2005 is the Blue Hill Heritage Trust's 20th anniversary year. Founded by a group of local residents in 1985 as a way to balance growing development pressures on the Blue Hill peninsula with local conservation action, the Trust has steadily evolved from a small group of volunteers with a big vision into a successful local land conservation organization with a state-wide reputation for its accomplishments. It has come a long way, thanks to the help and support of many people.

Jean Nickerson, the Trust's founding president, shared these thoughts in one of the Trust's first newsletters: "As development hits us, it is our mission to protect and preserve that asset that we have. Do today what you will be proud of 20 years from now."

In 1986 we completed our first land project, gratefully accepting from Lucy Chamberlin the donation of a conservation easement on her Brooklin property. Later that year we also acquired ownership of our first conservation property when Jerrold and Diana Hinckley donated a 13 acre parcel of shorefront land on Toddy Pond. These gifts have been followed by the individual action of many other landowners and many generous members.

Today the Trust holds the responsibility of ensuring that conservation restrictions on nearly 3000 acres of privately owned land are upheld in perpetuity. It also holds the responsibility for managing more than 1400 acres of conservation land that it owns, land that includes wildlife habitat, scenic vistas and walking trails.

There is much to celebrate!
years from today. Our success will depend on individual action.” There has been much individual action over the last 20 years, and much to be proud of.

After 20 Years, a Home of Our Own!
Story on page 2

20th Anniversary Annual Membership Meeting
Wednesday, September 7th at 5:30 p.m.
Oakland House Seaside Resort
Herricks Landing, 435 Herrick Road, Brooksville

Please join us for our annual meeting in this beautiful setting overlooking Eggemoggin Reach. It will be a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of the past twenty years and to recognize many of the people who have helped to make it happen. A reception with refreshments will begin at 5:30 PM followed by a short program and the election of new Board members. We look forward to a fun and inspiring evening. Members, friends and the general public are all welcome.

You are invited to stay and enjoy dinner at the Oakland House after the meeting. Reservations should be made directly with the Oakland House by calling 359-8521.
After 20 Years, a Home of Our Own!

We are excited to announce that the Trust has acquired a historic property in Blue Hill to serve as its office and home. Located on the corner of Route 15 (Pleasant Street) and the Mountain Road in Blue Hill and known as the William Carleton Place, the property includes a modest but classic cape style structure and barn as well as several hundred feet of undeveloped frontage along one of the major entry points to Blue Hill Village and the Blue Hill peninsula. After doing a bit of renovation, we will move our office there in early July.

During the twenty years since its founding, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust's responsibilities, capacity and participation in the civic life of our community have grown immensely. Now with permanent obligations on over 4400 acres of land, a professional staff and growing demand for land conservation action on our peninsula, the Trust will be well served by having a visible, easy to find, permanent home. (As real estate prices continue to climb and with appropriate office space hard to find, owning our own office space also makes good business sense.)

The location seemed just right for our new home. It lies in the shadow of Blue Hill Mountain, across the road from our first high profile land conservation project and just a short distance away from the Osgood Trail and the 135 acres we now own on the Mountain itself. At a highly visible spot along a major entry way onto the Blue Hill peninsula, less than a mile from the peninsula's major service center, this lovely old home will also help us build new connections to both residents and visitors.

We think the Blue Hill Heritage Trust and the William Carleton Place will be a great combination, providing us functional space that meets our needs as we move forward as an organization, while in turn protecting a classic local structure that represents part of our community's heritage. We look forward to welcoming our members and friends there for years to come.

A Rich History

Our new home, known as the William Carleton Place, has a rich local history in the town of Blue Hill. Situated along a stretch of road referred to locally as Carleton’s Hill, the original lot was surveyed by the Reverend Jonathan Fisher. The house, one of Blue Hill’s oldest, was built by William Carleton and his wife, Pamela Osgood Carleton, around 1815. They lived in the house all of their lives, raising five children.

In 1973, Mrs. Hinckley, a widow in her mid-90’s, asked her neighbors, Alva and Gladys Gould, to buy and care for her home. They did and over the last 32 years, honored Mrs. Hinckley’s request. Now, it is our turn. 190

You Can Help.

Our new home comes with the need for some fundraising. Needing to act quickly in a competitive market environment, we borrowed the funds necessary to purchase the property. We have now begun a campaign to raise the money necessary to repay that loan, as well as to cover the costs of some immediate renovation work and longer-term maintenance needs. Our goal is $190,000.
Walks & Talks 2005: Mosses & Lichens, Eagle Viewing, Kayak Tours

Please join us for our 7th season of educational programs on the Blue Hill Peninsula landscape. These family-friendly events are free and open to the public. For more information, to register or for directions, please call 374-5118.

Saturday, July 9 – 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Mosses and Lichens
Local botanist and former BHHT President, Dr. Alison Dibble will help us explore the mosses and lichens (as well as the wildlife) found on a 175-acre Brooksville property that was protected with a conservation easement in 1995.

Thursday, July 21 – 8:00 to 10:00 p.m., Full Moon Hike Up Blue Hill Mountain
Jim Dow, BHHT’s Executive Director, will lead a moonlit hike up Blue Hill Mountain—a chance to experience this wonderful place in a new way. Bring flashlights and meet at the town parking lot on the Mountain Road in Blue Hill.

Saturday, July 23 – 9:00 a.m. to Noon, Looking for a Home: The landscape from an eagle's point of view
Charlie Todd, Eagle Biologist with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, will lead a walk to the shore of Salt Pond, where an active eagle nest can be viewed. Charlie will talk about the 28-year history of eagle nesting there and related land management insights.

Sunday, August 7th – 9:00 to Noon, KWCA Blueberry Pick
Join us for a free blueberry pick at our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area as part of Blue Hill Peninsula Dayz. Bring your own containers and stay all morning or just stop by. Marked trails are also available for a morning walk after picking.

Saturday, Aug. 13 – 9:00 a.m. to 1 p.m., Kayak Tour of Conservation Land Along Eggemoggin Reach
Over BHHT’s twenty year history, 14 private properties have been protected with conservation easements that restrict future development along a total of almost 6 miles of Eggemoggin Reach. Kayak guides, Darrin Kelly and Jake Dickey will lead a kayak tour along a scenic stretch of the Reach that highlights several conservation properties. Kayaks provided but space is limited. Trip is weather permitting. Some kayak experience necessary.

Saturday, August 20th – 9:00 a.m. to Noon, What Lives at Kingdom Woods Conservation Area?
Tom Schaeffer, State Wildlife Biologist, will lead a walk through the Trust’s 700-acre preserve, which includes the entire shore of undeveloped Fourth Pond, the upper watershed of Carleton Stream, and a variety of freshwater wetland and upland habitats. We will look for evidence of wildlife in a many of these habitats.

Saturday, Sept. 17 – 1:00 to 2:00 p.m., Trail Opening at Caterpillar Hill
Trail consultant, Peter Colman, will lead a hike to celebrate the completion of a one-mile stacked-loop hiking trail to be constructed this summer on our Cooper Farm Property at Caterpillar Hill.
**Burning for the Beauty of It**

On May 6, twenty acres of blueberry fields on our Cooper Farm property on Caterpillar Hill, in front of the scenic turnout on Route 15, were burned – intentionally.

The controlled burn was conducted according to a plan developed by John Cousins and his colleagues at the Maine Forest Service, in consultation with our stewardship coordinator, Erika Rowland. That burn plan required the right combination of wind and moisture conditions for the site. Several early spring days were marked on the calendar as possibilities, but conditions were not right until May 6, when John put out the call for the volunteers to assemble in the late afternoon. They did, and the result was an effective, safe burn.

When we acquired this property in 2001, it had not been in commercial blueberry production and thus not burned for about ten years. Since the view over these blueberry fields provides so much enjoyment for the public, we were committed to keeping the fields open. However, like many other owners of blueberry land that is no longer viable for commercial production, we had been unable to find someone to undertake burning the fields – the traditional and most effective way of managing the competing vegetation on rock strewn fields – primarily because of concerns about the fuel load, the difficulty of managing a burn at this site, and liability issues. When John offered to help us, as a training exercise in preventing wild fires through prescribed burning, we jumped at the offer.

Thanks to the efforts of John Cousins and his crew, which included members of local fire departments, the beauty of those blueberry fields will continue to be part of the scenic wonder of Caterpillar Hill. We are very grateful for their help.

**Controlled burning of blueberry fields on Caterpillar Hill.**

**Each winter,** members of the Trust’s Board of Directors and staff gather for a one-day retreat to build working relationships and discuss Trust business in depth. Participants from the 2005 retreat, which took place in January at the Surry Inn, are pictured above.
Tower Removed, View Remains

In June the fire tower on the summit of Blue Hill Mountain was removed by its owner, the Maine Forest Service. Erected by the Forest Service in 1947 to aid in the detection of forest fires, the tower has not been used for that purpose for the last 15 years. Although hikers have enjoyed climbing the tower to capture the long views it provided, the structure was not designed nor maintained for recreational use. The Town of Blue Hill explored the possibility of acquiring ownership of the tower, but after investigating repair and maintenance costs as well as liability issues the selectmen decided against it. The tower was a landmark that will be missed, yet the views from the spot where it stood, on land owned by the Trust, remain as magnificent as ever.

Thank you, volunteers!

We appreciate the time and expertise donated by the following lecturers, committee members, trail workers, firefighters, and office volunteers: Stephen Ashcroft, Carol Bennatti, Rob Bryan, Peter Colman, Leslie Frothingham and the Putney School Volunteers, Don Furth, Bryan Gagner, Fred Heilner, Andy Kandutsch, Jim Kanny, Bob Marville, Lorenzo Mitchell, Stan Myers, Rick Tenge, Ann Walker, and firefighters from the Blue Hill, Ellsworth, Orland, Osborn, and Sedgwick Fire Departments.

We depend on the generosity of volunteers for much of our work. If you are interested in assisting us in the office or in the field, please call 374-5118 to inquire about current opportunities. Thank you.

Staff Notes

We are very happy to welcome two interns to our staff this summer.

Summer Office Intern

Phelan Gallagher, of East Blue Hill, graduated from GSA in 2002 and now studies music at Loyola University in New Orleans. He is interested in learning how on the ground conservation is accomplished as well as how non-profit organizations do their work. Phelan will be helping us to organize and carry out a series of community outreach events this summer as well as helping out with other projects in our office.

Summer Field Intern

Sara Perkins, of Blue Hill, graduated in 2003 from GSA, where she led the Environmental Action Club and received the Women's Environmental Student Leadership Award. She now studies business at the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Her interests are in wildlife biology and photography. Sara will be working with our trail-building teams, helping out with our Walks and Talks program, and monitoring our preserves.

We are grateful to the Emily William Muir Community Fund II of the Maine Community Foundation and the Healthy Choices, Healthy KIDS project of the Healthy Peninsula Project for helping to fund the work of these interns.
New Conservation Land

The day Duane Pert walked into our office to inquire if we might be interested in some land that his brother Colby and he owned, an exciting new project began.

The land, 45 acres tucked away north of Route 176 in Blue Hill, had been in this local family for many years. Both Duane and Colby had harvested wood from the land, as had their father, but given their ages and the lack of interest among their children in cutting wood, they figured it was time to let go of it. Because of their emotional connection to this land and because, as Colby put it, “there ought to be some places where there aren’t houses,” Duane stopped in to see us.

Although we were not familiar with this particular parcel prior to Duane’s visit, we were very familiar with the general features of the land in the area where this parcel was located, which includes part of the Peter’s Brook watershed. Gordon Emerson, Blue Hill’s former long-time selectman, and other local residents had spoken to us over the years of the special character of this area. We had also talked with several neighboring landowners about conservation possibilities for their land. We were indeed interested.

Shortly thereafter, Duane and Colby walked the land with Jim Dow, the Trust’s Executive Director. “One of the most interesting parts of this work is to walk a piece of land with a landowner who knows his land well, its natural features, its boundaries, and history of human use,” says Jim Dow, “and that was certainly the case with the Duane and Colby.”

The land turned out to have many striking features. It includes the highest point of a ridge visible from many public vantage points, including Blue Hill Harbor and the Blue Hill Mountain, and in turn offers views of both the harbor and the mountain. It also includes diverse forestland and wonderful granite outcroppings, as well as a long stretch of frontage on both sides of Peter’s Brook. It is rugged and beautiful with obvious value as wildlife habitat, in addition to its scenic value. It also holds potential as part of a walking trail system along Peter’s Brook, which enters Blue Hill Harbor next to our A.B. Herrick Memorial Landing property.

Thanks to the Pert brothers’ generous cooperation, we were able to strike a deal that allowed us to purchase the property for its tax assessment value of $42,400 on a time frame that made it possible for us to arrange the purchase.

Grateful to Duane and Colby for their initiative, we now look forward to developing a management plan for the property, working out some access issues, and to continuing our conversations with some of our neighbors.
Executive Director Jim Dow

Looking Ahead: Productive Partnerships

Twenty years of work well done. But what about our work over the next twenty? What will it take to balance the development activity on our peninsula with meaningful conservation?

It seems clear to me that more people will have to be engaged in the work, as individuals, as organizations, as municipalities. And we, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, will have to form more partnerships with other local community groups as well town governments to protect places that those partners help us identify as worthy of conservation.

This approach is not new. We have, for example, worked with a neighborhood organization in Surry called the Friends of Morgan Bay (FOMB) for many years, together successfully completing a series of land conservation projects that include scenic shorefront, wildlife habitat, and walking trails. FOMB has played an essential role in identifying important lands, developing relationships with the landowners, fundraising, and stewarding the lands that have been protected.

To help stimulate similar productive relationships elsewhere on the peninsula, we will be doing more outreach work over the next few months, meeting with local organizations to discuss ways of working together for common conservation purposes. If you are a member of such an organization and would be interested in such a discussion, please let us know.

Meanwhile, many of the towns on our peninsula have recently been updating their comprehensive plans. This is good news for all of us, since our town governments have a critical role to play in shaping the future of this place. In Brooklin, residents have gone one step further. The comprehensive planning process has led to the formation of a new community group, called Brooklin Friends and Neighbors, which is working to move ahead with some of the ideas in the plan adopted by the citizens of the town.

The more people who engage, the more possibility there is of successfully protecting the places we love. Let’s all do our part, together.

How You Can Help

Yes! I would like to help conserve the ecology and beauty of the peninsula landscape by enrolling as a member.

Conservator . . . $1000 and up
Benefactor . . . . $500 – $999
Sustaining . . . . . $100 – $499
Contributing . . . . . $50 – $99
Family . . . . . . . . $35
Individual . . . . . . $25

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