



This aerial view of the southern portion of the Surry parcel described below highlights its forested character and its proximity to Blue Hill Bay, which is fed by wetlands on the property.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Fall/Winter 2016 Newsletter

Serving Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Castine, Penobscot, Sedgwick & Surry

Big Land, Big Deal, Big News: 2200 acres in Surry under contract

We are excited to announce that our Trust has secured the opportunity to purchase the largest parcel of land on the Blue Hill Peninsula, a 2,200+/- acre tract in Surry that borders the Blue Hill town line. With a purchase contract in hand, we are now in the process of raising the funds necessary to complete the acquisition as well as to provide for the land's long-term stewardship.

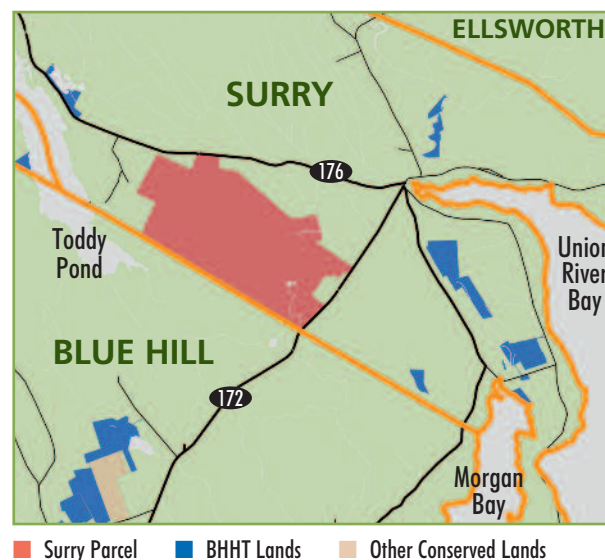
The parcel has remained a single block of forest, unfragmented by public roads and free from residential or commercial development despite being centrally located on our Peninsula. The land has a history of use by its absentee owners as a source of wood products.

We have had an interest in this parcel for many years recognizing that its sheer size, undeveloped character, and wetland features make it important to the variety of wildlife that inhabit our Peninsula. A recent study of potential wildlife travel corridors that we commissioned heightened our interest because a large section of this parcel lies within one of the corridors identified in that study.

The largest single parcel of undeveloped land on the Blue Hill Peninsula, vital to wildlife & providing opportunities for people

Beyond its value to wildlife, the land has the potential to afford a variety of recreational and educational uses to our community that are compatible with its natural values. Given time and freedom from traditional commercial harvest cycles, this land could also become a demonstration forest, unlike any found nearby, that is a sustainable source of high value forest products that benefit the local economy. We are pleased that our goals for the property align nicely with goals found in the Town of Surry's most recent comprehensive plan.

After the previous owner completed a major harvesting operation earlier this year, we were able to negotiate a deal to purchase the property at a favorable price. We then invited a partner organization, **The Conservation Fund**, to serve as an interim owner while we raise the funds necessary to cover the full project costs of over one million dollars. Although we anticipate success, if our fundraising effort falls short the property



■ Surry Parcel ■ BHHT Lands ■ Other Conserved Lands

will be put back on the open market.

Beyond fundraising, we are gathering information about the property that will help us create a comprehensive management plan once we own it. This data gathering will include a natural resource inventory, a forest management plan as well as information from local residents.

This is a project with a long term vision. (See Pam Johnson's column on page 5.) Stay tuned!

Stewardship

← Hikers enjoy the view of Morgan Bay after celebrating the opening of a new trail to the shore of our Carter Nature Preserve in Surry.

↓ A 26-step staircase is one of the features of the new trail.

Mission Accomplished: 4 New Trails highlighted our summer stewardship season

It has been a banner year for new trails. With the aid of summer assistants, some professional help and lots of volunteer hours, we developed four new trails for our community. Maps can be found on our website.

Blue Hill

Larry's Summit Loop on Blue Hill Mountain captures wide, scenic views from the Mountain's south face. It was inspired by an ardent supporter of our Trust who felt that the scenery along this section of the mountain is unsurpassed.

Castine

The Hatch Cove Preserve Trail leads from the Wadsworth Cove road through fields of wildflowers before diving into the small wooded section of majestic oaks.

Sedgwick

The mile-long **Bluff Head Preserve Trail** shows off the land's varied woodland landscape before bringing hikers to an unusual set of stone steps and a grand view of the Bagaduce River.

Surry

The Carter Nature Preserve Loop Trail provides a second route to the shore of our preserve. It features a beautiful 26-step stone and wood staircase and a handsome wooden bridge at a stream crossing.

And more trails in the works. Look for two new trails in the coming months, one in Brooksville and one in Blue Hill.



← Associate Director George Fields and his able-bodied trail construction assistants cut the ribbon opening the new Bluff Head Trail in Sedgwick.

Beyond Trails

Our stewardship tasks this year went way beyond managing 27 miles of trails. We also faithfully met our obligations to monitor and enforce the land use restrictions on the 84 parcels of land that are protected by conservation easements that we hold. This involved many hours of walking property boundaries, communicating with landowners, and reviewing and interpreting easement language. We also attended to all the land management tasks that were necessary to care for the 68 parcels of conservation land that we own.

Most of our annual stewardship work receives little public attention but it is an essential part of our work and a responsibility that we take very seriously. Next time you are out on a trail, please think about all that is involved in caring for the land that offers you that incredible view, wooded trail, or encounter with wildlife.

—GEORGE FIELDS, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

New Executive Director Hired

Our Board of Directors recently completed the search for the next Executive Director and are pleased to announce the hiring of **Hans Carlson**. He has been the Director of Great Mountain Forest, a not-for-profit foundation located in northwestern Connecticut that owns and manages 6,000 acres of forest land.

Carlson is an environmental and forest historian by training, and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maine. He is a native New Englander and is an avid outdoorsman who has canoed, hiked and snowshoed throughout New England and eastern Canada. He will begin work in December and have a month of overlap with retiring Executive Director Jim Dow that will smooth the transition.

"We are pleased that Hans will be the new leader of our superb team," said Norm Alt, Board President and chair of the search committee. "The Board and I are confident that he has the skills and energy to continue our upward trajectory."

Hans: "I am very excited to be moving back to Maine and especially the Blue Hill region. I am honored to have been chosen to lead BHHT, and am looking forward to meeting folks and getting to know the seven towns in the Trust's service area."



HANS CARLSON

Executive Director's Column

A Few Parting Words

The time has come for me to head out the door. As I laughingly say, the Tao of Dow says to leave when things are good, when you could just as well stay. That is exactly what I am doing. Our organization is in fine fettle, with exciting new things happening. I shall be a cheerleader from the sideline as the work that I have invested so much of myself in continues. I shall also be forever grateful to all of the people who have helped bring us this far. Thank you, members and friends, for joining me in this adventure in local land conservation and community building... So long.



— JIM DOW

Leave a Lasting Legacy

We have been honored by bequests from the estates of two of our long-time members: Jean Messex of Blue Hill and John Furth of Surry. We are also pleased to welcome Bob Murphy and Betsy Adams, summer residents of Surry, to our **STEWARDS' CIRCLE**, which we established to recognize mem-

bers who have named our Trust in their will or in some other planned gift.

Please consider leaving a lasting legacy through a planned gift to Blue Hill Heritage Trust. All planned gifts support the long-term stewardship of our conservation lands, unless directed otherwise by the donor.

For information about planned giving opportunities, contact:

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

207-374-5118 ■ info@bluehillheritagetrust.org



A Note from the President's Corner

When my term began I was a bit worried that it would be difficult to maintain the momentum that the Trust had built during the past several years. I am pleased to report that these worries were not well founded. We have had a remarkable year and it is a pleasure to report that we have not only maintained our momentum but we have increased both our velocity and our mass. As reported in other parts of this newsletter, we have greatly enhanced our outreach activities, built several new miles of beautiful trail, acquired an option to purchase the single largest

parcel on the Peninsula, hired a new Executive Director to take the baton from Jim for the next lap, and are in negotiations to improve our working space with a view to enhancing our effectiveness and efficiency.

Of course none of this would have been possible without your generous support. We are most grateful. With your continuing help, we will build on our present success and continually improve our ability to achieve the Trust's mission.

Finally, we are mindful of the great debt owed to Jim for his many years of exemplary leadership. Thank you Jim.

— NORMAN ALT, PRESIDENT

Blue Hill Heritage Trust



MISSION STATEMENT

To conserve in perpetuity land and water resources that support the long-term health and well-being of the natural and human communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Board of Directors

Norman Alt, *President*, Brooksville
Pamela Johnson, *Vice-President*, Sedgwick
Terry Moulton, *Treasurer*, Blue Hill
Phyllis Taylor, *Secretary*, Blue Hill
Mary Barnes, *Sedgwick*
Mitchell Baum, *Brooklin*
Peter Clapp, *Blue Hill*
Bonnie Copper, *Penobscot*
Samantha Haskell, *Brooksville*
Sarah O'Malley, *Sedgwick*
Brooke Parish, *Castine*
Tricia Quirk, *Surry*

Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
George Fields, *Associate Director*
Chrissy Allen,
Outreach/Development Coordinator
Laura Blandford,
Membership/Administrative Coordinator



A Tribute to Jim Dow

Below are some encomia for Jim from a few who have been privileged to work with him during his two decades of service to BHHT. There is nothing in the job description for Executive Director that adequately measures Jim's devotion to the Trust, his understanding of land conservation and land stewardship, and his ability to represent the Trust in the community – Thank you Jim.



Jim at this year's annual meeting with past president and longtime trust attorney Ellen Best.

Our Kingdom Woods Conservation Area which Jim helped conserve, is one of his favorite places.

 **Katrina Parsons** (Board Member 1992-1995 and 2001-2007)

Some years ago, I served on a small and struggling BHHT Board with Jim. Because of his legal expertise, his total dedication to the land conservation "movement" and his people skills, Jim over the years became the leader of what is now a nationally – and locally – recognized land conservation organization. Thanks to his incredible dedication, there are now over 7,200 acres of "conserved" land on our Peninsula. We can't thank him enough.

 **Peter Clapp** (Board Member 1985-Present, President 1995-1997)

His dedication to land preservation and communication skills have led our growth. We started as an all-volunteer organization, now we have four full-time employees. We started with a budget of a couple thousand dollars, now we have 100 times that, thanks to Jim's cultivation of many loyal members and foundations. The times his advice was offered and taken are too many to recap here and now, but those of us who were and are still on the board remember them.

Jim's involvement with the whole community has not only enriched their organizations but also, by his association with BHHT, has expanded the knowledge of our mission to others who would not have otherwise known the Trust.

Jim, we hope you'll always find someone or something to make you laugh. When we come into a room and hear that laugh we can say "Jim's here." It defines you as much as those other qualities.

 **Paul Birdsall** (Board Member 1985-2010)

Jim was a great collaborator on protecting so much farmland on the Peninsula. It was such a relief to have someone who understood the issue and was willing to collaborate. When Jim got on board, it was a Pretty Goddam Exciting Thing. I will always remember him fondly.

 **Ollie Dillon** (Youngest BHHT Member at the age of 13)

When I was a young boy and gave my first donation to Blue Hill Heritage Trust, I was honored to be a part of something truly unique. For my whole life, I have lived in the small town of Blue Hill and grew up cherishing every element of its natural beauty. It seemed an obvious choice to me, to donate to a cause that protected my environment. Jim Dow, is a true steward of our Peninsula, and he will be missed by the land trust community; it is important to continue his legacy and forge onward to protect and cherish the biodiverse area we live in.

 **Misha Mytar** (Program Assistant 2003-2006, Campaign Manager 2008-2009)

Jim's hiring me at Blue Hill Heritage Trust was what planted me back in this part of Maine and in the field of conservation. He has been a great friend and mentor and I especially miss being around him while he works – Jim stomping around on the old floors in William Carleton House, muttering under his breath, and frequently breaking out in a loud belly laugh. The noise of Jim at work reflects the energy, determination, and sense of humor he always brought to conservation in the Blue Hill area. I am grateful to him for protecting so many special places. I am even more grateful that he has built a strong organization that will carry on well beyond his retirement. The Trust won't be the same without him, but it will remain a great organization because of him!

 **Ellen Best** (Board Member 1989-1998, President 1994-1995)

Jim brings such a love of this area together with a clear eye and thoughtful approach to analyzing and prioritizing the needs and opportunities of BHHT. His training as a lawyer brings additional depth to his understanding of the complexities of preserving land. For me, it's been amazing – and fun – to work with Jim. We're all in his debt!

 **Jo Barrett** (Farmland Forever Conservation Easement Donor)

During a very trying time in my life I worked with Jim to put an agricultural easement on King Hill Farm, owned by my husband Dennis King, my brother in law Ron King and me. I was dealing with my husband's health issues as well as the prospect of giving up farming and farm life while turning over the farm business to our successors. I couldn't possibly have dealt with the easement process without Jim's kind guidance. Jim was caring, professional and fun to work with. I will always be grateful for his help in preserving our farming legacy.

 **John Merrifield** (Board Member 2005-2014, President 2007-2010)

Bushwhacking behind those long strides, I soon learned that Jim not only talked the complex talk of land conservation, he also loved to walk on the new or prospective acquisitions and to feel the pleasure of the ground beneath his feet. He has been a fixture in our community, serving the library, the church and coaching his beloved basketball kids – linking us all together in this place we love so well. If you want to know where Jim is, listen for that infectious laugh – you can hear it above any other noise around. He leaves us with a treasure of over 7,200 acres of protected land and easements, from farms to the Mountain and paths along the shoreline. What a legacy!

 **Lorenzo Mitchell** (Board Member 1988-2003, President 1997-2001)

One of my greatest satisfactions about everything involving Blue Hill Heritage Trust is that Jim applied for the job as first Executive Director, and that the search committee had the good sense to hire him. He has certainly justified our faith in him and far exceeded our most sanguine expectations. I hope he will soon enjoy some relaxation and adventures along with the satisfaction of a job well done. Bravo!

Little Blue Hill



PHOTO BY KEN WOISARD

Our Ownership Is Now Complete

In late 2014 we received a gift of an 80% undivided legal interest in the parcel of land that forms the western shoulder of Blue Hill Mountain, sometimes referred to locally as “Little Blue Hill” or “Cobble Hill.” Since then we have worked with the owners of the other 20% interest to create a less complicated ownership arrangement. Now, thanks to their cooperation and their shared interest in seeing the Mountain conserved, we are the full owners of the 60 acres of the fields and woods that form this prominent and scenic portion of the Mountain’s upper elevations.

This land lies between two parcels owned by our Trust, one borders Route 15 and was purchased in the early 1990’s with funds raised through the Trust’s first

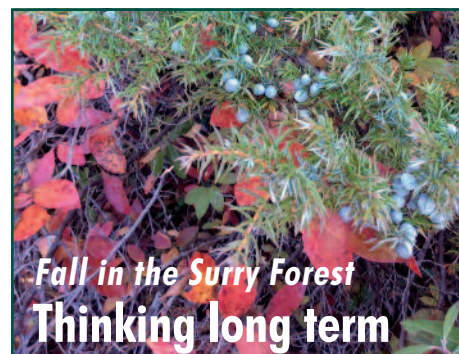
capital campaign, the other was a gift from the late Louise Frederick and includes the Mountain’s summit and hosts the Osgood trail. The full ownership of this missing piece of a conservation puzzle will ease the stewardship issues associated with the land and will offer us the opportunity to create a walking trail from Route 15 to the summit.

“The conservation of this parcel has been a dream of mine for years” says retiring Executive Director Jim Dow. “I was thrilled when Kitty Clements donated her 80% interest and now am equally thrilled that I could help complete the Trust’s ownership of this land during my time as Executive Director.”

An 80% ownership interest becomes a 100% ownership of 60 acres on The Mountain

Annual Meeting

This year’s annual membership meeting, held in late August at David’s Folly Farm in Brooksville (a property protected by a conservation easement) was attended by more than 150 members and friends. The program honored retiring Executive Director Jim Dow, who was also the featured speaker. A lobster dinner followed the meeting, capping an enjoyable summer evening. Please join us next year.



Fall in the Surry Forest Thinking long term

BY PAM JOHNSON

A drive in late October along the interior logging roads of the 2,200 acres the Trust is acquiring in Surry was a visual feast, a final burst of surprisingly bright color. Young poplars glowed yellow against tri-colored pin cherries. Neon red maples sizzled beneath a caerulean sky. A few superannuated white pines stood sentinel, reminders of the many softwoods taken from the forest in previous and recent commercial harvests.

By the time this year’s pioneer poplars and cherries have been overtaken by the next successional tree species in 10-15 years, the Trust should have a profound knowledge of the Surry Forest and its regeneration. When the maples mature in 50-75 years a forest management plan will long have been in place. In 100 years when the oldest white pines have reached senescence, their progeny will grow in a diverse, multi-aged forest that has been stewarded back to health, for the benefit of wildlife, the wetlands and the community.



Community

Activities for all ages and interests

Close to 1,700 people participated in the 40+ events we hosted in 2016. We were thrilled to collaborate with many of the fine area businesses and organizations on large scale community events, offer free educational programs in our local schools, and host an interesting array of outdoor walks & talks and indoor lectures.

Open Air Arts Initiative



Fourth Pond, on our Kingdom Woods property, was the subject for the Blue Hill Girl Scout Troop 251's submission to the Open-Air Arts Initiative, a collaboration between our Trust and Cynthia Winings Gallery that encourages young people to explore and connect with the conserved land on our Peninsula.

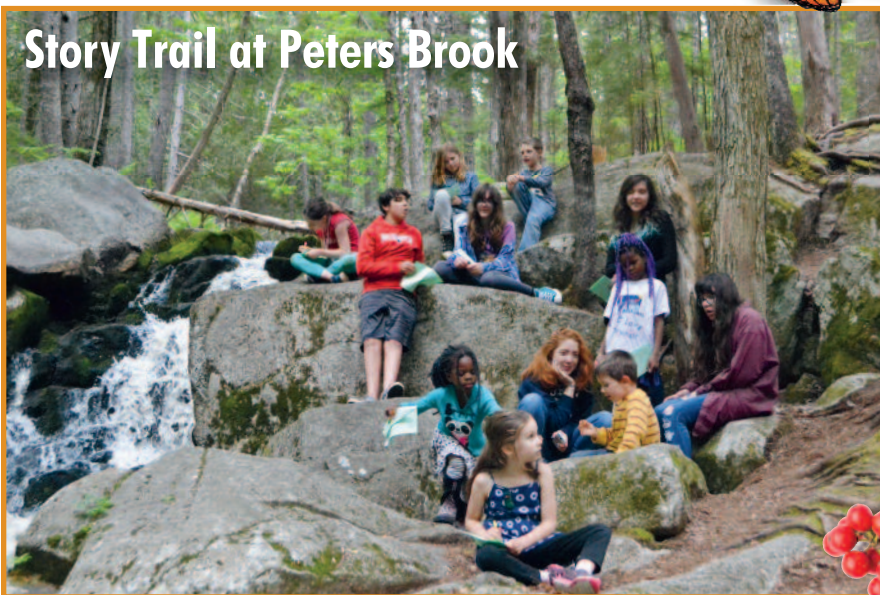


Citizen Science Field Day

Our Hundred Acre Wood property in Brooklin was the site for a citizen science field day. Volunteers from our Trust, Island Heritage Trust, Downeast Audubon, Schoodic Institute and international members of Earth-Watch gathered to collect data and learn how to use various nature apps.



Story Trail at Peters Brook



Our Peter Brook Trail inspired the creation of "Leaf, a Magical Tale" by the Blue Hill Library's 52 Weeks of Giving youth program. With our help the story was posted on story boards along the trail for all to enjoy.



Hiking with All 5 Senses

Our Patten Stream Trail hosted one of a series of children's hikes led by Trust volunteer Merrie Eley that demonstrated how to taste, see, hear, smell and touch one's way along a trail.

