

BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

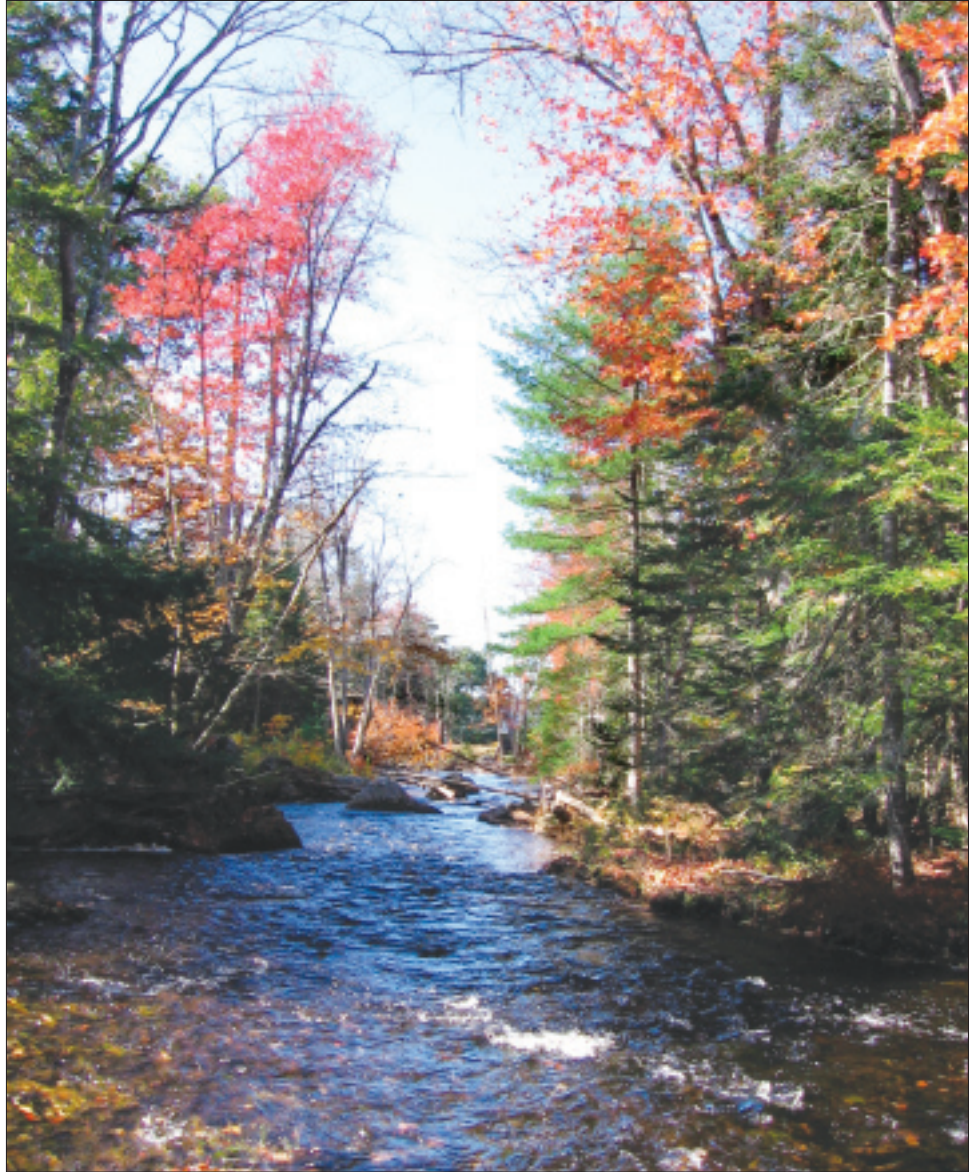
Fall/Winter 2008

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

A Stream of Life: *New Conservation Land on Patten Stream in Surry*



PHOTOS BY PETER JENKINS



Water, wildlife, beauty.

A new 40 acre addition to the Trust's portfolio of local conservation lands has all three, and more. Easily accessible and well-suited for a lengthy and interesting trail, this parcel will allow us to offer our community another outdoor walking opportunity, adding to the more than 13 miles of public walking trails that we currently manage throughout the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Located in Surry, near the village and elementary school, this land has nearly a mile of frontage along Patten Stream, a remarkable element in our landscape that has an interesting history of human use but is not well-known to most residents today. With its headwaters near Route 1 and part of the system that includes Upper and Lower Patten Ponds as well as a major wetland complex, Patten Stream drains

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“...the interior
[of the Blue Hill
Peninsula] is
remarkably
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with many remote
and surprisingly
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—Janet McMahon

An aerial view
of Wight Pond
in Penobscot



Looking Ahead, Looking Around

Planning is something that many of us find hard. We would rather just “do”. So it is with organizations, especially small ones with limited capacity. Yet a plan for how best to move forward is invaluable, especially when resources are scarce. That is what we are working on. For our land trust that means identifying the land resources in our service area that are most important to conserve, “the best of what’s left”.



We recently hired Janet McMahon, one of Maine’s most respected and experienced ecologists and conservation planners, to take an objective look at our landscape. Using a variety of analytic tools, including aerials flights, GIS databases, satellite images, historical records and good old-fashioned on the ground visits, Janet is gathering the information that will be the basis for our future conservation work.”

Here are some of Janet’s own words about this project.

“I have been looking for areas with a combination of values, starting with the ecological foundation – intact wetlands and pond watersheds, unbroken tracts of forests, biological diversity – and overlaying scenery and traditional uses, as well as productive agricultural and forest lands that help support a local natural resource based economy.

“What I have found in looking at this 142,000 acre peninsula is that much of the deep saltwater frontage is developed with year round and seasonal homes. However, the interior is remarkably undeveloped with many remote and surprisingly pristine ponds, complex wetland ecosystems that include bogs, sedge meadows, and beaver flowages, and significant areas of land that are used for or have potential for agriculture. I am struck that the ponds receive surprisingly little use and many have no public access.

“Change is happening though. As in other places where much of the immediate coast is built out, development is moving inland.

“Right now there is incredible potential to connect many of the places that make the Blue Hill Peninsula such a wonderful place – opportunities for trails from Blue Hill Mountain to the sea and to ponds, from Wight Pond Heath to the Kingdom Woods, and so on.

“I had no idea that all this was here when I lived in Sedgwick many years ago.”

Janet McMahon, an ecologist whom the Trust has hired to identify “the best of what’s left” in our landscape, with pilot Steve Williams, who flew Janet on an aerial survey as a volunteer through LightHawk, a non-profit organization that arranges aerial flights for conservation organizations.

Patten Stream: Water, wildlife, beauty

Continued from page 1

into Patten Bay in the center of Surry Village, largely unnoticed by all those who pass over it as they travel the Ellsworth Road. Yet the stream is in many places more like a small river than a stream, and the diverse stream bed conditions make the riparian vegetation uncommonly rich.

"This land and stream feature a visual treat at any time of year because of the variety of habitats in such close proximity, all tumbled together," remarks Trust Board member Pam Johnson, adding, "And the auditory experience is striking – stream gurgling, birds singing, vegetation moving in the breeze – symphonic!"

The former landowners, Surry residents Dave and Alice Warren, were well aware of this place's special qualities and thought protecting it was the right thing to do. They were willing to work with us to arrange a transaction that made it possible for us to purchase the land. We were grateful to have the opportunity to do so. With initial funding assistance from various private donors, the Davis Conservation Trust, and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Revolving Loan Fund, this project is being funded

through our "Uncommon Places, Shared Spaces" capital campaign.

Peter Jenkins, a College of the Atlantic student with great naturalist skills, is completing a natural resource inventory of the property for us. "Getting to know Patten Stream is like a love that develops slowly," Peter reports. "Each visit brings new surprises and enjoyment. Each stretch of brook, each day and hour brings a new mood to the viewer. I have been awed by the rushing water after a rainstorm and watching the mist settle over the beaver meadows at dusk."

Meanwhile, Pete Colman, a local trail expert, has done a preliminary trail design that shows off the beauty of the property without impacting sensitive plant or animal habitat. We look forward to welcoming residents and visitors to this "uncommon place."

The Wildflowers of Patten Stream

A diverse and striking assemblage of wildflowers can be found along our new property, including those shown on page 1 and here:

1. **button bush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
2. **purple fringed orchid** (*Platanthera species*)
3. **common arrowhead** (*Sagittaria latifolia*)
4. **white turtlehead** (*Chelone glabra*)
5. **steeplesbush** (*Spirea tomentosa*)
6. **cardinal flower** (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
7. **pickerel weed** (*Pontederia cordata*)



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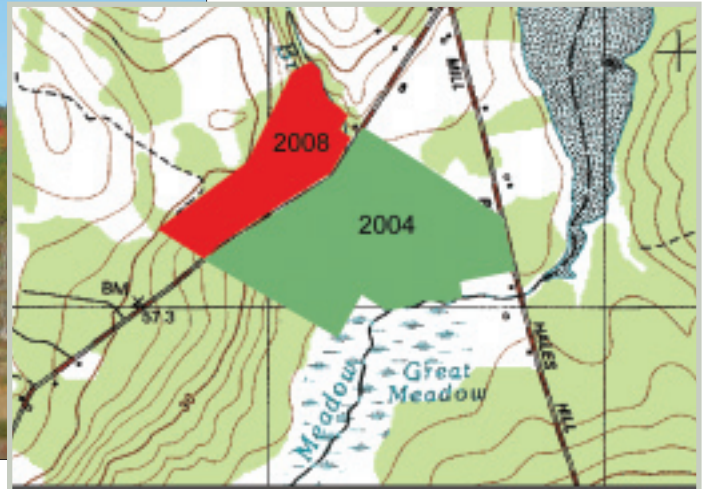
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PHOTOS BY PETER JENKINS

More of a Good Thing in Sedgwick



An additional 27.5 acres have been protected with the gift of a second conservation easement on Meadow Brook Farm in Sedgwick.



Meadow Brook Conservation Easements

“We are thrilled to complete the conservation easement protection of Meadow Brook Farm.” —BEN EMORY

Meadow Brook Farm, also known over the years as Punchbowl Farm and the Campbell Farm, is a well-known landmark for all who travel along Route 172 in Sedgwick. Ben and Dianna Emory, the owners of the property, placed a conservation easement on 68 acres of fields and meadows on the southerly side of the public road in 2004. Now they have donated a second conservation easement to the Trust that protects the remaining 27.5 acres of the property on the northerly side of the road.

When the original conservation was granted, the scenic value of the property was clear, while the wildlife values associated with the fields, wetlands and streams on the property were apparent, if not well documented. Since then the value of the land for wildlife has been reinforced by the steady reports we receive of sightings of both common and uncommon species of birds and mammals. It is one of those special places in our midst.

The new easement will complement the original easement, extending the conservation of the scenic and open space values to the upland portions of the property while allowing limited residential and agricultural uses. It will also extend the conservation of wildlife habitat, protecting additional fields and woodland area, as well as an undeveloped corridor from the streams, wetlands and fields on the southern portion of the property to the forests, barrens and wetlands to the north.

“We are thrilled to complete the conservation easement protection of Meadow Brook Farm,” said Ben Emory. “Dianna and I purchased the property during the overactive real estate market of six years ago specifically to forestall almost certain degradation by developers of its extraordinary wildlife habitat and

scenic and agricultural qualities. We hope that other landowners on the Blue Hill Peninsula possessing property with important conservation values will look to our example and work with Blue Hill Heritage Trust to conserve the natural qualities of their properties.”



President's Column: Land and Community

In a recent Board of Directors meeting, we discussed our connection to the global financial markets. How would land conservation on the Blue Hill Peninsula be affected by what happens on Wall Street and around the world? Certainly our operating budget and our endowments, and our success at raising new capital for land, are very much tied to the health and security of the financial and equity markets.

This led to a discussion of another equally important connection – the link between local land conservation and the health and well-being of our communities. Conservation lands provide walking trails, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, access to shorefront, and the opportunities to educate our-

selves about the environment and ecological treasures in our corner of the world. And using our land trust as a vehicle for community action, we provide a model of how people within communities can work together.

Though the global financial connection affects us, we cannot lose sight of the importance of our land conservation work in building a strong sustainable future for our local communities. Thank you for your continued support over the last 23 years, through good times and bad.

Together, we are fulfilling Gandhi's challenge to “Be the change you want to see in the world.”

John Merrifield

Annual Membership Meeting 2008

The beautiful new clubhouse at the Blue Hill Country Club was filled with an enthusiastic group of members and friends on September 10th for the Trust's 23rd Annual Membership Meeting. After a welcoming reception, the business meeting included reports by President John Merrifield, Treasurer John Murphy, and Executive Director Jim Dow, as well as the election of new Board members. The evening was capped by a presentation by ecologist and conservation planner **Janet McMahon** who shared the preliminary results of a conservation planning project she is conducting for the Trust to identify "uncommon places in our midst" (See story on page 2). If you were not able to attend this year, we hope you will in 2009.



The annual meeting drew an enthusiastic crowd last Sept. 10th.

Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2007

Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$436,702
Note receivable & option.....	20,000
Long-term investments.....	880,853
Pledges receivable.....	58,000
Office building	162,051
Other	4,221
Conservation land	3,135,323
Total assets.....	\$4,697,150

Liabilities and Net Assets

LIABILITIES

Debt: land	\$100,000
Debt: office building.....	74,239
Other	8,225
Total liabilities	\$182,464

NET ASSETS

Permanently restricted	\$2,487,374
Temporarily restricted.....	248,375
Unrestricted but designated	1,627,208
Unrestricted	151,729
Total net assets	\$4,514,686
Total liabilities and net assets	\$4,697,150

(Source: Loiselle, Goodwin & Hinds, CPAs)

At this year's annual meeting we were thrilled to recognize **Ellen Best** and **Peter Colman** for their volunteer contributions to the Trust. Ellen, who has served as President and as a member of our Board of Directors, currently serves on our Board's Lands Committee, and donates untold hours of legal services each year in support of our work. Pete, our local trail guru, has donated great quantities of expertise and labor to our various trail projects over the last few years.

A special moment at the annual meeting was the standing ovation given **Erika Rowland**, our Conservations Lands Manager for the last five

years, who has accepted a senior research position at the University of Arizona on a climate change project.

We are very sorry to see her go, but wish her the very best.

We were also pleased to welcome **David Porter** to our Board of Directors. David is a semi-retired university professor of plant biology and a resident of Brooklin.

We offer special thanks to local farmers **Drew Birdsall**, **Noah Lorio** and **Mark Scara-**
no for providing locally grown fresh food for our annual meeting refreshments, and to **Serge Liros** of the Liros Gallery and **Mitchell Baum** for donating our volunteer recognition gifts.



Erika Rowland



New Board member David Porter led our final Walk and Talk of the season at Kingdom Woods, focused on fungi, one of his specialties.



Making the Connection between Land and Food



John Richardson, the chair of our Community Outreach Committee, and daughter Mary helped staff our booth at the local food festival organized by the Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce.

Again this year we worked to highlight that connection between the conservation of local farmland and local food supplies by participating in two local food festivals, one in Brooklin and another in Blue Hill. Eight local farms with protected agricultural land are featured in our recently reprinted farm guide, which

was distributed at the festivals and is intended to help connect local people to locally grown food. To date, we have worked with farmland owners to ensure that 1600 acres of high quality farmland are protected from development – with more on the way!



Jed Island Project Moves Forward

Blue Hill Heritage Trust is working in partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to take advantage of an unusual opportunity to protect beautiful Jed Island in Blue Hill Bay, a place enjoyed by both wildlife and people. It includes an important bald eagle nesting site as well as important harbor seal pupping ledges. It is also a great spot for a picnic.

The owners of the island have made it

possible for us to acquire the island for conservation, but we need to raise \$800,000 to complete the project. We got the ball rolling this summer, thanks to several generous donors, but we have a long way to go. If you can help, please give our campaign manager Misha Mytar a call at 374-5118. Look forward to a chance to visit the island with us next summer.

In Memoriam

With sadness we note the passing of two long-time members of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust family. **Jean Becton** and her family have been steadfast supports of our work since the Trust's early days. We were honored that her family invited friends to make memorial contributions to our Trust. **Jean Meyer** and her late husband Bob, both long-time Trust members, donated a conservation easement to the Trust on their 69-acre property near the center of Blue Hill village that provides a public walking path from the village almost to the mountain. Both made a difference in the life of our community.

Tax-Free IRA Giving Opportunity Extended By Congress

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424), signed into law on October 3, 2008, includes an extension of the IRA Charitable Rollover. The extension is retroactive, applying to distributions made throughout both the 2008 and 2009 tax years. The extension allows individuals 70½ and older to donate up to \$100,000 from their IRAs to charities tax-free. It applies to gifts made in 2008 before enactment, but after the original legislation had expired by its terms December 31, 2007. For more information contact our office.

Looking for an enduring investment?

Invest in this place by making a planned gift to the Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Your bequest, charitable remainder trust or other planned gift will yield large returns for future generations by helping ensure the long-term stewardship of our precious conservation lands as well as helping us protect other special places in our landscape.

Getting Grounded in a Turbulent World



Blue Hill Mountain, viewed from the east over Noyes Pond, gloriously adorned in Fall colors.



One early Saturday morning in October, seeking relief from the worries brought on by all the economic and political turbulence going on in our country, I hiked up Blue Hill Mountain, over the land Louise Frederick donated to the Trust. The climb was good, but the feeling that came over me at the summit as I sat looking out over our landscape, gloriously adorned in fall colors, was better. It was pure relief, a grounding, a reminder of enduring things in this world. I was especially grateful to Louise Frederick that day for her gift of that place of quiet refuge.

Tough times can help remind us what is important. Having places like Blue Hill and Kingdom Woods and Caterpillar Hill available to us as we sort through the ups and downs of our personal, community and national issues is important. These are places where we can exercise our bodies, connect with the natural world, find beauty and perhaps get a new and better perspective, as I did that Saturday, on troublesome problems.

Thanks to you, our members, the Blue Hill Heritage Trust provides many such places for our community. With your help, we intend to continue doing so, investing for the long-term in the well-being of this Peninsula and its people, helping us all stay grounded.

Jim Dow, Executive Director

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Board of Directors

John Merrifield, *President*, Blue Hill
John Murphy, *Treasurer*, Sedgwick
Norman Alt, Brooksville
Paul Birdsall, Penobscot
Peter Clapp, Blue Hill
Ruth Davis, Brooksville
Tim Garrity, Blue Hill
Pamela Johnson, Sedgwick
Jim Kannry, Blue Hill
Whitney Landon, Brooksville
Norman Mrozicki, Surry
David Porter, Brooklin
Kim Ridley, Brooklin
Peter Sly, Brooklin

Staff

James W. Dow, *Executive Director*
Sheila Corbett, *Membership Coordinator*
Misha Mytar, *Capital Campaign Manager*

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.

BHHT Awarded Maine Land Trust Excellence Grant

Our Trust is one of a small group of Maine land trusts selected to receive a grant to help it prepare for accreditation by the national Land Trust Accreditation Commission. The accreditation process for land trusts is a new voluntary program initiated by the national Land Trust Alliance to promote high standards of performance for all land trusts.

The Maine Land Trust Excellence Program is a partnership of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Land Trust Alliance with financial support from private donors and The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Leave a Lasting Legacy
Name the Trust in your will.

For more information: 207-374-5118

Land Report

As of October 31, 2008

Protected Land

Easements on private land 3195 acres
Land owned by BHHT 1834 acres
Total since 1985 5029 acres

Land Projects

Conservation Easements 51
Owned (via gift or purchases) 38
Total since 1985 89

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Community-Based Land Conservation
5029 Acres Protected since 1985

THE BAGADUCE RIVER

PHOTO COURTESY OF GARY HARMATZ PHOTOGRAPHY

New Trails: Connecting Us to Nature and Health

We continue to develop new trails for public use, as well as maintain existing trails. Both are big jobs, requiring planning, equipment and lots of labor (often hard labor). We think this trail work is an important contribution to our community. It allows residents to get to know the place where they live, while providing them a traffic-free place to walk and exercise. It also attracts visitors, providing a positive impact on our local economy. Based on the steadily increased usage of the trails, we are certain we are meeting a need.

This summer we completed a new trail on Blue Hill Mountain that replaces a severely eroded section of the Hayes Trail and offers great views and a durable walking surface as you climb. We also constructed a new trail through the forest of the Talalay Nature Sanctuary property in Surry, which connects to an existing trail on our neighboring property. Both projects involved lots of volunteer hours. We thank all who helped, but especially Erika Rowland and Pete Colman who led both projects. Walk on!

Hard labor anyone? Hand tools and muscles help move a log that now serves as a short wetland crossing on the Talalay Trail.



The new trail on Blue Hill was officially opened on August 1, with young local wizard Samuel Rowland presiding.