COMMUNITY BASED LAND CONSERVATION SINCE 1985

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

2016 Annual Report

Serving the Seven Towns of the Blue Hill Peninsula

Surry

Surry Forest

Blue Hill

Brooklin

Sedgwick

9,060 Acres Conserved

Penobscot

"Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through succesive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language." Aldo Leopold

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Brooksville

Fee Land 5,427 acres (72 parcels) Owned by BHHT

Easements 3,633 acres (84 parcels) Private land protected by BHHT

Trails

Castine

Approximately 27.0 miles Farm Land Protected: 1,860 acres (17 parcels)

A Growing Organization

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.



Hans M. Carlson Executive Director

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

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!

can all be thankful. We will have a full remembrance of Pam in our Summer Newsletter.



President, Board of Directors

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 competes the picture, and we are deeply grateful.

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From the Trail Tyler Brenton, GSA Independent Study Intern

SIGNING IN ON OUR TRAILS IS IMPORTANT

and Helps BHHT in Many Ways. This Information:

- Helps us plan for future trail maintenance & funding needs.
- Is important when applying for grants.
- Helps keep everyone safe out on the trails.

Thank you for your Cooperation!



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!

Stewardship and Trails Report

George Fields



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 everconsistent 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-HoistTM (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.



New Trust Lands



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!



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.



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.

Public Programming

Chrissy Beardsley Allen

Thank You Volunteers!

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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, BF Winings Gallery, BH Coop, Great Pond Mtn, Island Heritage Trust, Schoodic Institute, Wild S Wright Cancer Center, Surry Arts Barn, BH Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, Main

2017 Season of Events

May

5/13 Saturday 10AM-12PM – Group Hike with Hans Carlson, at the New Surry Forest Property.

5/18 Thursday 7PM – Spring Speaker Series: Tick Talk. Blue Hill Consolidated School.

5/20 Saturday 10AM – Vernal Pool Party. Patten Stream Preserve & The Gatherings in Surry.

5/21 Sunday 3PM - King Hill Farm Tour, Penobscot.

5/24 Wednesday 6:30PM – Spring Speaker Series: Telling a Story Through a Lens. Blue Hill Library.

5/30 Tuesday 6:30PM – Spring Speaker Series: Building a Trail. Blue Hill Library.

June

6/10 Saturday 11AM – Horseshoe Crab Walk & Talk. Snow Natural Area, Brooksville

6/11 Sunday 7AM – *Members Only* Bird Walk with Leslie Clapp. Carter Nature Preserve, in Surry.

> 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.

6/21 Wednesday 7PM – Guest Speaker Tom Wessels "Co-evolution: Nature's Model for Sustainability." Emlen Hall, Bay School.

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, Brooksville.

7/17 Monday 10AM – Kid's Walk: Secrets and Surprises of the Forest. Snows Cove Preserve, Sedgwick.

7/29 Saturday 10AM – Tide Pooling. Carter Nature Preserve, Surry.

August

8/9 Wednesday 9:30AM- *Members Only* Native Plant Walk with Heather McCargo. Snows Cove Preserve, Sedgwick.

8/21 Monday 5PM – Picnic Supper, Night Hike, and Partial Solar Eclipse. John B Mtn, Brooksville.

8/23 Wednesday 5:30PM – 32nd Annual Meeting. Wooden Boat, Brooklin.

Thank You Volunteers!

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

ntainers, Town of Blue Hill, Acadia Centennial/Friends of Acadia, Surry Alewife Committee, Cynthia oject, BH Historical Society, Wilson Museum, Town of Castine, Witherle Memorial Library, Beth C. e Garden Shop, MERI, Great Maine Outdoors Weekend and Blue Hill Memorial Hospital.



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Talk to us about our Planned Giving Program

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David Ziff and Alan Bell

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George Fields, Associate Director, Hans Carlson, Executive Director, Chrissy Allen, Development and Outreach Director, Laura Blandford, Membership Coordinator. (Left to Right) Photo courtesy of Penobscot Bay Press

BLUE HILL Heritage Trust

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