

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

Conserving the Ecology & Beauty
of the Peninsula Landscape...

FALL 2005

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

20th Anniversary Year Celebration: **New Home, New Land Projects, New Walking Trail, and a Special Annual Meeting**

The local residents who founded Blue Hill Heritage Trust in 1985 could not have known what their new organization would look like in twenty years. Yet they surely hoped it would become an important and enduring part of our community life, working year in and year out with landowners to protect some of the defining elements of our landscape, engaging a broad range of people in the work, providing places for to walk and enjoy the natural world.

After 20 years that vision has been realized, thanks to the many people who have contributed their time, money, energy and wisdom. In 2005 we have celebrated those twenty years of accomplishment, and honored the founder's vision, in the best way possible, by continuing the land conservation work. But we have also celebrated by moving into a perma-



New Land Projects! *New conservation easements on this scenic field in East Blue Hill and along Center Harbor in Brooklin are several new projects completed already this year. See page 2.*

nent home, creating a new trail and having a festive annual meeting.

To all of the people who have made our 20 years of work possible, thank you!

Annual Meeting 2005!

*Outdoors and beautiful.
See page 4.*



New Home!

In July we moved our offices to the William Carleton House at 258 Mountain Road. See page 2.



New Walking Trail

With lots of help, we opened a new one mile walking trail at our Cooper Farm property on Caterpillar Hill. See page 6.

Two New Conservation Easement Gifts Protect Scenic Shorefront



caption Center Harbor

The Blue Hill peninsula is blessed with some of the most beautiful shore frontage on the coast of Maine. That shoreland is an essential and defining element of the character of our place. Its scenic beauty provides immense pleasure to both residents and visitors. Its attractions also help fuel the important tourism and construction sectors of our local economy. Yet, as an increasingly scarce resource in a world-wide market, development pressures are altering the traditional character of our coast. Protecting the scenic character of our coastline has always been an important part of our work – our first project in fact was a shorefront conservation easement. Thanks to some generous and far-sighted landowners, that work continues.

Blue Hill Bay. Betsey Harries' family property in Blue Hill looks out over Blue Hill Bay to Long Island. It is property that has great meaning for her. As she thought about the future of the property, witnessed the crowding of shoreline areas

on other coastal properties despite shoreland zoning regulations, and discussed future ownership arrangements with other family members, she decided that it was important to protect that scenic beauty of



caption Blue Hill Bay

the property from future development near the shore. As a result she has donated a conservation easement to the Trust that protects nearly 800 feet of classic Maine shorefront land from future development.

Center Harbor, Brooklin. Sometimes small is big. A small piece of land located in the right place can have big importance when joined with other abutting tracts in a larger conservation scheme. Jane and Jack Hooper's property on the shore of Center Harbor in Brooklin fits that description. Completing a three-part/three-property conservation plan developed with their neighboring property owners to protect the scenic open fields that form the northern shore of one of Maine's

finest small coastal harbors, the Hoopers have granted a conservation easement on over two acres and 200 feet of their shorefront land. Coupled with easements previously granted to the Trust by the Emory and Winthrop families, nearly twelve hundred feet of the harbors shoreline will remain open, uncrowded by future development. This complements other protected property on the eastern and southern sides of Center Harbor, helping ensure that the harbor's special scenic values will endure.

New Office Is Up and Running

In July, as planned, we moved into our new office at 258 Mountain Road in Blue Hill, known as the William Carleton House after its original owner. It is proving to be a great home for our organization.

Some initial renovation work was completed before the move, making the first floor fully operational. The renovations will continue over the next year as time and money allow.

We offer a special thanks to Board member Nick Sichterman for managing the renovation process and to the volunteers who have helped with the work. We

also thank the businesses who have donated time or materials during the renovation process, including Haskell Electric, The Sheetrock Doc (Hugh Sadlier), Ellsworth Building Supply, Solartechnic Contractors.

Meanwhile, a special committee is working to raise our "20th Anniversary Homecoming Campaign" goal of \$190,000 to cover the acquisition, renovation and stewardship costs of our new headquarters. Generous friends have already brought us a third of the way toward our goal. If you would like to contribute to this effort, please let us know!

Over 1600 acres of prime agricultural land preserved

We are pleased to report that another 100 acres of prime agricultural land in our area have been protected, thanks to the initiative and generosity of Paul Birdsall, one of the leaders of farmland conservation efforts in both our area and the state of Maine as a whole. This is the twelfth farm land parcel on which we hold a conservation easement that protects the agricultural values of the property. Together those twelve easements cover 1600 of land.

Located along Route 15 in Penobscot, adjacent to another protected farmland parcel, this property recently put up for sale by its owner. Understanding the threat to prime farmland tracts because of their development potential, Paul hastily arranged to purchase the property. After planning its conservation as a “farmable unit” of land, he went looking for a young farmer interested in working the land. With the help of the Farm Link program, a project of the state-wide Maine Farmland Trust that seeks to link farmland with farmers, he found one. Before completing the sale, however, Paul granted a conservation easement to Blue Hill Heritage Trust. The buyer, an experienced organic farmer who holds an MBA degree, got a farming opportunity at a great price.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust has been working to protect our peninsula’s prime agricultural land since the completion of its first farmland project in 1989. That project, protecting the soil resources on 91 acres along the Route 15 corridor in Penobscot, began a series of farmland conservation projects that collectively became known as our “Farmland Forever” program. Most of the farm properties protected in that program have been located in that Route 15 corridor running from North Blue Hill to Or-



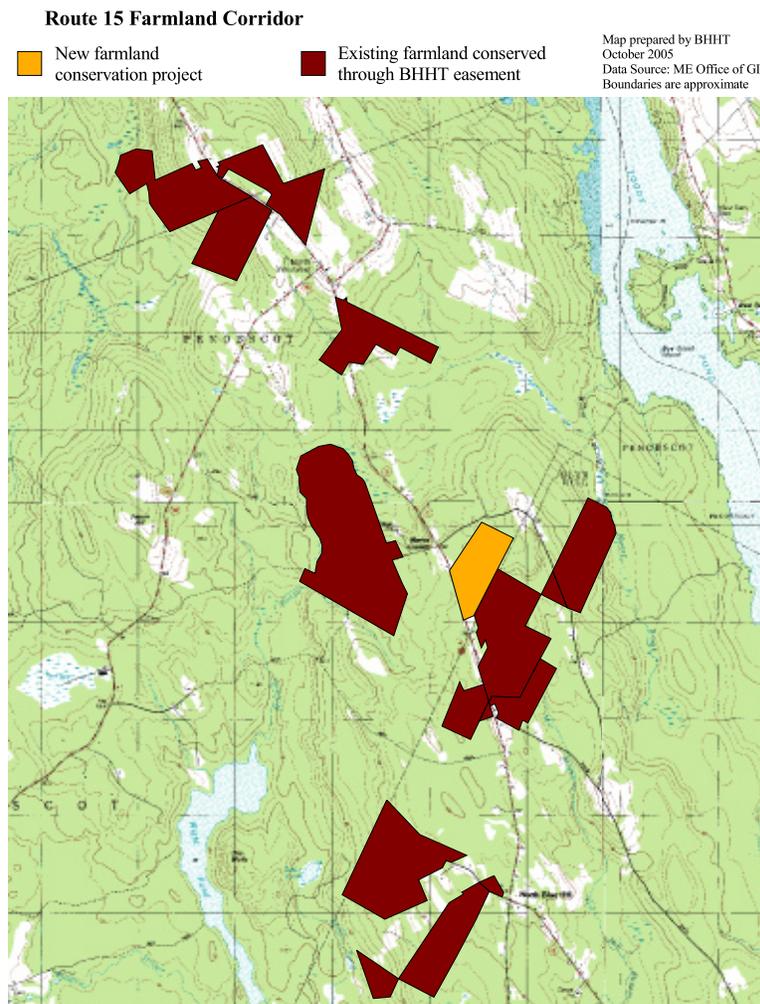
More “Farmland Forever”!

Caption

land, an area that hosts the best agricultural soils in Hancock County. The properties all remain in private ownership but as the result of conservation easements

voluntarily placed on the properties by the owners, future residential or commercial development and subdivision is prohibited. While permitting farm related buildings, the primary goal of these easements goal is to keep the special soil resources of these lands available to produce food.

This farmland conservation work has been complemented by a growth in the number of small farms in our area, many of which are organic and supply the local market. This growing farm infrastructure is contrary to the trend in most other places, where small farms are disappearing and food sources are increasingly moving farther away from consumer. As the cost of fuel to transport food increases and the quality of food products from large scale agricultural large operations is increasingly suspect, we are fortunate to have these complementary resources, farmland and farmers, nearby. We are also fortunate to have people like Paul Birdsall who are willing to take a risk for the good of the land and our place.





Treasurer's Report

As presented by John Murphy at the 2005 Annual Meeting

I am happy to report that the Blue Hill Heritage Trust's financial condition is very sound, thanks to the continuing contributions of our devoted membership. For fiscal year 2004, ending on December 31, 2004:

- We met our general operating expenses of approximately \$142,000 with new revenue.
- The value of our unified Operating Fund/Stewardship Fund, established to help provide annual income to help support our annual operating and stewardship costs, increased to slightly over \$610,000.
- We finished the year with net assets, which includes the book value of conservation lands we own, worth slightly over \$2,711,013.
- Our end-of-year financial records were reviewed by the outside accounting firm of Loiselle, Goodwin and Hinds
- Our operating budget income goal for 2005 is \$179,000 about 80% of which is budgeted to come from member gifts and small operating grants.

2005 Annual Meeting Celebrates 20th Anniversary

A special anniversary deserved a special occasion, and we had it! On September 7th, approximately 100 members and friends of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust gathered at the Oakland House in Brooksville to celebrate the Trust's 20th anniversary. Blessed with a warm and beautiful late summer evening, this year's meeting was held outdoors under a tent provided by our hosts, Jim and Sally Littlefield, and began with a reception, allowing old friends and new acquaintances to visit. A trio of young local jazz musicians, current and former George

Stevens Academy students, provided music. A business meeting followed, during which reports from the President and treasurer were presented, new members of the Board of Directors were elected and a special recognition award was granted. The Trust's Executive Director Jim Dow ended the meeting with a talk and slide show presentation describing the Trust's 20 year history. Many members remained after the meeting for dinner in The Oakland House's dining room. It was a festive and fun evening. If you were not able to make it, please join us next year!

President's Report

BHHT has been working to protect land on this Peninsula for 20 years; the number 20 seems small, a brief period of time, in some ways. In the context of the cataclysms of geology which created this beautiful part of Maine, 20 years isn't even a speck of granite: no metaphor can describe its evanescence.

However, in terms of the engagement of Board members, volunteers and donors, 20 years has a more formidable measurement: a monadnock of human effort, a little like Blue Hill Mountain. 20 years is a citadel of time volunteered by people who love this place and are devoted to the preservation of its beauty, history, character and its ecological integrity.

While the urgent need for further land conservation seems obvious to some, that feeling is, by no means, universal; nor is the method always universally obvious, even to those committed to the protection a particular property.

What should be manifest by now is that the human footprint, on this peninsula, falls heavily, as it does everywhere else on the planet: rarely is it benign. Perhaps it is "intellectual looting", as someone recently wrote, to exploit from this distance Hurricane Katrina's devastation by railing at the misuse and inadequate protection of a vulnerable coastline elsewhere. It is fair, however, to extrapolate and ponder, in context, the pressures of overdevelopment especially in the absence of local planning for the future.

BHHT is a levee that will hold. What we have protected is protected forever.

These are unsettling times. BHHT and other land trusts stand in the void created by a wariness of land-use regulation, state budget crises and recent federal policies which value wilderness and open space only from a corporate perspective.

I cherish this organization for the opportunity it has given me to focus a passion for the land that sustains us all. The deliberative work of BHHT, deciding what we can achieve as a conservation organization and how we can do it with the human and financial resources available helps staunch a despair at what Robert Frost called "the larger excruciations."

Pam Johnson
President, Board of Directors

Trust Founded	First Land Projects	Eggegmooggin Shorefront Conservation Work Begun	First Farmland Easement First Blue Hill Mtn. Project	620 Acres Protected	First Capital Campaign Blue Hill Mountain Land	First Office & First Staff	Carter Nature Preserve Purchased
1985	1986	1988	1989	1990	1991-1994	1995	1995

2005 Annual Meeting Report



President Pam Johnson presents volunteer recognition award to Peter Clapp



caption



Land Report

As of December 31, 2004

Protected Land since 1985	Total : 4422 acres
Conservation easements on private land:	2990 acres
Conservation land owned by BHHT:	1432 acres
Land Projects Completed since 1985	
Conservation easements:.....	41
Fee acquisition (gift and purchases):	28
New Land Projects Completed in 2004:	10
New Land Project Goal for 2005:	10

Peter Clapp and Don Furth Recognized for Volunteer Service to Trust

One highlight of this year's Annual Meeting was the recognition of two individuals who have given extraordinary volunteer service to Blue Hill Heritage Trust.

Peter Clapp. One of the founding board members of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust in 1985, Peter has remained one of its most ardent supporters for 20 years. He has served the Trust in a variety of roles, including Board member, Board President and Vice-President, Stewardship Committee Chair, Executive Committee member, fundraiser, and tireless trail steward. In making the award, a framed cap-

tioned photograph of Blue Hill Mountain, and publicly thanking Peter for his extraordinary service, Board President Pam Johnson noted the importance of Peter's quiet but steady leadership over the years – "when Peter speaks everybody listens".

Don Furth. Don, who is leaving the Blue Hill peninsula to take his second retirement near family further downeast has provided the Trust with sage financial guidance for many years, as Board member, treasurer and finance committee member. In describing his contributions, Treasurer John Murphy said, "Don is one of those people you want on your team"

Three Members Elected to Board of Directors

Three current members of the Trust were nominated at the annual meeting by Board Development Committee Chair Trina Parson and elected by the members in attendance to serve new three year terms on its Board of Directors. They bring diverse backgrounds, talents and interests to our work, as well as a demonstrated commitment to our organization.

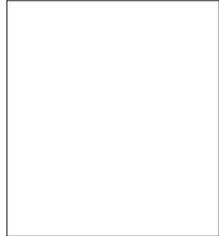
Jim Kannry retired 5 years ago after a 30-year career with Jennison Associates, where he managed a third of the firm's \$60 billion growth stock portfolio. Jim splits his time between Blue Hill and Sanibel, Florida. He is a recent graduate of the Florida Master Naturalist program, and donates time to the Blue Hill Memorial Hospital, the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, and the International Osprey

Foundation. He has served on the Trust's investment committee for several years.

John Merrifield retired to Blue Hill in 1997 after a 30-year career in various management positions with Ford Motor Company. John is actively involved in a number of charitable activities in the Blue Hill area and sings in the Bagaduce Chorale.

Peter Sly of Brooklin is an attorney with wide experience in land use issues. A graduate of Stanford and Yale Law School, he has taught courses at Colby College and College of the Atlantic. Earlier this year, he organized two community forums, "Can Brooklin Sustain a Working Rural Community," and "Brooklin's Livelihoods and the Land: Looking at Our Past and Future."

In addition, current Board members Paul Birdsall of Penobscot, John Murphy of Sedgwick and Nick Sichterman of Blue Hill were re-elected to new three year terms.



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Cooper Farm Trail Is Complete

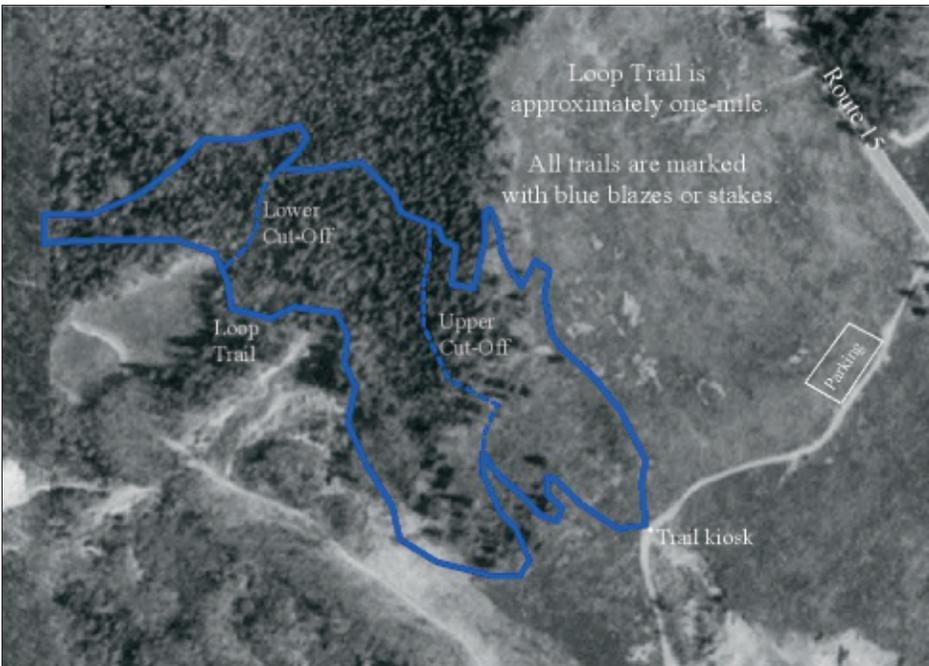
Thanks to the help of many hardworking volunteers and the expertise of Trail Consultant Pete Colman, the Cooper Farm Trail in Sedgwick is officially open to the public. Long loved for its scenic qualities, the Cooper Farm property at Caterpillar Hill now welcomes visitors to walk a stacked-loop trail and experience the beautiful landscape firsthand.

Planning for the trail took off last February, and construction took place throughout the summer, with an especially intense week of work in July when we benefited from the help of the Landmark Volunteers. The finished trail consists of a loop a little over a mile in length. It skirts

the blueberry fields to travel through the sloping forest of the Trust's 134-acre property. The hike can be varied or shortened by taking one of two cut-off trails (see map).

To access the trail, take Route 15 to the scenic turnout at Caterpillar Hill. The Cooper Farm Road is just south of the scenic turnout. Parking can be found in a small lot along the Cooper Farm Road. Follow the Cooper Farm Road by foot to find the kiosk and trailhead.

This trail project was generously funded by both the **Fields Pond Foundation** and the **Eleanor F. Stich Recreational Trust**.



A Thank you to Ellen Best

Our land projects are all legal transactions, whether they are involve conservation easement grants or the acquisition of full ownership interest, and it is essential that we have the benefit of an experienced legal help. Beyond serving the Trust in other ways over the years, including a stint as president of our Board, Ellen Best has provided the Trust legal services for years on a pro bono basis. The value of her time and counsel is huge. We are very grateful for her continuing help. Thank you, Ellen.

In Memoriam

We note with sadness the passing of three of our members, each of who made important contributions to our work.

Austin Goodyear was one of our earliest conservation easement donors, working with us to protect the scenic quality of his beloved property on the Benjamin River in Sedgwick. We are grateful to his family for choosing the Trust as the recipient of memorial gifts made in his honor.

Conrad Rupert was the inspiration for and a driving force behind the creation of our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area. He knew this area well and loved it deeply. Shortly before he died, he gave us his oak flat file for maps and photos, as well as a lecture on the importance of marking corner boundaries.

Ralph Antell and his family were generous donors to our Gold Stream Marsh project. We are grateful for the memorial gifts made in his honor, one of which came from his wife Anne with these words: "We have few chances in this life to be responsible for saving a very special piece of our world for future generations to enjoy and appreciate. My husband has had that honor."

First Five Year Strategic Plan	New Coordinator Hired	Kingdom Woods Conservation Area Reaches 700+ Acres	10 New Land Projects Completed	4,422 Protected Acres	Permanent Office Purchased
2002	1999-2001	2003	2004	2005	2005



Executive Director's Column...

Thinking Ahead: Gifts that endure

2005 has given us an opportunity to reflect on what many people working together, each doing what they can, are able to accomplish over twenty years. We have built a vibrant, results-oriented, local community organization that we can be proud of. Yet, as the year winds to a close, I find myself thinking ahead, wondering how we are going to find the means to keep up the pace of our work over the next ten or twenty years as the challenges mount.

We will certainly need new capital. We will need it to build our Operating and Stewardship Funds ("our endowment") to ensure that we have the means to carry out the perpetual obligations we have accepted on the lands we have protected. We will also need it to undertake significant new project work, as land costs continue their dramatic climb.

One important source of those capital dollars will be through bequests, and other planned gifts arranged by our members in anticipation of

the inevitable. And what better legacy could one leave then help protect this place that we all love. I have named the Blue Hill Heritage Trust in my will. Knowing first-hand how meaningful bequests are to an organization like ours, it gives me great pleasure to be able to give this future help. Several of our members have informed me that they too have made the Trust a beneficiary in their wills. Please consider doing likewise. It will be a gift that endures.



Board of Directors

- Pamela Johnson, *President*, Sedgwick
- Bruce Norelius, *Co-Vice President*, Brooksville
- LouAnna Perkinsy, *Co-Vice President*, Penobscot
- John Murphy, *Treasurer*, Sedgwick
- John Merrifield, *Secretary*, Blue Hill
- Michael Allen, Brooklin
- Paul Birdsall, Penobscot
- Peter Clapp, Blue Hill
- Ellie Courtemanche, Penobscot
- Alison Dibble, Brooklin
- Jim Kannry, Blue Hill
- Whitney Landon, Brooksville
- Katrina Parson, Brooklin
- Susan Hand Shetterly, Surry
- Nicholas Sichterman, Blue Hill
- Peter Sly, Brooklin

Staff

- James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
- Erika Rowland, *Stewardship Coordinator*
- Misha Mytar, *Program Assistant*

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.



(with Eagle walk photo or other Walks and Talks photo)

Seven Seasons of Walks and Talks

Our annual Walks and Talks program is the foundation of our mission's education component. Each year, we offer our members and the general public a series of educational programs and field trips on conservation properties. This summer's program included eight events beginning in late June and ending in September, attracting 200 participants. Highlights included a full moon hike on Blue Hill Mountain, a free blueberry pick, and natural history lessons on mosses and lichens and wildlife biology. We are especially grateful to our

trip leaders Paul and Andy Birdsall, Pete Colman, Alison Dibble, Charlie Todd, Darrin Kelly, Jake Dickey and Tom Schaeffer for helping to make this season a success.



Why are blueberry fields disappearing?

By Bruce Norelius

The Blue Hill Peninsula is a complex tapestry of landscape types, including many acres of extraordinary blueberry fields, or barrens. On my first visit one achingly beautiful October, these scarlet red, boulder-strewn barrens became the essential image of this peninsula that I carried home with me. Other places in Maine had a tamed beauty, but here was a wilder, less refined landscape with expansive views across blueberry barrens, often with water, sky and islands beyond.

Today, the existence of these barrens is threatened, and they're slipping away, acre by acre. Many of us are concerned their disappearance will rob us of a prime element that makes this peninsula unique.

Blueberries have been picked in Maine for centuries, but acreage was historically small. Around 1900, several factors contributed to encourage commercial production, and acreage greatly expanded. Today, market pressures encourage large-scale production on thousands of acres in inland counties. Boulder removal, herbicide application, mechanical harvesting and burning, and on-site processing have made this an efficient process, albeit with complicated consequences.

Here, on our peninsula, it means the rocky, hilly blueberry barrens are less fi-



nancially profitable. Because of the maintenance required to keep these fields from reverting to woodlands and the cost to harvest, expenses can outpace income. Owners have limited options.

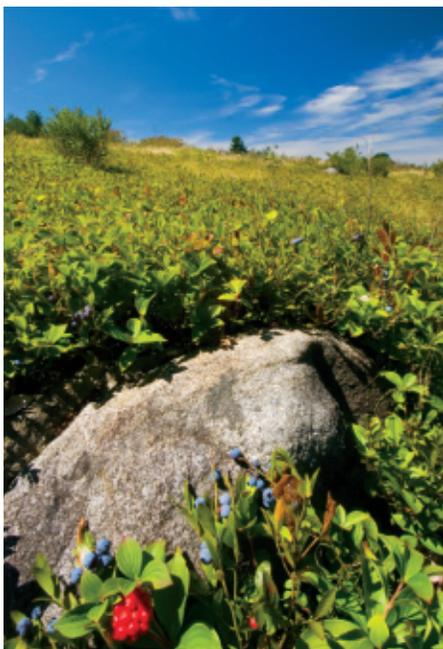
Some continue to manage the fields, hoping the endeavor will someday make economic sense. Some owners change weed control and fertilization techniques to grow organically, which can potentially be more profitable. Other fields revert to woodlands.

However, the biggest threat is that as development pressures escalate, many of these parcels are sold for house lots. Unfortunately, building in them obscures the views of the fields for everyone else, and this radically changes our perception of this place. Instead of a landscape dotted with a few houses, our view becomes fields

of houses, and the character of the peninsula changes from rural to suburban.

This is a difficult problem. We all desire a beautiful place to live, and property owners have the right to sell their land at profit. We need this peninsula to remain beautiful and economically viable. Today, however, preserving that beauty is firmly linked to future economic viability. Blue Hill Heritage Trust has protected blueberry barrens at four preserves—Blue Hill Mountain, Caterpillar Hill, Gold Stream Marsh, and Kingdom Woods Conservation Area—and we'd like to save more. With your help, we will continue to look for partnering opportunities with landowners wishing to preserve this heritage.

Bruce Norelius is Co-Vice President of the Trust's Board of Directors.



As development pressures escalate, many blueberry parcels are sold for house lots.

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of the Peninsula Landscape*

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Summer Interns

Contribute Energy, Skills

During the summer of 2005, we were blessed with the help of two local college students, Phelan Gallagher and Sara Perkins, thanks to the help funding grants from the Hancock County Fund of the **Maine Community Foundation** and the **Healthy Peninsula Project**. They brought us energy, skill, interest and local connections to our community; we gave them a work experience related to their career interest. We hope to be able to offer similar internships during Summer 2006. If you would like to contribute to funding an internship, or you know a college age person who might be interested in an internship, please contact us.