

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

SUMMER 2006

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Places to Walk, Places of Beauty: Two New Projects

The mission of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust is to work with landowners to conserve a variety of places on our peninsula that have special significance to our communities. These places include wildlife habitat, cultural or historic sites, scenic view spots and high quality agricultural land. They also include places where people can walk in the woods or along a stream – quiet, beautiful, undeveloped natural areas where we can get away for a bit of time in order to restore ourselves.

These places are of increasing importance as more people in our community recognize the health benefits of walking. They are also in diminishing supply. Unlike some other areas of the state, here there is very little public land available to provide this recreational opportunity. People have traditionally relied on the generosity of friends and neighbors. As the woods and fields in our landscape get sold and converted to residential or commercial purposes, and as “no trespassing” signs appear, those traditional access points are lost.

Two new projects were made possible by landowners who both recognize the importance of these places and were willing to work with us to ensure continued public access.

7 Peters Brook

Acting on a conservation interest that had existed for years, Bill Byers, Corinne Byers Sucsy and Marti Byers-Gay worked with us to design a conservation easement that would protect the natural qualities of an 18 acre portion of their family land that forms a key part of the corridor of land along Peters Brook in Blue Hill. The easement allows them to continue to manage the forestland on the property, as they have done for years under the guidance of a licensed forester, but eliminates their development rights in the land. Because they have a strong community spirit, are aware that fishermen and hikers use the land, and recognize that it may be a place appropriate for



“As a child this piece of woods along Big Peters Brook held a special place in my life. Here was a place to see, feel, smell and sense the very essence of life. It was a sacred space, so fragile, and yet so ready to give up its harvest of woods, fish, rabbits and deer. I learned here to respect the wilderness, that it was OK to hunt fish and cut wood but to do so with a respect for what was being given and taken.”
– BILL BYERS

educational purposes, they also included a provision in the easement which will allow public access over a trail on the land.

As with all conservation easements, the land remains in private ownership but the ownership rights are limited by the conservation restrictions set out in the easement deed. In accepting the grant of the easement, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust assumes responsibility in perpetuity for monitoring, and enforcing if necessary, the terms of the easement. In this case, the Trust also assumes management responsibility for the trail in partnership with the landowners. What a great gift to our community.

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Annual Meeting 2006

Wednesday, September 6 at 5:30 pm
at the Lookout Inn, on Flye Point, Brooklin

Members, friends and the general public are welcome.

Please join us for our 21st annual membership meeting at The Lookout. A reception with refreshments will begin at 5:30 pm, followed by a program that includes reports on our current work and a special guest speaker: **Alix Hopkins**, author of *Groundswell: Stories of Saving Places, Finding Community*, written to inspire and train community members looking to make a difference in the places where they live.

After the meeting you are invited to stay and enjoy dinner at the Lookout's restaurant. Please make reservations by calling the Lookout at 359-2188. The Lookout is a country inn that has been owned and operated by the descendants of the Flye family for over 110 years and offers some of the most beautiful coastal scenery found anywhere.

Summer Walks & Talks

Tim Seabrook began our 2006 program with a workshop on apple tree pruning. See summer schedule on page 2.



Two new projects

Continued from page 1

2 South Street to Parker Point Road Trail

In 2002, **Healthy Peninsula**, which works to promote healthier lifestyles in our local communities, convened a meeting to discuss the need for places for people to walk. That initial discussion led to the idea of a walking trail from South Street to the Parker Point Road that would provide an off-road walking connection between two parts of the town. With the landowners' permission, the trail was subsequently laid out on a single parcel of land and then developed by volunteers, including students from the Liberty School and the Bay School, who regularly travel on foot from their schools on South Street to the center of Blue Hill village.

When the land sold a few years later, the new owner, Lorenzo Mitchell, not only supported the idea of a trail across the property, he agreed to take action to ensure both that the trail would continue to be available and that it would have some necessary manage-

ment oversight. He also wanted to protect the beautiful natural qualities of the interior of the property, with its huge pines and diverse woodland plants and obvious wildlife habitat value. He accomplished this with the grant of a conservation easement to the Blue Hill Heritage Trust.

The twelve-acre easement area includes trail entrances on both South Street and Parker Point Road as well as the interior of the property, where no development will be permitted. The easement expressly allows public use of the trail corridor under the management and oversight of the Trust.

Thanks to this partnership between BHHT and a generous landowner, the story of this community trail continues.



PHOTO BY PHIL NORRIS, COURTESY OF HPP

In 2002 these Bay School students helped construct the original trail from South Street to Parker Point Road.

Leave a lasting legacy by naming BHHT as a beneficiary in your will.

This summer with the assistance of a crew of **Landmark Volunteers** and local trail enthusiasts we will be undertaking some substantial work on this trail to help ensure that the impact of its regular use is as minimal as possible. We could use your help. Call our office for details.

Big Doings in Orland: Great Pond Mountain Wildlands

Our friends at the neighboring **Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust**, based in Orland, are undertaking a major project worthy of note. They have purchased 4200 acres of woodland on and around Great Pond Mountain, a major element in the visual landscape of all who travel north on Route



PHOTO COURTESY OF GPMCT

15 from Blue Hill toward Bucksport. The land provides diverse wildlife habitat and has outstanding recreational potential given its easy accessibility, including expansive views from several hill-tops. The Trust now is in the midst of a \$2.86 million capital campaign to repay the purchase loan and provide stewardship funds.

About \$750,000 remains to be raised. You can help, or learn more, by contacting GPMCT at POB 266, Orland, ME 04472.

BHHT Board Member
Paul Birdsall Comments:

Two comparisons come to mind in attempting to describe what this area offers. One is that it represents a little bit of the Great North Woods located in the middle of what is becoming an increasingly busy coastal area. Also, it seems to embody some of the values of Acadia National Park, with its gravel road system and its peaks with extensive views, some of Acadia itself. It is a unique piece of conservation land.

2006 Walks & Talks: A Full Moon Hike, Berry Picking, Workshops

It was rewarding to begin our eighth annual Walks and Talks season with two successful workshops on the grounds of our own Carleton House office property, as well as a tour of one of our early farmland conservation properties. We are off to an enthusiastic start! We hope you will join us for one of the series of events that continue through September. They are family-friendly, free and open to the public.

—Pam Johnson, Board President

For information, to register or for directions, please call 374-5118.

Monday, July 10th – 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Full Moon Hike Up Blue Hill Mountain

Jim Dow, BHHT's Executive Director, will lead a moonlit hike up Blue Hill Mountain. Bring flashlights and meet

at the town parking lot on the Mountain Road in Blue Hill.

Saturday, July 22nd – 9 a.m. to Noon Stream Ecology at Peter's Brook

Learn about streams and the plants and animals that live there while touring a new conservation property along Peter's Brook. This conservation property will become a classroom where workshop leader Mark Whiting will teach participants basic stream ecology as well as how to protect and take care of a stream.

Saturday, August 5th – 9 a.m. to Noon Blueberry Pick and Hike at Cooper Farm on Caterpillar Hill

Join us for a free blueberry pick. Bring your own containers and stay all morning or just stop by. A marked trail is also available for a morning walk. A guided tour of the trail will take place at ten o'clock for those interested.

Saturday, August 19th – 9 a.m. to Noon Explore Great Pond Mountain Wildlands

Tour this 4,200-acre conservation property in Orland, recently purchased by our neighboring land trust, the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust. The beginner to intermediate hike will include both even and uneven trails with some steep climbing.

Saturday, Sept. 9th – 9 a.m. to Noon Managing Forests for Wildlife and Wood Products

Learn about forest management techniques that conserve wildlife habitat and forest biodiversity while realizing economic or other benefits. Rob Bryan, a Forest Ecologist from Maine Audubon will lead a tour of a 160-acre demonstration woodlot and discuss the creation of a plan that will manage for both wildlife habitat and forest products

TREE FROG

BHHT Volunteer Leda Beth Gray found this well-camouflaged wood frog at our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area. Can you find it in this photo?



Summer 2006

Volunteers: We couldn't do it without them

Thank you to the following volunteer trail workers, trip leaders, photographers, wildlife surveyors, committee members, and office helpers who have recently donated their time and expertise.

Dick Bartlett, Peter Beaven, Leslie Clapp, Peter Colman, Leslie Cummins, David Drake, Tim Farrar and the GSA Advanced Wood class, George Fields, Jacque Gagne, Bryan Gagner, Leda Beth Gray, Fred Heilner, Andy Kandutsch, Bob Marville, Chip Moseley, Stan Myers, Sal Rooney, Hugh Sadlier, Tim Seabrook, Bob and Ruth Sullivan, Rick Tonge, Anne Walker, and Holly Weinberg.

New volunteer opportunity

We need a handyman who likes old buildings to help with various maintenance and renovation projects at our new office. If you have building skills, time and an interest in keeping up the home that William Carleton built in 1815, please call us.

Surry First Graders Use Blue Hill Mountain Conservation Land as a Classroom

One part of our mission is to increase public understanding of the value of land and water conservation. We were thus thrilled to learn that Anne Martina, a first



Land for Maine's Future Program Selects BHHT Farmland Forever Project

In May we were pleased to be notified by the Land For Maine's Future program that our latest farmland protection project was one of 31 projects throughout Maine that were selected as finalists for the current round of funding approved by voters last November. To receive the funding we must now work with the landowners and the **Maine Department of Agriculture** to finalize the details of a conservation easement, as well as locate private matching funds.

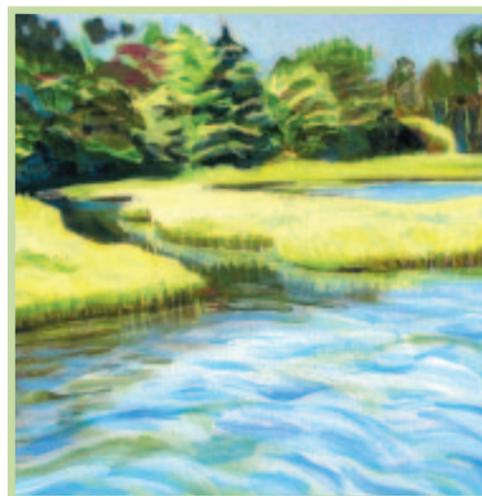
This project seeks to protect the soil resources of the **King Hill Farm** in Penobscot, a diversified, family owned organic farm established in 1971, serving both local and state-wide markets. Its soils are among the highest quality of any farm in Hancock County as a result of decades of careful management by the owners. Because the transaction will involve the purchase of development rights in the land, we applied for help from the Land for Maine's Future Program,



our state's land conservation funding program created by the Maine Legislature in 1987 and supported by a series of bond issues approved by Maine voters.

This project continues our **Farmland Forever** program, which to date has ensured that over 1600 acres of privately owned, high quality local farmland will remain available for agricultural purposes. If successfully completed it would be our third farmland partnership project with LMF.

Our Farmland Forever program has preserved over 1600 acres of prime farmland.



Conservation Land as an Artist's Inspiration

Sedgwick Artist Leslie Anderson visited several of our conservation properties last summer to paint. Among the paintings inspired by her visits was this one done at Carter Nature Preserve. It is one of a set of four paintings (12"x12" acrylic on canvas) that she donated to us in gratitude for our work, with the hope that we will use them for fundraising purposes. They are proudly displayed at our office. Come and look. *Thank you, Leslie.*



Summer Trail Intern

Andrew Gagne

is joining our stewardship team this summer as our Trail

Intern. Andrew grew up in Blue Hill, graduated from George Stevens Academy in 2005, and is currently a student at Plymouth State University majoring in Adventure Education. We are grateful to **Healthy Peninsula** for helping to fund this position through its mini-grant program

grade teacher at the Surry Elementary School, had found a way to make our Blue Hill Mountain conservation land a classroom for her students. Here is her report.

"I wanted the children to know and love Blue Hill Mountain, and to go there often with their families. Pairing that goal with our school's emphasis on fitness and healthy nutrition, we set out to climb the mountain once a month from September to June. Each month's hike had a particular focus in science or social studies, learning about the rocks, the trees, the animals, the Native Americans. In November we did parts of the trail in silence, thinking about the Native Americans who spent time on *Awandjo*, and also to hear sounds we miss because of all of our chatter. The children were joyous and exuberant most of the time. The children recorded all of this in a journal, and in the Spring, they each made a map of the mountain and the trails, which included a key for locating and naming certain areas."



PHOTO BY LESLIE CLAPP

Wildlife Sightings

We have worked hard over the years to protect lands that provide habitat for wildlife. We thus appreciate hearing reports of wildlife sightings on our lands. An enthusiastic group of local birders has been regularly sending us reports of the many birds they have identified on Trust property, including this spruce grouse. Let us know what you see!

BLUE HILL
HERITAGE TRUST

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Misha Mytar, *Program Assistant*
Andrew Gagne, *Summer Trail Intern*

Camp Stream Parcel Added to Kingdom Woods Conservation Area



The late Conrad Rupert once owned hundreds of acres of land near Camp Stream close to the Blue Hill/Sedgwick town line. Conrad carefully managed the forests on this land, for which he had great affection. When he decided to sell some of it, he not only looked for the right buyer, he added his own deed restrictions to ensure that his careful stewardship of the property would continue. One of the parcels that he transferred years ago has now come to us.

The parcel includes about forty acres of land and a long stretch of Camp Stream, which has its headwaters near North Blue Hill and flows into the Bagaduce River in West Sedgwick. Like most water bodies, it has special importance to wildlife, including eagles, which have been seen perched on its shores. The parcel was of special interest to us since it abutted the edge of our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, a primary purpose of which is to provide wildlife habitat.

When the owners, a group of women who had acquired the property from Conrad for conservation purposes, approached us about accepting ownership, we were pleased with the opportunity and the result. Since Conrad was also one of the early visionaries of our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area, we think he, too, would be pleased.

Forestry Project Launched

We have joined with the Maine Audubon Society to undertake a wildlife focused demonstration forestry project at our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area. The project will incorporate principles of "Focus Species Forestry," an innovative approach to sustainable forestry developed by Maine Audubon and several partners that uses a representative group of wildlife found in sensitive habitats to help guide forest management for timber or other resources. We are one of a dozen community groups across the state undertaking similar partnerships with Maine Audubon, Maine's largest wildlife conservation organization.

"A goal of Focus Species Forestry is to show how owners of forest land in a community can conserve wildlife habitat and forest biodiversity while still enjoying economic or other benefits from their forests," says Robert Bryan, licensed forester, Maine Audubon forest ecologist, and project director.

"We hope that this demonstration project

might be helpful to landowners as they make choices about ways to manage their forest land," said Jim Dow, Executive Director of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. "Protecting important wildlife habitat is part of our work, as is providing educational opportunities that will help members of our communities undertake conservation activities on their own land. This project does both."

The project will begin with the development of a management plan for a 160-acre parcel of woodland owned by the Trust that had been used as a woodlot by the prior owner. The mixed age structure and species composition of this forest offers lots of forest management options, making it a good site for a demonstration project. The first of several planned workshops about the project will be held on September 9. See *Walks & Talks*, page 2.



Our Stewardship Committee began the forestry project last winter.

Wildlife and forestry are the focus of a new partnership with Maine Audubon.

How you can help



YES! I would like to help conserve the ecology and beauty of the peninsula landscape.

- Conservator**\$1000 and up
- Benefactor**\$500 – \$999
- Steward**\$250 – \$499
- Sustaining**\$100 – \$249
- Supporting**\$50 – \$99
- Contributing**\$35 – \$49

- Please find enclosed my/our tax-deductible gift of \$ _____
- Please contact me about bequests and other planned giving opportunities.
- I/We prefer to remain anonymous.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Please make your check or money order payable and mail to:

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST
P. O. Box 222
Blue Hill, ME 04614



Executive Director Jim Dow

Working to Protect the Places We Love

Earlier this morning, before writing this, I took a hike up Blue Hill Mountain. I walked up the Osgood Trail, donated to BHHT by Louise Frederick, and back down the Hayes Trail, donated to the Town of Blue Hill by Ruth Hayes. Flowering shrubs were in bloom. The smell of apple blossoms sweetened the moist morning air. Blueberries were beginning to flower, as were a few lupines. Among the many bird songs, a thrush's magnificent song made me smile. We who know this place are lucky. And on a morning such as this, our obligation to protect this natural magnificence for the benefit of our children and grandchildren seems very clear.

There are many ways to go about that task. Each of us doing the best we can to care for the land we own is certainly one. Another is to work together

as a community to make decisions. That is less easy, as the recent vote in Blue Hill on a proposed comprehensive plan made clear.



A third way is to engage in individual voluntary acts of conservation for the good of the larger community. That is what Louise Frederick and Ruth Hayes did. That is what the Byers family more recently did. It is what we at the Blue Hill Heritage Trust help people do each day: take private action for the public good in the finest New England tradition.

However we go about it, we only need to look about us to know the lasting value of protecting these places we love.