

Community-Based Land Conservation since 1985

# BLUE HILL HERITAGE TRUST

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

SUMMER 2010

## Special 25th Anniversary Events *See page 4*

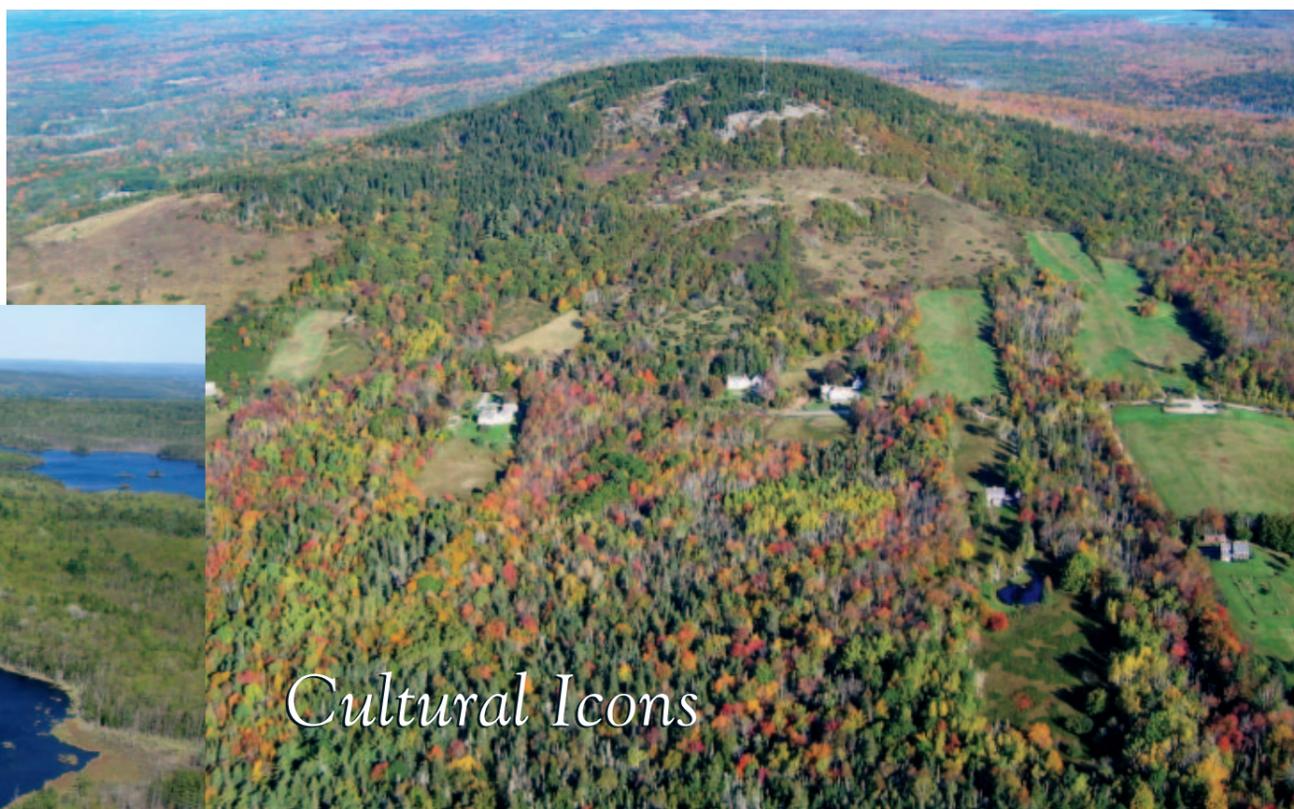


Blue Hill Heritage Trust  
P. O. Box 222  
Blue Hill ME 04614

### New Land Projects: **3 Easement Gifts Protect Scenic Beauty**

Views over the water to the mountains! Views from the water to undeveloped forests and fields! *See Page 2 and 4 for the stories.*

## Celebrating **25 Years** Of Conservation



### Cultural Icons

**In 1985 a group of local residents** created a new community organization called Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Their idea was that this organization would be a way for people to work together to help protect the natural and cultural heritage of the Blue Hill Peninsula.

The idea worked! Twenty-five years later we are a thriving organization embedded into the fabric of life on the Blue Hill Peninsula. Together we have protected over 5500 acres of conservation land with outstanding scenic, ecological, recreational, cultural and agricultural values – lands that people love and enjoy as a community commons.



### Wildlife Habitat



### Recreational Access



### Farmland



### Scenic Beauty

### The Return of Alewives *See page 3*



## Fields, Water and Mountains

### New View Protection on Newbury Neck in Surry

The southerly stretch of the Newbury Neck Road in Surry yields a remarkable visual experience to all who travel it. Paralleling Union River Bay, the road offers up beautiful views across fields and water to the mountains of Acadia National Park. Some people drive the road “just for the view,” and an increasing number enjoy the view as they walk, run or bike the road for recreation. The residents along that road have the luxury of having the view as part of their daily experience.

#### Development pressure continues

Like all the beautiful places in this area, Newbury Neck is under steady development pressure. Even in the current economic environment new residential

construction is “growing” in those fields by the water, reducing the number of “public windows” from the road onto the magnificent mix of fields, water and mountains.

Now thanks to Peggy Smith and her brother Marshall, two adjacent parcels that have been in their family for decades will remain open, preserving one of those windows. The two parcels total nearly 17 acres with long frontage on the road and large fields running to the shore. Both parcels, one owned by Marshall and Peggy jointly and the second owned solely by Peggy, now have conservation easements that prevent future development and require that the fields be kept open so that the view re-

**“In the open space of democracy, beauty is not optional, but essential to our survival as a species.”**

– Terry Tempest Williams, award-winning author and seasonal resident of Surry

mains available to the public. Not only will the view be protected, but the wildlife habitat that these fields provide will also be protected. In addition the easement permits the public to enter the property for low impact recreational uses such as walking and nature observation.

#### Surry encourages open space

The importance of these views had been previously recognized by the Town of Surry which had placed the parcels in the open space tax classification as a way to encourage their protection. Now that protection is ensured in perpetuity.

In accepting a gift of these conservation easements, the Trust assumes the long term responsibility for monitoring and enforcing the restrictions on the fu-

#### Do scenic views matter?

The founders of our Trust thought so.

Some of our earliest projects centered on preserving scenic character through the use of conservation easements. Protecting scenic views is still part of our mission and still part of our new project work. Views across the landscape from public roads or other public vantage points, including from the water, provide aesthetic enjoyment. For many of us, these views also help define our sense of place, both the grand, dramatic views – like those over our Cooper Farm at Caterpillar Hill – and the quick glimpses over a field or a marsh as we drive by. Scenic beauty is also an economic benefit for the local economy. Scenic beauty attracts people, – for a visit, for a season, for a lifetime – who help fuel local businesses. Not everybody is able to or wants to walk a trail. The protection of scenic views provides another kind of access that is important to the well-being of our community.

ture uses of these lands. We are grateful that both Marshall and Peggy made generous contributions to our Stewardship Fund to help cover the costs associated with fulfilling those responsibilities. A special thanks also goes to Ciona Ulbrich of Maine Coast Heritage Trust who assisted with this project.



Please join us. All events are free and open to the public. For more information visit our website at [www.bhhtmaine.org](http://www.bhhtmaine.org) or call our office at 374-5118 to pre-register.

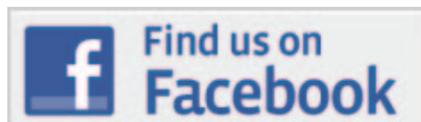
#### Blue Hill Mountain Trail Work in July

An experienced trail crew from the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) will lead a major maintenance project on the Osgood and Hayes Trails on Blue Hill Mountain this summer. Heavy use by residents and visitors takes its toll, requiring regular restoration projects. You can help by volunteering a few hours of work or donating money to help cover the \$3500 cost of this project.

To help celebrate our 25th Anniversary Year, we organized an expanded Walks and Talk schedule for 2010. People of all ages have been joining us to explore the wonders of this place. We looked at winter constellations over Caterpillar Hill in February, learned about late winter ecology on Blue Hill Mountain in March, explored vernal pool life at Kingdom Woods in April, heard about the importance of alewives in May and also investigated woody plants and shrubs at the Carter Nature Preserve, went birding with the pros at the Great Meadow and walked among the fireflies at Wardwell Pasture in June.

Events still to come:

- July 10: **Medicinal Plants** at Kingdom Woods
- July 31: **Shore Land Geology** at Carter Nature Preserve
- August 21: **Riparian Plants** at Patten Stream
- August 24: **Full Moon Hike** Up Blue Hill Mountain
- Sept 15: **Fall Mushrooms** at Caterpillar Hill



#### Executive Director Jim Dow:

*Honoring the past, looking to the future*

25 years of conservation. More than 5500 acres of conserved land. Local people working together to protect the character and well-being of their place by protecting special places in the landscape. This is a great story, a great accomplishment, worthy of celebration.

But 25 years is but a small step toward “perpetuity” – the word used so commonly in conservation circles to denote the length of our commitment to the conservation lands that we own or monitor. Our very success is forcing us to try to come to grips with what that word means for this organization.

Meanwhile, our fundamental work of protecting the most significant local places is not done. We can all name places that have special meaning for us but which could “grow a house” any day. Yet we are operating in a very different time

than we were 25 years ago when we began this enterprise.

So as we prepare to go forward for the next 25 years, we are taking stock as we celebrate. We are looking at what we need to do to ensure that our organization – our local conservation vehicle – is sustainable over the long haul. We are looking at our internal processes and our external resources. We are looking at new ideas and new ways of doing our business that are appropriate for these times. Most importantly we are working to involve as many people as possible in this community enterprise – young and old, from here and away, birders and hunters – everyone who is a part of this community and holds a share in this land legacy.

Onward!



## The most fulfilling task I ever pursued

On a recent hike on our John B Mountain property in Brooksville, I reached the top and let out an audible sigh. My hiking companion said, "It's beautiful, isn't it?" And it was – Eggmoggin Reach, Orcutt Harbor and Horseshoe Cove in the foreground, Isle au Haut to the southeast and the Camden Hills to the southwest. But my sigh was also for the tremendous sense of satisfaction in being a part of the BHHT land conservation effort that has been protecting places like this for 25 years.

After three years as President of the Board of Directors, I am completing my term. In that time, nearly 1000 acres were added to our preserves and conservation easements bringing our total area of land conservation to over 5500 acres. We are steadily preserving the heritage and beauty of this place we call our home. It has been my pleasure and hon-



or to work with a Board of men and women who tirelessly offer their diverse skills to preserve places we can all treasure for years to come. To be honest, this has been the most fulfilling task I have ever pursued. It has given me special friendships and a clearer understanding of how we are all connected to each other and to nature.

None of these experiences would be possible without the support of our members and friends who donate land and money, time and inspiration to help us continue with our mission. We thank you for your continued support.

We can always use energetic minds and bodies to help us in this work. Feel free to contact us anytime about adding your skills to our committees or Board or helping on a specific project. We look forward to seeing you out on the land.

— John Merrifield



## Alewives: Restoring a Rite of Spring

Alewives were once a central part of life on the Blue Hill Peninsula as well as elsewhere along the Maine Coast. Their arrival to local streams and rivers that led to their spawning grounds was a dramatic sign that Spring had arrived. They were welcomed by eagles, seals, osprey, other fish species and a host of other wildlife, as well as by people.

Alewives are diadromous fish – members of the herring family – that migrate between salt and fresh water. The diadromous fish community also includes blueback herring, shad, rainbow smelts and Atlantic salmon.

The huge abundance of alewives known to early settlers diminished drastically as a result of the damming of streams and rivers as well as pollution and over-harvesting. As the human dependencies on this food source declined, so did the human constituency for the welfare of these alewife runs. Recently, however, renewed awareness of this fish's fundamental place in the food web is leading to efforts locally and statewide to restore that natural abundance.

Marine biologist Rory Saunders from the National Marine Fisheries Service described the importance of alewives and the restoration efforts underway at a presentation host-

ed by the Trust on May 19th. As he talked, thousands of alewives were gathering in a section of Patten Stream just below Route 172 trying with all the power of Nature to get over a stream blockage caused by the design and construction of the highway's overpass.

Patten Stream is one of our local streams that once hosted huge runs of alewives. Upper and Lower Patten Ponds, its headwaters, provide excellent spawning habitat. The blockage at the highway is the only major obstacle to restoring that run. Residents are

currently working with local and state officials to find a solution. Meanwhile, during the several days that the fish were running, volunteers with permits from the Maine Department of Marine Resources were aiding the fish by netting and transporting bushel after bushel over the blockage.

Our Trust owns a parcel of conservation land along Patten Stream that features a long stretch of stream frontage and an array of outstanding natural features. Our land is part of a natural system of which the alewives are also a part. We intend to do our part to help restore their place in that system, and once again make this rite of Spring a part of our community's common experience.



## Trail News

We continue our efforts to provide opportunities for people to connect to the land by developing and maintaining walking trails. The limited amount of town, state or federal conservation land in our area makes our role especially important.

## Trail openings

In June, a crew of volunteers celebrated National Trails Day by preparing the

trail on John B. Mountain, our new preserve in Brooksville. Meanwhile, our "partners in stewardship," the Friends of Morgan Bay, hosted a trail opening at the Furth Wildlife Sanctuary and Talalay Nature Sanctuary, adjacent properties in Surry, celebrating the completion of several seasons of work.

## New Trail Kiosks

Thanks to the students at the Harbor School in Blue Hill, assisted by our Board member David Porter, we have a new kiosk at a trail head in the Kingdom Woods Conservation Area. Thanks to Board member Norman Mrozicki we have a new kiosk at the trail heads of the Furth/Talalay Trail and the Osgood Trail on Blue Hill Mountain.



## New Trail Maps Available on our Website

We now have updated trail maps for all of BHHT trails. View these maps online at <http://www.bhhtmaine.org/trailguide.html> or download the pdf and print them at home. You can also stop by the office and we'll be happy to print out the maps that you need.



## Blue Hill Heritage Trust

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

### Board of Directors

John Merrifield, Blue Hill, *President*; Norman Alt, Brooksville, *Co-Vice-President*; Pam Johnson, Sedgwick, *Co-Vice-President*; David Porter, Brooklin, *Secretary*; John Murphy, Sedgwick, *Treasurer*; Mary Barnes, Sedgwick; Paul Birdsall, Penobscot; Peter Clapp, Blue Hill; Bonnie Copper, Penobscot; Tim Garrity, Blue Hill; Jim Kannry, Blue Hill; Heather Albert-Knopp, Penobscot; Norman Mrozicki, Surry; Kim Ridley, Brooklin

### Staff

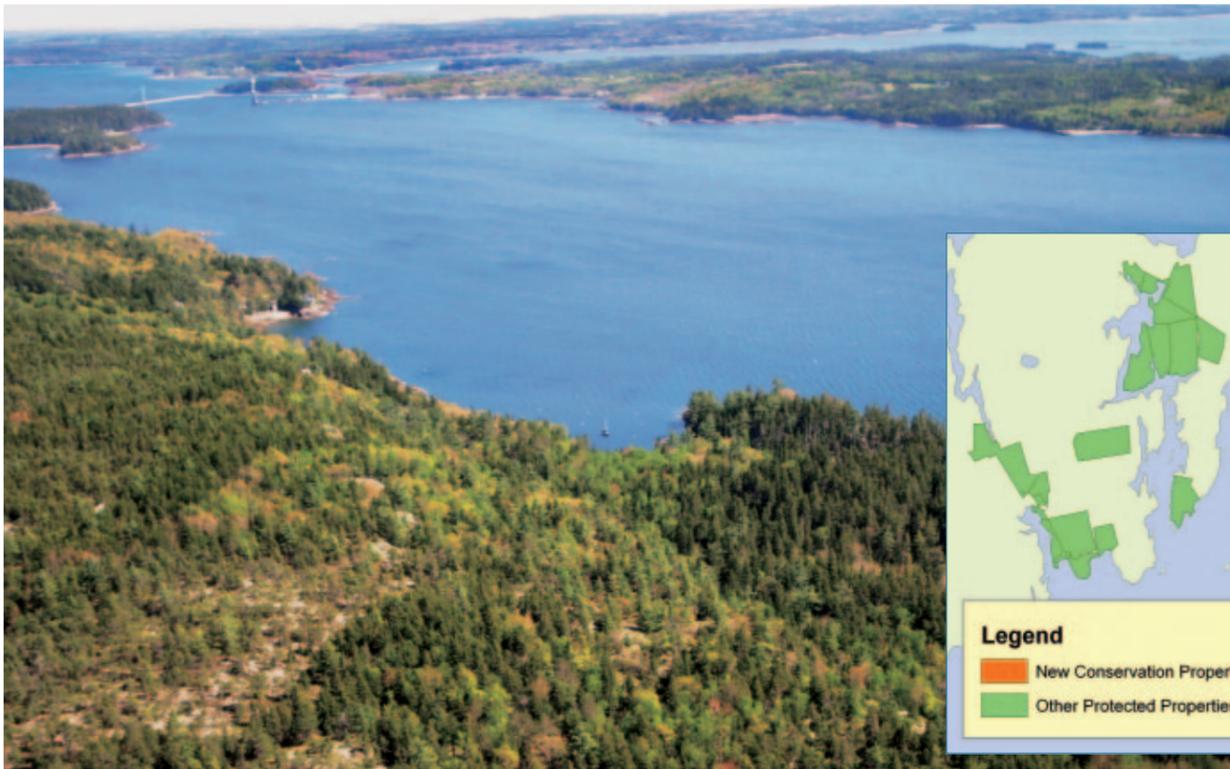
James W. Dow, *Executive Director*  
Sheila Corbett, *Membership/ Administrative Coordinator*  
Charlotte Clews Lawther, *Stewardship Coordinator*



## Jed Island: Halfway There!

Our joint effort with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to acquire and protect Jed Island is halfway to its fundraising goal. With 18 months left in the installment purchase agreement, \$442,000 of the necessary \$800,000 purchase and stewardship funding has been raised. Please help us complete the protection of this island gem. If you can help or would like more information, please contact Jim Dow or John Merrifield at the Trust office.

# New Conservation Easement Protects Coastal Beauty and Ecological Assets



*This conservation easement continues our efforts to protect the outstanding scenic values of Eggemoggin Reach.*



**Think of the future**

**Yes!** I want to help conserve the character of the Blue Hill Peninsula landscape for future generations.

- Conservator** .....\$1000 and up
- Benefactor** .....\$500 – \$999
- Steward** .....\$250 – \$499
- Sustaining** .....\$100 – \$249
- Supporting** .....\$50 – \$99
- Contributing** .....\$35 – \$49

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

A gift of a conservation easement by a brother and sister on their family land in Brooksville extends the scenic and natural area protection along Eggemoggin Reach that we have worked on since the Trust's early years. Widely known for its scenic beauty, Eggemoggin Reach is a primary navigation route between Blue Hill Bay and Penobscot Bay used by the boating public for recreation and commerce.

The conservation easement protects a sixteen-acre parcel with 700 feet of frontage on Deep Cove east of Bucks Harbor. By remaining undeveloped, this land will help protect the long-term scenic character of the Reach, and also preserve important ecological assets. This parcel includes great topographic diversity, including rocky and sandy coastline, wetlands, streams and waterfalls, a cold-air talus slope and a variety of woodlands.

The property has two special ecological features. The shoreland area has been identified as "significant waterfowl and wading bird habitat" by Maine's Depart-

ment of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife while its upland section, part of a coastal ridge, includes a pitch pine woodland community, a natural community identified by the Maine Natural Areas as a rare/exemplary community type.

The newly protected property is adjacent to other properties with similar conservation values that have

been protected by BHHT conservation easements. Together these lands now include approximately 280 acres and 9000 feet of contiguous undeveloped scenic frontage on Eggemoggin Reach and Bucks

Harbor. As with all conservation easements, the property remains in private ownership but with perpetual restrictions on its future use that are monitored and enforced if necessary by our Trust.

Our thanks to Ron Fangel and Laila Kain for working with us to protect this land for the benefit of us all, and for making a financial gift to our Stewardship Fund which will ensure our capacity to carry out our long-term stewardship responsibilities to this property.

**"Though this is a relatively small piece of property, it is spectacularly diverse. There is something for deer, bear, otters, mink and a gorgeous view for the rest of us!"**

– Charlotte Clews Lawther, Stewardship Coordinator

## Family Fun: Mountain Day Celebration on August 8

Thanks to inspired volunteers, our Trust is hosting a day of family fun on August 8, on Blue Hill Mountain as part of our 25th birthday celebration! Mountain Day is free, featuring activities for all ages, live music, and great food from local vendors. It is a chance to enjoy the benefits of local conservation at an iconic feature of our landscape.

The day begins with morning yoga on the summit, followed by a foot race up Blue Hill Mountain,



children's activities including field games and a scavenger hunt, an open mike featuring stories from the Mountain, and a birthday cake! There will be displays by the Blue Hill Historical Society and Down East Audubon.

Check our website calendar at [www.bluehillheritagetrust.org](http://www.bluehillheritagetrust.org) and our Facebook Fan Page or call 374-5118 for more information. Special thanks to Courtney Weaver and our community outreach committee for organizing this special event, and to the Blue Hill selectmen for permission to use the fields donated to the town for conservation by Ruth Hayes. We still need volunteers to help with the event. E-mail Courtney at [courtecca@aol.com](mailto:courtecca@aol.com).

**"This is one of the most secluded places in the area and yet it is in the middle of Blue Hill. I love it. The trail is very well maintained. Thank you!"**

– Note found in the Letterbox placed by BHCS students on our Parker Point Road to South Street Trail

## 25th Anniversary Party July 17th

Our 25th Anniversary celebration includes a big party! On July 17, 300 supporters from all over the peninsula will share a meal, dance the night away to music by Wavelength Band and participate in a silent auction at the home of Jim and Linda May in East Blue Hill. Partyers can bid on 25 amazing silent auction items ranging from a trip to Bermuda to a Lunaform pot, a bouquet of flowers or a mooring in Blue Hill harbor, and eat a wonderful dinner prepared by Moveable Feasts.

Over 100 volunteers are having fun putting the evening together along with strong support from local businesses that are providing sponsorship and silent auction items. We all owe special thanks to our two lead sponsors Union Trust and The First and to the 50 other businesses that are helping us celebrate. If you would like to come to the party, volunteer to help or become a sponsor, please visit our website for more information.