

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Community-Based Land Conservation since 1985

Blue Hill Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 222
Blue Hill, ME 04614

NONPROFIT
PRESORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Farmington, ME
Permit No. 30



Merged!

Greenbie Natural Area, Castine

One Land Trust Now Serves the Entire Blue Hill Peninsula

We are one! At a special membership meeting on March 31, the members of The Conservation Trust of Brooksville, Castine and Penobscot (TCT) unanimously approved a merger agreement with Blue Hill Heritage Trust (BHHT), and the next day merger documents were filed with the Secretary of State and the Hancock County Registry of Deeds. These were the final steps in a lengthy process by which our Trust absorbed the operations and many of the conservation lands of TCT, which now no longer exists as a separate organization.

Discussions with TCT’s leadership about the possibility of merging had been

occurring for the last several years, as both organizations looked ahead to the challenges of sustaining small organizations and of keeping their promises of perpetual conservation for their lands. Our overlapping service areas in Brooksville and Penobscot, the demographics of the Blue Hill Peninsula, and our mutual desire to continue conservation work at a high standard in an age of national land trust accreditation were keys to the decision to merge. By joining forces, we will be better able to continue a legacy of effective local land conservation that provides enduring public benefits to the communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

TCT, founded in 1978 as the Castine

Conservation Trust, was one of the first local land trusts to exist in Maine and remained primarily an all-volunteer organization. Throughout its 35 year history, TCT acquired a diverse portfolio of conservation lands that included 34 separate properties totaling 983 acres. Fifteen properties came to our Trust as part of the merger; some are shown on this page. The remainder were transferred to Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), a statewide land trust which had assisted TCT with many of its land projects. MCHT also played a key role in arranging the merger.

The practical “post-merger” work of integrating TCT’s lands, membership, operations and records with BHHT’s is

ongoing and will likely take most of the year. Two of TCT’s long-time Board members have joined our Board of Directors, which will help with the transition. Meanwhile, we are delighted to welcome TCT’s former members as new BHHT members.



Weinland Nature Study Area, Penobscot



Ferry Landing, on the Bagaduce, Brooksville

Fifteen properties came to our Trust as part of the mergers; some are shown on this page.



2014 Annual Meeting Moves to Castine

We will be celebrating The Conservation Trust’s conservation achievements over the last 35 years, and honoring the people who made it happen, at our 2014 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, August 14 from 5:30 to 7 pm at the Castine Historical Society. It’s always an enjoyable event. Please plan on joining us!



Hatch Cove, Castine



Bagaduce Watershed

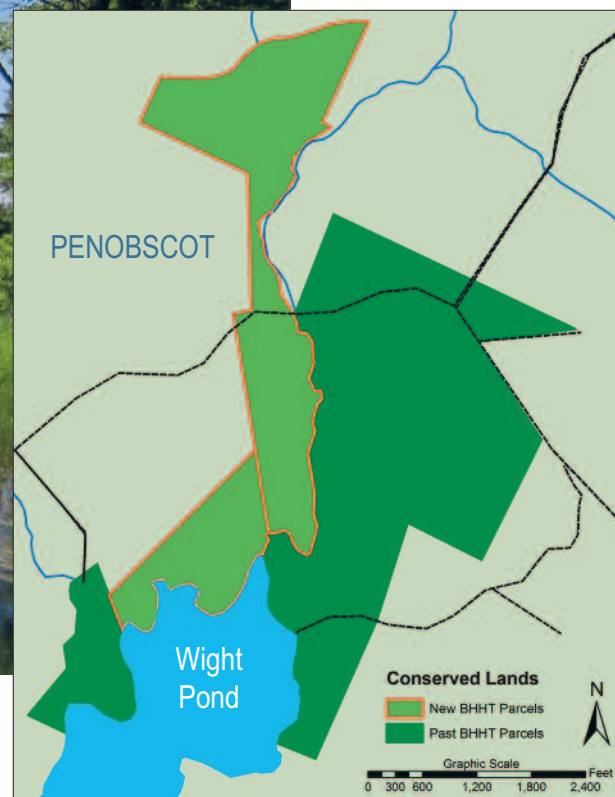
141 Acres of Protected Land in Penobscot

Another 141 acres of land at the north end of Wight Pond in Penobscot is now conservation land. This land is adjacent to and complements other conservation lands protected by our Trust over the last few years.

Wight Pond and McCaslin Stream, a large watercourse that flows into the pond at its northern end, are wildlife rich areas that are important parts of the Bagaduce watershed. The extensive wetlands associated with the new conservation land support a variety of waterfowl, as well as eagles, wading birds and many other animal and bird species. This land is also a place of quiet, natural beauty.

This acquisition was made possible by the North

American Wetlands Conservation Act grant awarded to our Bagaduce River Watershed Project partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust. It includes 35 acres along the shore of the pond that remain in private ownership but are now protected with a conservation easement held by our Trust that prevents future development. It also includes 106 acres along the western shore of McCaslin Stream that our Trust now owns. Although the primary purpose of this conservation purchase acquisition was to protect valuable wildlife habitat, the land holds the potential for an interesting walking trail, which we are planning to create to add to the collection of trails that we offer our community.



■ **OUR BAGADUCE WATERSHED PROJECT**, a partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, protected the lands shown in light green on the map above with funding from the North American Wetland Conservation Act program.

A Planned Gift from an Old Friend

We were recently honored to receive the news that one of our earliest members named us as a beneficiary in his will. **Jerry Nickerson** was a long-time summer resident of Brooksville whose first wife, Jean, was the founding President of Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Though Jean died tragically in a car accident in 1991, Jerry remained a steady supporter of our work until his death in 2011. By the terms of his will, after the death of his second wife, which recently occurred, we are to receive a percentage of his estate. This unrestricted bequest will be added to our Stewardship Fund to help support the long-term care of our conservation properties. We are very grateful for Jerry's commitment and generosity.



CONSIDER NAMING US IN YOUR WILL

If you share Jerry's deep connection to our Peninsula and his appreciation for conserving its most significant lands, please consider following his lead and naming Blue Hill Heritage Trust in your will. Contact our office for more information about bequests or other planned giving options.



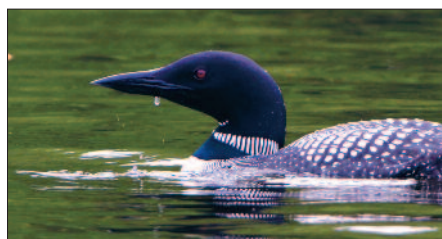
■ **COLLEGE STUDENTS PITCH IN.** This group of college students and staff from Plymouth State University recently conducted an inventory of tree species at our popular Hundred Acre Wood property as part of an educational project that we are planning for that property.

On Ash Borers, Loons and Bees

Did you know that the arrival in Maine of the invasive emerald ash borer, which decimates ash trees, is imminent? Or that we still do not understand the reason for the collapse of bee colonies that are essential to the pollination of plants? Or that common loons are excellent indicators of water quality, as they require crystal-clear water (which makes it easier for them to see prey underwater) with abundant populations of small fish?

You would have learned this and lots more, if you were one of the many people who attended our third annual Spring Conservation Lecture Series, organized in partnership with Downeast Audubon. These talks once again brought to our community expert information about some of the things happening in the natural world around us.

Many thanks to our presenters: Dr. John Daigle (University of Maine), Jennifer Neptune (Penobscot Nation), Susan Gallo (Maine Audubon), and Dr. Frank Drummond (University of Maine).



On the lookout for the emerald ash borer

Following the program on the threat to ash trees in our community posed by the invasive emerald ash borer insect, we offered to host a "trap tree" on our office property, part of an early detection effort coordinated by the Maine Forest Service (MFS). According to the MFS, the appearance of the insect in Maine is inevitable, but it is not inevitable that all ash trees will die; we can slow down the rate it spreads and, with time, biological controls may develop. (Visit our website for more information on the emerald ash borer.)



We are offering our Passport to the Trails program for children and their families again this year. Find the letterboxes on 12 of our trails, stamp your passport, and bring it in for a prize. Enjoy the outdoors together!



E-news

Receives Rave Reviews

Are you missing out on the latest exciting news of land projects, trails, and programs we offer? Stay informed by signing up for our monthly e-newsletter. Sign up on our website or send an e-mail to eileen@bluehillheritagetrust.org with your name and current e-mail address.

If you have previously signed up for BHHT’s e-news but are not finding them in your inbox, it may be because they are being filtered and placed in your spam or junk folder—or in your “Social” or “Promotions” folder in Gmail. Tip: Choose “All Mail” in Gmail to see everything that’s been sent to you.

And remember to also check out our Facebook page for current photos, news and resources of the environment we live in.

George Fields Joins Staff as Associate Director

We are pleased to welcome George Fields to our staff as our Associate Director. He has assumed primary responsibility for the management of the conservation lands that the Trust owns and the conservation easements that we hold on privately owned lands.



A professional geologist with degrees from Southern Illinois University and North Carolina State University, George brings us a variety of skills and experience in the land conservation business. He also brings knowledge of the local community and landscape, having lived and worked in the Blue Hill Peninsula area for the last decade. We had applicants from all over the country but were pleased that the best candidate was already living right here.

A professional geologist with degrees from Southern Illinois University and North Carolina State University, George brings us a variety of skills and experience in the land conservation business. He also brings knowledge of the local community and landscape, having lived and worked in the Blue Hill Peninsula area for the last decade. We had applicants from all over the country but were pleased that the best candidate was already living right here.

Executive Director’s Column – Jim Dow

What’s Next?

Thanks to you, our members, 2013 was a remarkable year for our Trust, one rich in accomplishment. It’s a hard act to follow, but we are not going to rest on our laurels.

The merger with The Conservation Trust that was legally completed in March, and is reported on elsewhere in this newsletter, will require much attention as we work to integrate TCT’s land and operations into ours. We will also be completing the final land projects that are part of the NAWCA Bagaduce Watershed Project that we undertook with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, as well as other new land projects currently in the works.

As usual there is lots of stewardship to be done, with the workload increased by the 15 properties that came to us as a part of the merger, as well as the eight new properties we protected last year. Lots of trail work, too, as we care for over twenty miles of trails and plan new trails. We are also once again offering a wide diversity of programs that highlight the wonders of our Peninsula.

Beyond “business as usual,” later this year we are going to begin some in-depth planning for the future. As our Trust approaches its 30th anniversary, we will be taking a hard look at the external environment in which we operate—community needs, demographics, philanthropic trends, climate change, to name but a few—as well as our own accomplishments, structure and capacity. This will lead to some strategic decisions about how our Trust should move forward over the next 5 to 10 years. It is timely and exciting. We will certainly be asking for our members’ perspectives. Stay tuned! Meanwhile, be sure to take time to enjoy the wonderful array of conservation lands that you have helped make possible.



Birdathon:

80 Species, 17 Hours, 17 BHHT Properties

The **Jonathan Kingfishers**, a hearty team of local birders, visited seventeen of our conservation properties and identified 80 different bird species during the annual Downeast Audubon Birdathon on May 24. Their day began at 2:30 am on Blue Hill Mountain with an oven bird and seventeen hours later, after visits to Trust properties in Sedgwick, Brooklin, Surry, Castine, Penobscot and Brooksville, ended with a winter wren on Caterpillar Hill. We are grateful for this confirmation that our lands are great places for birds (and birders!).

Thank You!

Heritage Society

Our Heritage Society is growing! Special thanks to these members whose major financial support provided core operating funds.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Norman C. and Maryann F. Alt | James and Diane Lyon |
| Kate and Gene Barnes | Macauley and Helen Dow Whiting Foundation |
| Mary Barnes and Peter Neill | John and Carol Merrifield |
| Becton Family Foundation | Henrietta N. Meyer |
| Paul G. Birdsall | Sally Mitchell and Crispin Spencer |
| Blue Hill Hydraulics | W. Tabb and Rosaline Moore |
| Leonard and Elizabeth Buck | Terry and Bebe Moulton |
| Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Carr | John H. Murphy |
| Peter and Sandy Clapp | Jim and Karen Neel |
| Clements Family Charitable Trust | Katrina R. Parson |
| Doug and Posie Cowan | Burton W. Pearl and Linda M. Elder |
| Joan and Jim Darby | Prior Family Foundation |
| Blaise deSibour and Leslie Clapp | Patricia Quirk |
| James W. Dow | Teresa Rankin |
| John F. Edwards | Susan Richardson |
| John and Janan Eppig | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Richardson |
| Laurence B. Flood and M. Tyler Knowles | Andrew Rosenthal and Shari Levine |
| Francis and Louise Nichols Foundation | Mary Allison Rylands |
| John and Janet Fuller | Sasco Foundation |
| Mrs. Eugene Furth | Susan D. Shaw and Cynthia Stroud |
| Terry and Sally Gray | Thurmond Smithgall |
| Philip Gwynn and Sarah Patten | Richard R. Storck and Aletha Langham |
| Hartfield Foundation | Edward Swain, III |
| Mrs. Francis W. Hatch | William and Phyllis Taylor |
| Peggy and Jon Hopkins | Patrick and Laurie Wardell |
| Nancy and Chalie Hoppin | Anonymous (2) |
| Hans A. Huber | |
| Edward L. and Anne Johnson | |
| Eric and Carol Judson | |
| Jim and Marsha Kannry | |
| Jeff and Kathy Kloffft | |
| Nicole Lawton | |
| Sarah Lupfer | |

Business Members

Please consider supporting these businesses who generously support our work.

- American Sun Electric/Wessel Electric
Arbervine/Deep Water Brewery
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
Barncastle Inn and Restaurant
Blue Hill Books
Blue Hill Co-op Community Market & Cafe
Blue Hill Hydraulics, Inc.
Blue Hill Inn
Blue Hill Wine Shop
Blue-Zee Farm
Cadillac Mountain Sports
Carl Gilley Landscape Design
Downeast Chapter of Maine Audubon Society
Ellen S. Best, Attorney at Law
Elliott & Elliott Architecture
EBS/Ellsworth Builders Supply, Inc.
Hawkes & Quirk
Healing and Expressive Arts Retreats of Maine
Horsepower Farm
House and Sun, Inc.
Hydro-Photon/SteriPEN
King Hill Farm
Knight Associates, Architects
Maiden Enterprises
Mainescape Garden Shop
Mendlowitz Photography
Panache Interior Design
Pyramid Studios
Rooster Brother
Seal Cove Boat Yard, Inc.
The Borealis Press, Inc.
The First TradeWinds
Wanamaker/Raphael Architecture

New Members

Thank you to the following new members for making gifts to our Trust in 2013/2014.

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| David and Elise Adams | Kendall Lutkins |
| Anthony Aman and Catherine Morse | Margie Lutz |
| John E. and Lynn S. Baker | Meg and Miles Maiden |
| Si and Lila Balch | Phillip and Sherry Manion |
| Rainette Bannon | Joan and David Maxwell |
| Phoebe Barnes | William McCollum |
| Diane Bartholomew and James Dougherty | Marcia McKeague and Chris Austin |
| Kristina Beal | Lindsay and Stuart McLean |
| Fred and Linda Beck | Mr. and Mrs. Kimball McMullin |
| Alan and Jane Birk | Jane McNichol and James Conboy |
| Dorothea Black | Andrew Miller and Kathryn Lord |
| Christienne Boisvert | Sally Mitchell and Crispin Spencer |
| Tom Bolmer and Ellyn Montgomery | Burr and Robin O'Connor |
| Rich and Cheryl Boulet | Sarah O'Malley |
| Lindsey and Teo Canino | Kate O'Rourke |
| Joan Carey and Andrew J. Baron | Dick Osgood |
| Pier Carros | Diana Page and Oscar Ruiz |
| Ta-Pei and Leslie Cheng | Parker-Holtz Family |
| Gertrude and Homer Chisholm | Michael Percy and Susan Snider |
| Julia Cluett and Bob Shepley | McKim C. and Linda Peterson |
| Eben and Tara Colby | Ben Pfohl |
| Kathy Crawford and Gene Spinazola | Donald and Janet Pierce |
| Chris Crowley and Hilary Cooper | Timothy and Barbara Poole |
| John D. Curtin, Jr. | Neal and Jane Rechtman |
| Estelina Dallett and Alan Cohen | Flo Reed |
| Rick Decker | Jean Sandecki |
| Vicki Dietz | Martin Savalchak |
| Castine Dow | David Sedgwick |
| Doug Drown | Wendy Sherman |
| Michael and Gerda Duffy | Donald and Shelley Small |
| Edward Dufresne and Elizabeth Lastaiti | Amanda and Bill Stanton |
| Wade and Virginia Duym | Amy Steffen and Linda Stern |
| Queene Hooper Foster | Candace and Richard Stern |
| Ginny Gersch | Tim and Bev Stone |
| Benjamin Gifford | Robert and Emily Blair Stribling |
| Richard Goldsby and Barbara Osborne | Karen Swann and Sandy Bush |
| Carol Gregor | Paul Swanson |
| David Guarente | Marie Taylor and Dick Teneyck |
| Dan and Phyllis Guerette | Mr. and Mrs. Lowell S. Thomas, Jr. |
| Tania Hannon | Trudi Thomas |
| Bente Hartmann | Kirk Trabant |
| Jonathan Harvell | Tim and Gita Trelease |
| David and Susan Hatch | Elizabeth and Mikayla True |
| Hewitt and Laura Heiserman | Courtney and Greg Weaver |
| Ellen Lehto | Williams Family Foundation |
| Dana and Gigi Leonard | Gail Winkler and Roger Moss |
| Linda Loretto and Larry Schwenk | Arlene Witham |
| | David and Rosemary Wyman |

Stewardship



Huckleberry Island

■ **DOUBLE PROTECTION.** In May we conducted our annual monitoring flight to view our conservations lands, including Huckleberry Island (shown above) in the Bagaduce River. We recently accepted a conservation easement on this nine-acre island from Maine Coast Heritage Trust as a second layer of protection, an increasingly common arrangement in the land conservation business.



Events

For details, visit our website or call us. Most events are free and open to everyone. Please contact us to pre-register.

July 7 ■ *Children's program*
Guided Walk with Charlotte Clews, Weinland Nature Area, Penobscot

July 12
Full Moon Hike on Blue Hill Mountain

July 18
Quill's End Farm Tour, Penobscot

July 19 ■ *Children's program*
Tide Pool Walk with Paula Mrozicki, Carter Nature Preserve, Surry

August 2 ■ *Children's program*
Exploring Bugs with Lynn Havsall, Blue Hill Mountain

August 6 ■ *Children's program*
Story Walk with Quatie Bryan Kingdom Woods, Blue Hill

August 9
Natural Resources Walk & Talk with Cathy Rees, Hundred Acre Wood, Brooklin

August 12 ■ *Children's program*
Earth Science/Nature Walk with Sarah O'Malley, Snow Natural Area, Brooksville

August 18 ■ *Children's program*
Using All 5 Senses Walk with Amy Bebell, Snow's Cove, Sedgwick

August 23
Horsepower Farm Tour, Penobscot

August 25
Stargazing with Charlotte Clews, Caterpillar Hill, Sedgwick

September 27 ■ *Members only!*
Mushroom ID Workshop with David Porter, Blue Hill

September 28
Mushroom Walk & Talk with David Porter, Greenbie Natural Area, Castine

New Conserved Land on Northern Bay

Deep affection for a parcel of land often leads a landowner to its permanent protection. That was certainly true for Carroll Connard, who recently donated a conservation easement to our Trust on his twenty-five acre shorefront property on Northern Bay in Penobscot. The property, where Carroll lives and on which he raises sheep, includes extensive intertidal wetlands. This section of the Bagaduce River is noteworthy for its importance to wildlife. Waterfowl, shorebirds, shellfish, seals, osprey, eagles all abound there, as do a variety of other creatures along its upland edges. The property also is remarkably scenic, with fields running from the public road to a border of large oak and aspen trees along the shorefront.

Placing a conservation easement on the land was something that Carroll had been planning to do for a long time. He had witnessed how ownership changes of other nearby land had led to residential subdivisions and knew that he did not want that to be the fate of his property. The conservation easement that he granted prevents future development yet allows farm-related uses to continue. From our perspective, Carroll's timing could not have been better. His gift fit in nicely with our Bagaduce Watershed Project partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, providing important matching value for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant funds that has allowed us to conserve other properties in the watershed.



■ **GSA STUDENTS HELP.** George Fields (above) and Membership Coordinator Eileen Mielenhausen met with GSA students to sign up volunteers for our Trust at the school's second annual community service fair.



If you haven't picked up one of our new Trail Guides, please do. A wonderful collection of 27 places to explore.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

We are pleased to report that 100% of our current Board of Directors support our work with their financial donations, along with contributing many hours of time on our volunteer board and committees.

Board of Directors

Mary Barnes, *President*
Norman Alt, *Vice-President*
Pamela Johnson, *Vice-President*
Terry Moulton, *Treasurer*
Phyllis Taylor, *Secretary*
Mitchell Baum, Peter Clapp, Bonnie Copper, Maynard Forbes, Jon Hopkins, Jim Kannry, John Merrifield, Tricia Quirk, Marjory Read, Joy Richardson

Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
George Fields, *Associate Director*
Eileen Mielenhausen, *Membership Coordinator*

Mission Statement

The mission of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust is to conserve land and water of special ecological, natural, agricultural, scenic, cultural and recreational significance in Blue Hill, Brooklin, Brooksville, Penobscot, Sedgwick and Surry, and to increase public understanding of the importance of land and water conservation.



Your contributions make our work possible.

Heritage Society\$1,000 and up
Benefactor\$500 – \$999
Conservator\$250 – \$499
Sustainer\$100 – \$249
Supporter\$50 – \$99
Contributor\$35 – \$49

Please make your check payable to:
BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST
P. O. Box 222
Blue Hill, ME 04614

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____



BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST • 207-374-5118 • P.O. BOX 222, 258 Mountain Road, Blue Hill, ME 04614