“Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language.”

Aldo Leopold
As I begin my tenure at Blue Hill Heritage Trust, I am struck by the legacy of accomplishments you have all supported over the last 32 years. You have helped build a strong conservation organization, and a strong community resource, which will benefit all the towns on the peninsula for generations to come. I have to say that I am honored to be part of it all, and I am looking forward to working with you all for the future success of the Trust.

Within, you will read about the accomplishments of 2016, which are impressive and numerous, but you will also get a sense of where we are headed, in 2017 and beyond. Most excitingly, in both categories, is our recent purchase of Surry Forest, a 2100-acre woodland which will be a focus of conservation and education in the coming years.

Surry Forest will be dedicated to Pam Johnson, a long-time board member, and a passionate supporter of the Trust. Pam sadly passed away, just before the new year, but she left her estate to ensure the future of conservation on the peninsula. She was a true steward, someone who acted to create benefits for the community beyond her time. Her bequest speaks to her care for the Trust, for the natural world, and is a gift for which we can all be thankful. We will have a full remembrance of Pam in our Summer Newsletter.

As we head into the warmer weather, I’m looking forward to meeting those of you I haven’t yet, and to seeing you all out in the woods. Thank you all for your support!

2016 was a remarkable year for the Trust, building on past success, while laying a strong foundation for the future.

It was a year of transition, saying goodbye to our former Executive Director and welcoming a new one. We also made arrangements to move from Carlton House, which we had outgrown, to a new and better space in the former Knight Architectural Offices. Very sadly, we also lost Pamela Johnson, a former Trust President and a passionate advocate for wildlife conservation. Her quiet and thoughtful voice will be greatly missed.

In achievements, we sponsored the largest number of outreach events ever, and enhanced our relationships with the schools and other institutions in our communities. We added several miles of trails, including two beautiful new ones at Carter Nature Preserve and Bluff Head, on the Bagaduce. We acquired several new properties including land that will permit us to increase the parking area at our popular Snows Cove site. We also raised the public and private funds to buy 2100 acres of forestland, in Surry. Finally, of course, we continued to provide monitoring and stewardship for both the easements we hold, and the land we own in fee.

None of this would be possible without your generous financial support, as well your willingness to volunteer on our behalf. You are the piece of the puzzle that completes the picture, and we are deeply grateful.
Thanks to the Independent Study program at George Stevens Academy, I spent two weeks, in March, learning about BHHT. I chose the Trust because I was interested in trails and conservation work.

As part of my job, I was asked to review a years' worth of Trailhead sign-in data from just ten of BHHT's trails, and this is what I found:

- In one year, there were visitors from 46 states including Oregon, Arizona, Florida, Alaska, and Hawaii.
- People from 18 countries including Ghana, Belgium, South Africa, and New Zealand came to hike our trails too.

- Reading the comments left by hikers was also very interesting. Here are some of the more memorable ones: "Spectacular views we love this place!" "We hope this will be a new tradition!" "First came 11 years ago, love this place!" "I want to move here!" "Last here 19 years ago, still beautiful."

It should be noted that only about 20 percent of hikers sign in when they visit our trails. If the data is this diverse, given only a fraction of visitor totals, imagine what that missing 80 percent might look like!

2016 was the year of trail-building! With three able-bodied assistants (their combined ages less than my own) the stars aligned and we went to work, moving a ton or two of rock, wood chips, and lumber for an endless 8 weeks. Along with ever-consistent volunteer support, the team created four new trails, two of which I am most proud.

The first is the eastern leg of the Carter Nature Loop (left) which follows a 10-year renewable trail easement to our Carter Nature Preserve. Here a 26-step curved stairway navigates a once slippery slope, with a small bridge at its base.

The second took nearly two years of walking the land and debating the route, but armed with shovels, picks, sledgehammers and a trusty Grip-Hoist™ (right) the team composed a new version of classic-rock's "stairway to heaven." Our Bluff Head trail opened, in August, with great fanfare, and has been a star attraction since. The Bluff gives a sweeping 180-degree view over the Bagaduce River and is a destination for those wanting solace and inspiration, along with a gentle breeze.
Land deals do not happen overnight, and 2016 was no exception. We completed two projects last year, one begun in 2013 and the other in 2015, and two additional projects came to fruition in early 2017. All were worth the wait!

We secured a highly visible portion of Blue Hill Mountain known as Cobble Hill, or Little Blue Hill. This 60-plus acre parcel came to us in two phases, one as an 80 percent interest donation in December 2015, and the remaining 20 percent interest donation, in August 2016.

The addition provides BHHT with a contiguous set of parcels from Route 15, just north of Mountain Road to the Becton Trailhead along Turkey Farm Rd, making 380 acres in conservation on Blue Hill Mountain for all to enjoy.

We also increased our Snows Cove Preserve in Sedgwick by 7.85 acres. This addition conserves the open field adjacent to Route 15/176, which has always been a visual draw, and will allow us to expand the current parking area.

We were also given 23 acres on the Salt Pond in Sedgwick (not pictured). This lovely piece is a mix of forested wetland and open field sloping to the pond. With nearly 1200 feet of shore frontage, hand-carry access for canoeing and kayaking in the Salt Pond will be possible in the foreseeable future!

Lastly, former Executive Director, Jim Dow, spent much of 2016 securing the purchase of 2114 acres in Surry. We finalized the sale in early 2017, and the property will be named “The Surry Forest.”

This unique property first came to our attention in 2013. We were not able to act before a timber management company bought it, and had to wait three winters before preserving the largest single undeveloped parcel on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Jim’s grant writing, a bequest from Pam Johnson (a beloved trust director) and a very generous memorial gift in her honor, all made Surry Forest possible.
Thank You Volunteers!

Alan Pooley
Andrew Chung
Arn Krugman
Barbara Kouranjian
Barbara Poole
Beverly Hawkins
Blaise De Sibour
Bonnie Copper
Brooke Parish
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Jordi McEwen
Josh Adam
Joy Richardson
Judi Hilliker
Kate Morse

You are so fortunate to have this many clever and talented people in your community.

You made 2016 a record year for BHHT Outreach. Over 2000 people participated in more than 40 programs. Events stretched across the entire year, hit every town in our service area, and included something for everyone: Walks & Talks, Group Hikes, Indoor & Outdoor Workshops, Festivals, Farm Tours and Lectures. BHHT worked with many of the ten schools on the Blue Hill Peninsula. Programs ranged from one-day exploration walks, to after school clubs, to a month-long hiking series.

Thank you for supporting the enrichment of your community, enhancement of curriculum, and getting kids out in the woods!

BHHT was proud to work with the following groups in 2016: Blue Hill YMCA, DE Audubon, BH Winings Gallery, BH Coop, Great Pond Mt, Island Heritage Trust, Schoodic Institute, Wild S Wright Cancer Center, Surry Arts Barn, BH Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Maine
2017 Season of Events

May

5/13 Saturday 10AM-12PM – Group Hike with Hans Carlson, at the New Surry Forest Property.
5/21 Sunday 3PM – King Hill Farm Tour, Penobscot.

June

6/10 Saturday 11AM – Horseshoe Crab Walk & Talk. Snow Natural Area, Brookville
6/12 Monday 10AM – Ladyslipper Walk & Talk. Becton Trail, Blue Hill Mountain.
6/17 Saturday 10AM – Summer Tree ID W&T with Sarah O’Malley. Greenbie Trail, Castine.

July

7/3 Monday 3-5PM – Blue Zee Farm Tour, Blue Hill.
7/8 Saturday 10AM – Kid’s Walk: Hiking with All the Senses. Ferry Landing, Brookville.

August


Thank You Volunteers!

Ken Burgess
Kerrie Lillie
King Hill Farm
Larry Flood
Laurie White
Leslie Clapp
Lucas Allen
Lynn Flavasal
Mary Barnes
Maxine Jenerka
Merrie Eley
Mitchell Baum
Nick Sichterman
Norm Mrozicki
Norman Alt
Old Ackley Farm
Fam Aebuchon-Fields
Fam Johnson
Paul Meyewski
Paula Mrozicki
Pete Colman
Peter Clapp
Peter Neil
Phyllis Taylor
Quills End Farm
Ruth & Duane Braum
Sally Mitchell
Samantha Haskell
Sarah King
Sarah O’Malley
Seth Benz
Steve Titcomb
Susan Brookman
Susan Guilford
Susan Hand Shelterly
Terri Titcomb
Terry Moulton
Tim Laflam
Tim Poole
Tom Richardson
Tony Aman
Tricia Quirk
Tyler Fogg
Val Libby
Wing Moulton

Their donations of time and knowledge, give you a variety of Walks & Talks, Lectures and Workshops.

Your Support and Other Operating Revenue
$549,786

- Merchandise $4,629
- Leases $16,008
- Contributions for Operations and Conservation Projects $480,987
- Interest, Dividends, Other $48,162

Operating Expenses
$293,139

- Management & General Operations $46,439
- Land Protection, Stewardship, and Education $224,362
- Fundraising $22,338

Net Audited Assets – 2015

Unrestricted Net Assets
- Available for Operations and Operational Reserves $900,868
- Designated for Stewardship $211,378
- Conservation Easement Defense Reserve $58,002
- Property and Equipment $69,955
- Land Designated for Conservation $2,178,045

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets
- Special Projects $128,789
- Stewardship $268,546

Permanently Restricted Net Assets
- Conservation Land and Easements $4,327,456
- Operating Fund $25,000

Total Assets
$8,612,655

Total Acres of Land Conserved by BHHT

BHHT Property Taxes 2016
$9,842

Your Donations Doing Great Things

Become a Monthly Giver
http://bluehillheritagetrust.org/monthly-giving-donate-automatic/

Talk to us about our Planned Giving Program
$250-$500
Blue Hill Hydraulics
Flare and Hamlin, LLC
Hawkes and Quirk, LLC
Hewes & Company
Lamber Coffin, Attorneys at Law

$100-$250
Arborview Restaurant
Bagaduce Farm
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Barncastle Inn and Restaurant
Blue Hill Books
Blue Hill Co-op Community Market & Cafe
Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Blue Hill Wine Shop
Blue-Zee Farm
Bucklyn Coffee
Carl Gilley Landscape Design
Cynthia Winings Gallery
Dan’s Flower Farm
Downeast Chapter of Maine Audubon Society
Eggenooggin Textile Studio
El El Frijoles
Elliott & Elliott Architecture
Ellsworth Builders Supply, Inc.
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Old Alecly Farm
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Pyramid Studios, Inc.
Quill’s End Farm
Rooster Brother
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