unfragmented

blocks of forest on the peninsula. The most important things for you to know are that both are key components in identified wildlife corridors, running north/south between Eggemoggin Reach and north of Route 1, and both contain large and unbroken coastal wetlands, vital to wildlife, birds, and the health of our marine environment. I can also tell you that these woodlands will be linchpins in peninsula conservation and are adding a new dimension to the Trust's work. The vision for these new forests, in addition to habitat and water protection, is to use them as classrooms, expanding educational outreach to better teach your kids and grand-kids about the land which supports us all.

This interest in teaching about the land is driven by our belief that, in order for conservation to be lasting, the skills and philosophy of stewardship must be passed on, particularly to the next generation. Because of this belief, in addition to the outreach done by BHHT staff, the Trust has joined with Downeast Audubon and Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust to bring a new educational opportunity to the area. The Explore Outdoors! program has already engaged with dozens of school groups, and it will continue this summer with camps and other community programs.

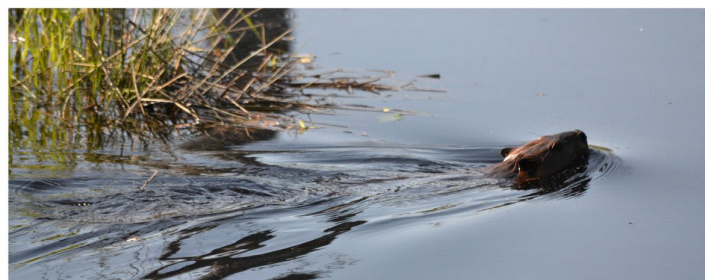
This is just one of a growing number of collaborations in which the Trust is involved, and inside you will also read about our effort to support research as well as land conservation. You have long helped our effort to protect land in the Bagaduce watershed, and we are now expanding that effort to the river itself. Everywhere, land and water are tied tightly together, and no more so than in the Bagaduce, which is one of the truly special features of our peninsula. We continue to support efforts to restore fish passage, and this research will aid in that and many other efforts.

All of these collaborations are helping us leverage our capacity to conserve land and serve your communities better, while supporting other important ongoing conservation efforts as well.

So, as you can see, we are growing and 2018 is going to be a big year for the Trust. I think it's fair to say that it is going to be a pivotal year as we meet the increasing needs of our mission and our communities. Thanks to your and other's generosity, BHHT is financially sound and ready to succeed in all these endeavors, but I would be remiss in my duty to our mission and our organization if I did not say that this is also a year when we need your loyalty and support more than ever. Together we will do even greater things.

Finally, and very sadly, you will also read inside about the passing of two long-time Trust board members and supporters. Paul Birdsall and John Murphy gave time, talent, and financial support to make the peninsula a better place for all of us, and they will be missed.

Thank you, and have a wonderful summer.



Left to Right: Maitland Ianiri, George Fields, Chrissy Allen, Edouard Beardsley,
Kayla Moore, Hans Carlson, Julianne Taylor, Sandy Walczyk, and Bailey Bowden

New Collaborations and New Staff



Bagaduce River Monitor
Bailey Bowden

In last summer's newsletter you read about the citizen science being done by **Bailey Bowden** on the Bagaduce River, specifically focused on the restoration of alewives in the watershed. Bailey's work has been instrumental in restoring fish-runs to both Wight's and Pierce's Ponds this past year. If you haven't been to Pierce's to see the educational installation we have done there, and the new picnic area, it's worth a trip to see the fishway and the rest of the project.

We are also delighted to say that Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust are collaborating to fund Bailey's continued efforts, in the role of Bagaduce River Monitor. Both organizations wanted to recognize all of the time, money, and talent he has brought to this important effort in our region.

We also wanted to give him the support to continue. Through the summer, Bailey will be carrying on his research and other activities, and we will then work together to produce a state-of-the-Bagaduce report this fall. This report will be publicly available.

We have also joined with Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust and Downeast Audubon in a program called Explore Outdoors. Together, the three organizations have hired **Julianne Taylor** as Educational Coordinator. Julianne has been engaging with school groups across the peninsula and beyond, getting kids involved in conservation and the land we all protect. Teaching the next generation of stewards is vital to this beautiful place we live, and we are excited about this program.



Explore Outdoors'
Julianne Taylor



Sandy Walczyk
Conservation Forest Manager

Sandy Walczyk joined our stewardship staff in June, as Conservation Forest Manager. With the new woodlands we have acquired in the last year, we needed her skills and experience. She holds a degree in wildlife biology and conservation policy from College of the Atlantic, and has worked as a wildlife research technician at a variety of positions around the country. She also holds a Masters in Forestry from the University of Maine, and since graduating has worked in a variety of positions in the Maine forest industry. Most recently, she has spent the last four years as a District Forester, for Hancock and Washington Counties, with the Maine Forest Service. Sandy has spent most of her adult life learning to understand, protect, and manage the forests of eastern Maine, and we are excited to have her as part of the Trust team. In addition to looking after

our new forests, Sandy will be helping George with all the other stewardship work here at BHHT.

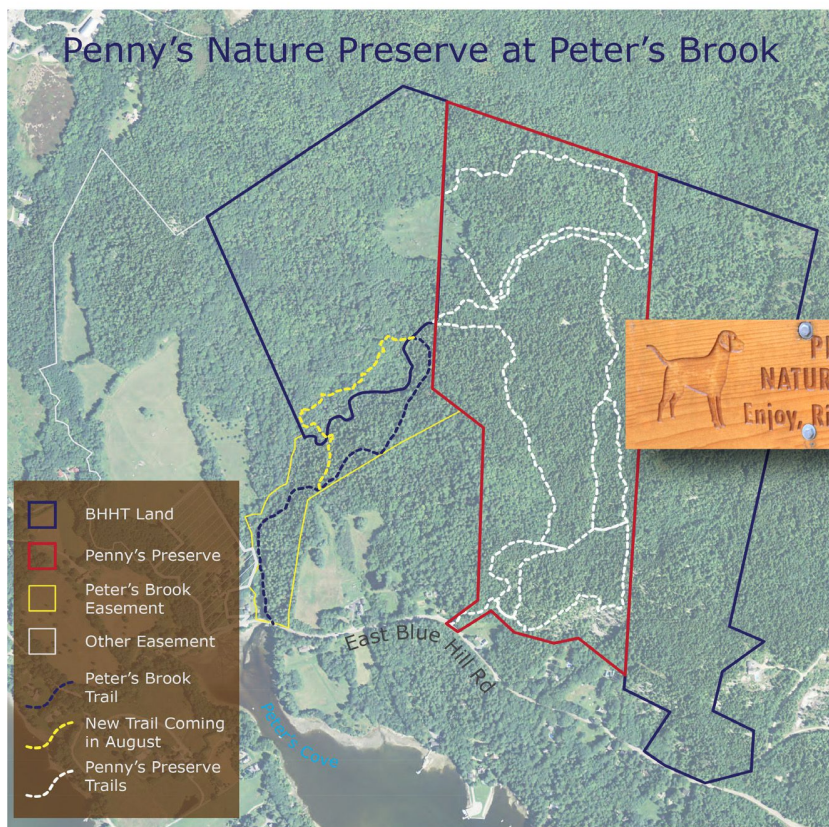
Kayla Moore joined the Trust, last December, as our Administrative Coordinator. She is an Ellsworth native, and still lives there with her two children, Claire and Ian. Before joining the BHHT team Kayla spent eleven years in the outdoor industry with Hydro-Photon, Inc, makers of the SteriPEN, formerly headquartered in Blue Hill. With a growing staff and a growing organization, Kayla is the glue that holds us all together.

Thanks to your support, the Trust is able to make a difference in many new and exciting ways. All these folks are working in your communities to make the Blue Hill Peninsula a better place, for both human and natural communities.



Kayla Moore
Administrative Coordinator

Penny's Nature Preserve at Peter's Brook



Through the generosity of Rich Storck and Aletha Langham, we are now the new owners of Penny's Nature Preserve, adjacent to our Peter's Brook property in Blue Hill. The three miles of trails which Rich has spent fifteen years building will now connect with the existing Peter's Brook Trail, as well as the new trail we are building on the north side of the brook, on land donated by Doug and Posie Cowan, in 2015.

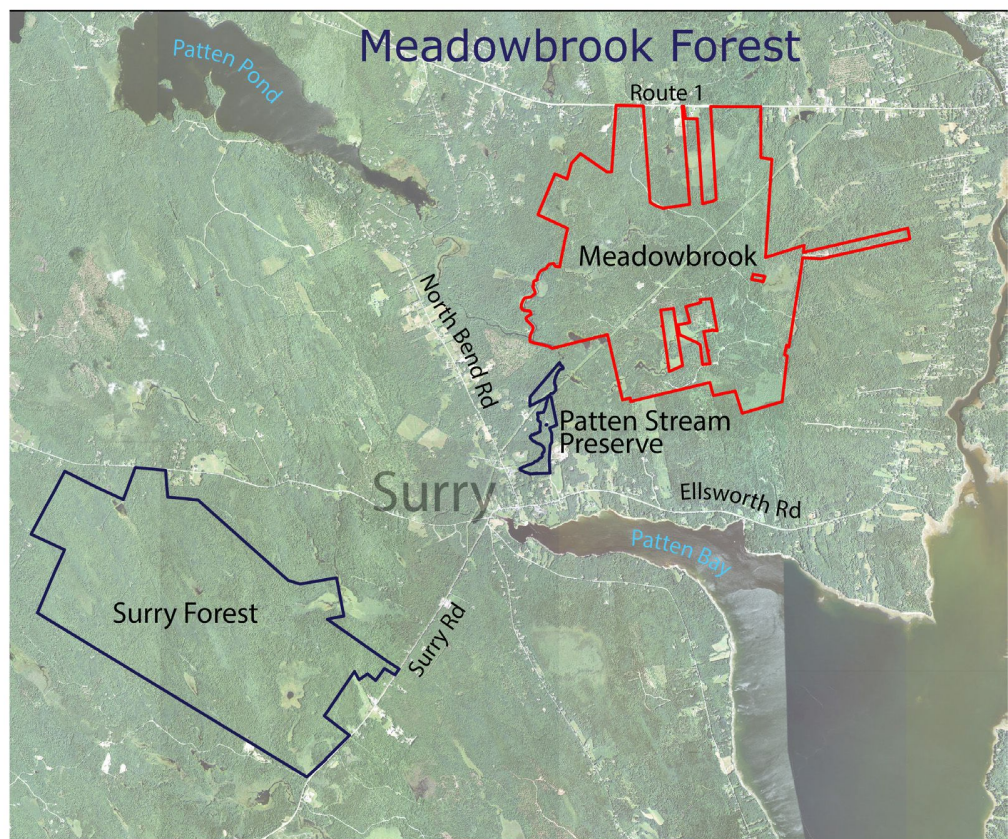
This June, Rich and Aletha donated Penny's Preserve, along with a generous gift to our stewardship fund, and their desire is that the community enjoy this lovely property forever.

Later this summer, we will unveil the new bridge leading to the former Cowan property, and will build a sister bridge to Penny's Preserve.

This past year, Blue Hill Heritage Trust has been participating in the Maine Coastal Forest Partnership, a collaborative between The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, New England Forestry Foundation, and Downeast Salmon Federation to conserve more than 17,000 acres of coastal forests for both economic and environmental benefit. Our part of this partnership was to buy the 2012-acre Meadowbrook Forest, with major wetlands which feed Patten Stream.

Like Surry Forest last year, this is former logging company land, and will be used by BHHT as a community forest, a wildlife habitat restoration project, and a demonstration forest.

The Conservation Fund took temporary ownership of the forest in April this year, and we will purchase it from them later this summer with the help of a grant from the National Coastal Wetlands Grant Program and a donation from the Anahata Foundation.





This May, we welcomed our new Jim Dow Interns to the Trust. The James W. Dow Internship Program was conceived, in November 2016, to honor Blue Hill Heritage Trust's first Executive Director, who served for 15 years (2001 to 2016). As a tribute to Jim's service, wisdom, and love of this peninsula, BHHT also dedicated an endowed fund to sustain the Trust's legacy of nurturing youth involvement in conservation, nature, and sustainability.

Edouard Beardsley has been coming to the peninsula his whole life, though he grew up in Belgium, and is a French as well as an American citizen. He loves the local landscape, and is interested in environmental issues in general. He is a Prescott

College graduate, and majored in environmental studies with a focus on wildlife conservation.

Maitland Ianiri is from Easton, Connecticut, and recently graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. in wildlife and conservation biology. He has always had a strong passion for adventuring in the outdoors and the conservation of our biodiverse ecosystems. Learning all aspects of a community land-based conservation organization, while working at the Trust will hold him in good stead. He hopes to continue to work with communities and protecting land.

We couldn't be happier to have these two enthusiastic young conservationists supporting our work. If you would like to donate to the James W. Dow Intern Fund, please contact us here at the Trust offices.

Join Us at our 33rd Annual Meeting



Please join the BHHT staff and board at Central Hall in South Blue Hill, August 15, 2018, for our 33rd Annual Meeting. The meeting will begin at 5:30 and is free and open to the public. In addition to our usual business, we will have a special presentation by eighth-graders from the Blue Hill Consolidated School. This past year, BHHT staff worked with Nell Hermann and Kat Hudson's students on a Bagaduce Watershed Place Study. This became an extended project focused on both the science and cultural meaning of the watershed, which they presented at a statewide conference at the end of the school year. This will be an ongoing project at BHCS, and future classes will build on the work done this year.

After the meeting closes, dinner will be available, starting at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$35/person and are available at BHHT. Please call (207) 374-5118 or email to: info@bluehillheritagetrust.org. We hope to see you there!





Paul Birdsall
Photo by Nick Woodward

It is with both sadness and a sense of gratitude, for their hard work and support, that we remember two former board members .

Paul Birdsall, a founding board member of the Trust, passed away this last June. Paul arrived on the Blue Hill peninsula with his wife Molly in the early 1970s, bought an old farm in Penobscot, and almost immediately began thinking about protecting farmland in our area. He helped develop a plan for protecting the fine agricultural soils along the Route 15 corridor, from Orland to North Blue Hill, and when the idea of a local land trust was floated, in the early 1980s, he recognized it as a vehicle for implementing his vision of farmland protection.

It took a while – he was a man ahead of his time – but in the late 1990s the moment was right. Thanks to Paul’s vision and steady focus, our organization became the first land trust in Maine to engage in farmland protection, and has now protected over 2,000 acres of farmland on the Peninsula. We still see this as one of the most important ways we protect both land and heritage in our region.

Paul was a generous donor, including giving a conservation easement on his own farm, and he served on the board for twenty-five years. He was an innovator, personally initiating and funding a buy-restrict-sell strategy to protect several local farms. This strategy is now widely used by other organizations.

Paul later extended the scope of his farmland conservation work by helping found the Maine Farmland Trust, a statewide organization, and he served on their board for many years too. While doing all of that, he also farmed with his draft horses at his Horsepower Farm, work which he loved, and which he shared with scores of apprentices. Paul was a rare man, a smart, generous, hard-working, unassuming visionary. He made a major contribution to life on our peninsula, and in our state. We were fortunate to know him and to have him as part of our Trust’s family.

This last winter, we also lost former board member **John Murphy**, who died in February. John fell in love with the Blue Hill peninsula as a boy, summering along Eggemoggin Reach, and he made his full-time home here in the last three decades of his life.

John was a longtime member of the Trust and joined the Board of Directors, as Treasurer, in the early 2000s. For over a decade he worked closely with Jim Dow, the Trust’s first Executive Director, to develop and manage the Trust’s finances, as our organization aggressively advanced its mission. John understood that funding and good finances were the foundation of sustaining and growing the Trust, and was a generous donor himself. He also understood the need for a bit of faith in the generosity of others. He genuinely believed that a non profit doing really good work would be rewarded by those who valued that work. In early December each year, when Jim was worrying if BHHT would make budget, he would smile and say “Have faith. We’ll be just fine.” He was always right.

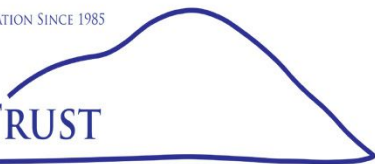
A steady promoter of Trust work in the community, John was rarely seen without his blue BHHT cap. John’s contributions to our work will endure and his presence will be deeply missed all around the peninsula.



John Murphy

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BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST



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