

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

BLUE HILL / BROOKLIN / BROOKSVILLE / PENOBSCOT / SEDGWICK / SURRY

Fall/Winter 2011

Conservation work continues at Wight Pond

Aerial of a newly protected property (center, left) at the north end of Wight Pond near the mouth of McCaslin Stream.

A second shorefront parcel on Wight Pond in Penobscot has been added to our portfolio of conservation lands. Abutting a property protected with a conservation easement in 2010, the new property includes approximately 18 wooded acres and over 1,100 feet of shore frontage. This frontage includes a freshwater meadow that is productive habitat for various bird, mammal, and fish species, including dozens of waterfowl and wading bird species.

The land was purchased from a local family who had owned the property for decades but who needed to sell the land to meet other family needs. Thanks to their cooperation, we were able to arrange a transaction that worked for them as well as our Trust.

Long and narrow, Wight Pond has a shoreline that is almost completely undeveloped and has the feel of a remote pond. It has high wildlife value due to the diversity of wetland types present in the area, the intact riparian habitat and its location within a large unfragmented



Members of our Board of Directors paddled to our new conservation land for a visit prior to its purchase.

habitat block. At the north end of the Pond, where our new property is located, an expansive marsh grades into a forested floodplain along McCaslin Stream, one of the Pond's major freshwater sources. The Pond, in turn, is a major freshwater source for the Bagaduce River.

Wight Pond was identified as a potential "conservation focus area" in a 2009 conservation planning report commissioned by our Trust. The pond and the surrounding landscape include a

relatively intact landscape and host multiple conservation values. This property and the 178-acre abutting conserved land provide a "conservation anchor" for future conservation work in this focus area.

Over time we plan to create walking trails on these conservation properties that will highlight their natural values. For the time being, a paddle up Wight Pond from the small access point at the Pond's southern end is the best way to experience this remarkable place.

Wallamatogus: *An opportunity for more conservation*

Wallamatogus Mountain in Penobscot is the second-tallest ridge top on the Blue Hill Peninsula and is located at the core of a 11,000 acre unfragmented natural area. In 2010, we completed the acquisition of a large parcel of land that includes the northern and eastern slopes of Wallamatogus. Now we have the chance to protect an adjacent 273 acres that includes most of the Great Heath, the largest and most remote peatland on our Peninsula.

Thanks to a cooperative landowner and a generous donor, this summer we were able to secure a one-year option to purchase this land at its appraised value. We have until June 30, 2012 to raise the additional \$177,000 necessary to complete the purchase and cover other associated project costs.



The wetland values on this property are outstanding. The Great Heath is a large, intact peatland ecosystem comprised of a mosaic of wetland communities that host a variety of plant and animal species. It is a significant natural feature and freshwater source in the Bagaduce River watershed, an estuarine system of statewide significance.

This property includes habitat for inland wading birds and waterfowl designated as “high-value wildlife habitat” by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Many of the wetland types have been identified as decreasing and of high priority for protection by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Maine Natural Areas Program has also identified the Great Heath as worthy of conservation protection.

In addition to its wetland values, this parcel also includes a large area of upland forest on its eastern side that provides a buffer for the wetland as well as additional wildlife habitat. This complements the upland buffer provided by the previously protected property on the western side of the Heath. These areas could provide opportunities for low-impact recreation.

Our efforts to protect Wallamatogus flow from a conservation planning report prepared for us by a prominent independent conservation planner in 2009. This report identified a series of “conservation focus areas” on the Blue Hill Peninsula

We have an option to purchase a 273-acre parcel that contains much of the Great Heath and is adjacent to our existing Wallamatogus conservation land.

that are worthy of conservation because they encompass one or more intact landscapes and include a concentration of important conservation values. We are using the report to help guide our new land project work. The Wallamatogus area is one of these conservation focus areas.

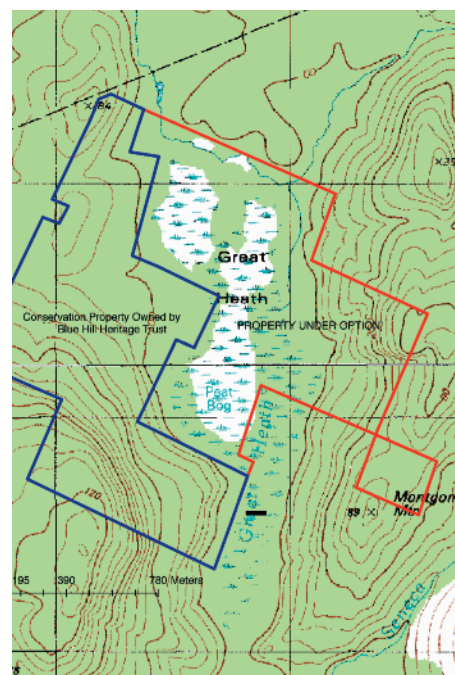
If you would like to help us take advantage of this opportunity by making a financial contribution to this project, please let us know.



Ecologists from the Maine Natural Areas Program helped us investigate the plant diversity of the Great Heath.



Left, a nearby disturbed peatland high-lands a potential threat to a natural area like the Great Heath.



Hiked Blue Hill lately?

Bequests made your hike possible

Whether they know it or not, the thousands of people who hike Blue Hill Mountain each year are the beneficiaries of two bequests. The opportunity to enjoy this landmark property was made possible through the wills of Louise Frederick and Ruth Hayes, who left their land to Blue Hill Heritage Trust and the Town of Blue Hill for conservation purposes. These bequests are enduring legacies.

Please consider leaving a legacy of your own by naming the Blue Hill Heritage Trust in your will.



Mountain Day 2011: Fun in the rain

Yoga on the summit, a foot race, food, music, a magnificent landscape, people young and old. Only the sun was missing from our second annual Mountain Day celebration. Though heavy rains shortened this year's event, we were happy to see so many people join us for another outdoor community celebration of the conservation lands on Blue Hill Mountain and throughout the Peninsula.

A special thanks to Jerome Lawther for chairing this year's event, to the members of our Community Outreach Committee for countless hours attending to all the details, to Camden National Bank, The First, and Cadillac Mountain Sports for their financial sponsorship, to the food vendors Barncastle, Blue Hill Co-op Café, El El Frijoles, The Cakery, and The Cave, and to all the volunteers who made it work.

In the spirit of the holiday season, consider a GIFT MEMBERSHIP for your family and friends.

Wednesday Walks got lots of kids outside

Blue Hill Heritage Trust hosted ten Wednesday Walks for children in the Blue Hill Peninsula this summer. These events, led by naturalist Charlotte Clews Lawther, invited children to learn about nature while spending time outdoors on several of the Trusts

beautiful trails. Over 140 participants joined Charlotte for these mid-week adventures. Below, children explore nature's surprises during a Wednesday Walk on the trails at our Patten Stream Preserve in Surry.



PHOTO BY C.C. LAWTHER

Walks and Talks: A success, thanks to wonderful volunteers!



David Porter, a Board member and one of our many Walk & Talk Leaders, provided a wonderful opportunity for people to learn about mushrooms this fall.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust has been fortunate to have the support of many volunteers over the years. We'd like to thank the following volunteers for sharing their knowledge as program leaders during our 2011 Walk & Talk Series:

Fred Beck, Alison Dibble, Bonnie Copper, Nate Grey, Lynn Havsall, Gary Harmatz, Pam Johnson, Mike Little, Heather McCargo, David Porter, Susan Shetterly, and Mia Strong.



PHOTO © GARY HARTZ

3-D Fun!

This year's annual meeting featured a striking a 3-D photo presentation by Roger Raymond entitled "A New Look at the Natural World through 3-D Photography" that required the audience to don special glasses.

Sharing details of a busy, successful year

Our 2011 Membership Meeting, held September 7th at Kneisel Hall in Blue Hill, brought together 100 members and friends for an enjoyable evening that included socializing, some business and an entertaining program.



Jim Dow, BHHT's Executive Director, reported on recent new conservation land projects.

As always our Board of Directors and staff appreciated the chance to greet both long-time and new members.

Following the welcoming reception, Board President Mary Barnes, opened the business meeting by introducing the Board members and staff and expressing the importance of member support. She also reported on various activities of the Trust over the last year.

Treasurer John Murphy reported that the Trust "remains in sound financial condition," noting that the Trust met its 2010 fiscal year operating budget with new revenue, that its quasi-endowment investment account had increased to \$887,658 as of 12-31-10 and that the Trust's 2010 financial statements were favorably audited by an outside accounting firm.

A special "Volunteer Recognition Award" was given to the following members of our Community Outreach

Committee for their contributions in organizing a series of activities to engage the broader community in the Trust's work: Kim Ridley, Bonnie Copper, Heather Albert-Knopp, Kathryn Dillon, Judi Hilliker, John Richardson, Jen Traub, Courtney Weaver, Paula Mrozicki, Jerome Lawther, and Mia Strong.

The business meeting concluded with a report by Executive Director Jim Dow on recent land projects and how a series of identified "conservation focus areas" are helping to guide new land work.

A highlight of the evening was a presentation by photographer Roger Raymond entitled "A New Look at the Natural World through 3-D Photography." Roger's photographs (and special 3-D glasses) revealed the startling beauty of ordinary elements in our landscape. It was a delightful end to a wonderful gathering. Please join us next year!

President's Column

The Common Ground We Share

As the final leaves fall off the trees, take a moment to reflect about the land on which you stand, the views that inspire you, and the natural elements of this common ground we share. This landscape is what binds us together, is our common language, and why each of us chooses to live here.

Now think ahead fifty years and imagine this same common ground. Is it the same? Can it be the same? Will it be the same? How can we preserve what really matters to us now for fifty years to come? Don't we want to maintain — and increase — this open space, to be able to hunt, to experience the wildlife,

and to take our children to the top of a beautiful mountain?

Now is the time to conserve our common ground, to make the effort to build a landscape of mixed use where we all can thrive — now and for the future. At the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, we are committed to doing just this for everyone. The challenge is enormous. Please join our effort to protect and conserve "the common ground we share." Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Mary Barnes,
President



Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2010, (audited by Loiselle, Goodwin & Hinds, CPAs)

Assets

Cash and Cash Equivalents ..	\$385,144
Certificates of Deposit	\$49,654
Long-term Investments	\$887,658
Pledges Receivable	\$65,471
Office Building.....	\$146,274
Other	\$4,013
Conservation Land	\$3,569,787
Total Assets	\$5,108,001

Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	\$7,854
Mortgage: Office Building	\$75,285
Total Liabilities	\$83,139

Net Assets

Permanently Restricted	\$1,723,521
(Includes Value of Conservation Land)	
Temporarily Restricted.....	\$184,426
Unrestricted, Designated	\$2,910,919
Unrestricted	\$205,996
Total Net Assets	\$4,840,956
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$5,024,862

Memorial Gifts

In memory of Tony Butler

Peter and Sandy Clapp

Jim Dow

Thomas and Mary Ann Perkins

In memory of

Rudolph Henry Deetjen Jr.

Fannie Allen and George Cogan

Harry and Marie Bissell

Peter and Sandy Clapp

Ken and Marnie Crowell

Charles and Beverly Cunningham

William and Linda Deetjen

Ricardo and Carol DeMarco

Ron de Paolo

Charles and Mary Dethier

Trina Dykstra and Tom Stewart

Sarah L. Flaherty

Brent and Anne Follweiler

Arthur W. Gregg

Hanley Law Office

Jane S. Holman

Richard J. Hunneman

Jacqui Kaufman

Robert C. and Jan Marville

John and Carol Merrifield

A. Leonard Parrott

Katrina Parson

Janet and John Paul

Thomas and Mary Ann Perkins

E. Burke Ross, Jr.

William and Katherine Rowe

Harriot M. Spaven

Marilyn M. Stewart

Charles and Gundren Tarr

Robert and Barbara Woodhouse

Dean and Jean Young



Local Farms, Local Food:

BHHT hosts public discussion to open annual food festival

In October a community conversation about local farms and local food that began a year ago resumed at an event organized by the volunteers who serve on our Community Outreach Committee. Co-sponsored by the Halcyon Grange and the Blue Hill Historical Society, this event opened the Blue Hill Chamber of Commerce's sixth Annual Foliage, Food & Wine Festival and attracted a full house of participants to the Grange's building in North Blue Hill.

While last year's event focused on the future of farming on our Peninsula, this year's discussion focused on issues associated with our community's access to locally produced food. Moderated by the Trust's Executive Director Jim Dow, the discussion was led by a group of panelists representing various methods of local food distribution, ranging from direct farm sales to web-based buying. The active participation of the audience, which included local farmers, restaurant owners and local consumers, made for a lively and rich discussion of a range of issues associated with the capacity of

Jo Barrett of King Hill Farm suggested the importance of consumers aligning their food consumption preferences with the seasonal availability of local food.

the Peninsula's growing farm community to provide food for residents and restaurants, all as part of development of a local food system.

Our Trust has been directly involved in the development of that system at "the ground level" – by working with land owners to preserve the agricultural potential of over 2,000 acres of local farmland. We are delighted to see the steady growth in the number of local farms and the development of the infrastructure necessary for the production and distribution of local foods. Conversations like this one help. If you missed this event, please join us next year.



Panel members included representatives from (left to right) King Hill Farm, Local Stock Buying Club, Tradewinds, Farm Drop, and Homewood Farm.

New town road on Caterpillar Hill



An aerial view of the recently completed public access site and road on Walker Pond developed by the Town of Sedgwick. The access road crosses our Cooper Farm property on Caterpillar Hill and provides a recreational opportunity that complements those that we provide on our land.

Can you identify the conservation lands shown in this photo?

The pictures include our conservation lands. The answer is below, upside-down.



Join us for our annual Holiday Wreath Party

December 11th from 1-4 p.m.

Everyone is invited to make wreaths.
Cookies, cider, music.

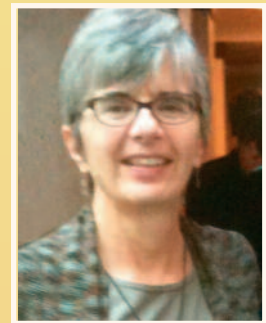
At the Carlton House
For more info call 374-5118.



Can you identify this land?
Brooksville. Middle ground, left: John B. Mountain. Foreground, left: Bell's Point along the shore of Horseshoe Cove

Monthly Giving makes a difference!

Simplify your life and support
our land conservation efforts.



Teresa Rankin is one of our long-time monthly contributors. She says "monthly contributions are a win-win — it's easier for my budget and it adds up for BHHT. I think a non-profit can better plan and support their mission if they know that we have made a commitment to them." Contact Jen at 374-5118 to make arrangements for monthly gifts.



We want to express our gratitude to **Charlotte Clews Lawther** for her contributions to our work over the last two and a half years as our part-time Director of Stewardship. Charlotte brought great energy and a wealth of natural history knowledge to our work. Although she has left our staff to devote her time to other endeavors (including her yoga business and her family), we look forward to her continuing contributions as a member of our community.

We also want to thank **Sheila Corbett**, who ended her service as our part-time Membership Coordinator earlier this year, and to **Samantha Haskell** and **Grace Bell**, who provided able assistance in the interim.

Executive Director's Column

Land, People and Accreditation

As I often say, although the mission of our land trust is centered on conserving land, our business is really about people. We are an organization of people – members, staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, landowners – providing a benefit for people that will endure over time. That is why it is so enjoyable to share our successes with the many people who join us at our annual membership meeting. That is why it is so important to be able to add two young, smart and enthusiastic people to our full-time staff. That is why it is wise for us to go through an accreditation process at this point in our history.

Taking stock of what we do

After months of preparation, in January we will enter an accreditation process by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent body created by the national Land Trust Alliance. The preparation has been hard and often tedious work – reviewing policies,

documenting procedures, organizing and copying files – with none of the thrill of protecting a parcel of land or building a new trail. Yet this preparation has forced us to take stock of all that we have done over the last 26 years and to take actions that will ensure that the organization is able to meet the perpetual obligations that we have undertaken with each parcel of land that we have protected. This process has helped us build an organization that will not only endure, but continue to thrive.

Thanks in large measure to **Jen Traub**, who has guided this accreditation preparation process (and held our feet to the fire), and to a grant from the Maine Excellence Program which has funded her work, we are an organization well poised for the future.

– Jim Dow, Executive Director



Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Our Mission

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 work to increase public understanding of the importance of land and water conservation.

Board of Directors

Mary Barnes, Sedgwick, *President*
 Pamela Johnson, Sedgwick, *Co-Vice-President*
 Norman Alt, Brooksville, *Co-Vice-President*
 John Murphy, Sedgwick, *Treasurer*
 David Porter, Brooklin, *Secretary*
 Mitchell Baum, Brooklin
 Peter Clapp, Blue Hill
 Bonnie Copper, Penobscot
 Jim Kannry, Blue Hill
 John Merrifield, Blue Hill
 Norman Mrozicki, Surry
 Terry Moulton, Blue Hill

Staff

James W. Dow,
Executive Director
 Jennifer Plowden, *Membership Coordinator*
 Adam Bishop, *Conservation Lands Manager*

New staff offer enthusiasm and experience

We are pleased to welcome Jen Plowden and Adam Bishop, who join Executive Director Jim Dow as full-time staff members.

Jen is our new Membership Coordinator, attending to our communications with members and the public, managing our outreach programs and assisting with various tasks essential to the functioning of our organization. During her Graduate Program at the University of Maine, she studied the land-use change brought about by residential development and the role land trusts play in the protection of special places for future generations. She serves on the Board of Directors and Outreach Committee for the Orono Land Trust. She and her husband James have relocated to Blue Hill and are excited to be a part of our community.

Adam is our new Conservation Lands Manager, leading our stewardship pro-

gram for the lands we own and the conservation easements that we hold. He will assume the responsibilities previously performed by Charlotte Clews Lawther. Adam attended Wesleyan University and the College of the Atlantic and comes to us with a variety of skills and experience, including land trust experience through service on the Board of Directors of the Frenchman Bay Conservancy and work with the stewardship staff of the Coastal Mountains Land Trust. Adam, his wife Deidre and two children will join our Blue Hill Peninsula community.



Jennifer Plowden, new Membership Coordinator (above), and **Adam Bishop**, new Conservation Lands Manager (right).





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

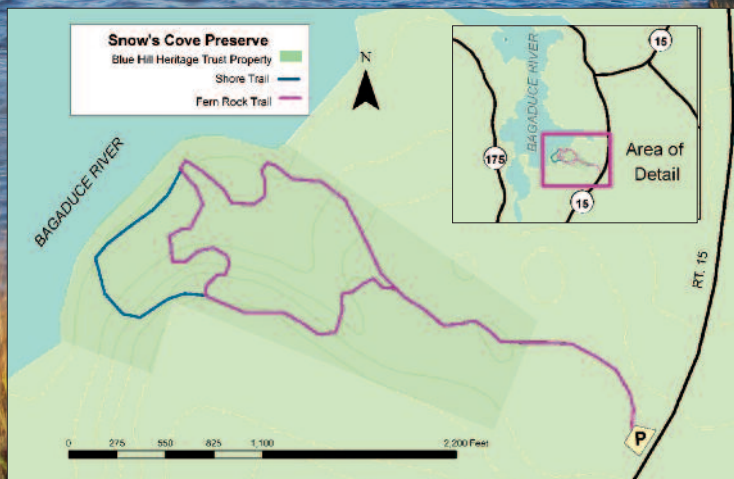
PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARMINGTON, ME
PERMIT NO. 30



Land Report *As of November 1, 2011*

Conservation Easements (55).....	3645 acres
Conservation Lands owned (42).....	2162 acres
Total Protected Land since 1985	5817 acres
Trails	approx. 14 miles

Trail work completed on Snow's Cove Preserve



We hope you will explore our newly finished Snow's Cove Trail in Sedgwick. This preserve hosts a variety of interesting geological features and a diverse array of vegetation. The 2-mile trail has extensive views of the Bagaduce River. If you see any interesting flora or fauna, please let us know!