

# Blue Hill Heritage Trust

*Community-Based Land Conservation since 1985*

## NAWCA comes to the Bagaduce

### *New Funding for Land Conservation in the Bagaduce Watershed*

Opportunity knocks! A grant program designed to protect habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife species has awarded a one million dollar matching grant to fund land acquisition in and around the Bagaduce watershed, a natural system of statewide significance that encompasses a large portion of Blue Hill Heritage Trust's service area.

The award was made by the **North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)** program, a competitive federal program that funds wetland conservation projects throughout the United States, based on a proposal developed by a partnership that included our land trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and several other partners.

MCHT, the named grant recipient, will administer the grant and will work with us to implement it over the next two years.

#### ***Local partnership protects productive estuarine system***

The Bagaduce River watershed, at the center of the project area defined by the grant, is an estuarine system whose tidal main stem runs from the outlet of Walker Pond in Sedgwick to the Penobscot River at Castine. It also includes a series of freshwater tributaries, ponds and associated wetlands that provide high-value habitat for wildlife, including a variety of waterfowl species, wading birds, eagles, ospreys, shorebirds,

alewives, otters, seals and horseshoe crabs. As one of the most productive estuaries in the state, it has been recognized by the State of Maine as a "focus area of statewide ecological significance."

The grant requires that the funds be used to acquire ownership or conservation easements on a series of properties within the project area that have high-value wetlands. It also requires that the partners secure "matching value," in cash, land, or conservation easement gifts within the project area, equal to one and a half times the grant award. Some of that match can and will be met by recent or pending land projects undertaken by the partners.

"This is an unusual opportunity at a time when funding for land conservation is tight," says Ciona Ulbrich of MCHT, the primary author of the proposal. "This is one of only 23 projects funded this year by NAWCA nationwide."

"This award is additional confirmation of the natural values of the Bagaduce and its environs," says Jim Dow, BHHT's Executive Director. "It highlights the importance of working to protect what makes it so special – and gives us a financial tool to advance that work."

For additional information about the grant and more Bagaduce photos, visit: [www.bluehillheritagetrust.org/bagaduce](http://www.bluehillheritagetrust.org/bagaduce).

## Brooksville Land Gift: *Shore Frontage, Tidal Wetlands, Habitat*

Small can be good. With conservation land, it just depends on its location. A recent gift of a small parcel of land in Brooksville proves the point.

This four-acre parcel, with rugged rock outcroppings, towering trees, and nearly 1,000 feet of tidal shore frontage, is located on a small cove that forms part of a larger waterbody known as Horseshoe Cove. The cove provides high-quality waterfowl and shore bird habitat.

Although a parcel this small might have questionable conservation value if it were isolated from other conservation land, this parcel faces land across the cove protected by a conservation easement and is near our Bell's Farm Preserve. It is also located near our John B. Mountain Preserve and, with the coopera-

tion of an abutting landowner, may provide us the opportunity to create a new walking trail from John B. Mountain to the shore that would allow the public to enjoy the quiet beauty of this place.

The land was originally part of a small subdivision, but Brooksville's shoreland zoning ordinance identified the land as resource protection and thus prevented its development. The owner, looking for an appropriate new owner for the land, contacted us. We were grateful for that call.

Because it includes tidal wetlands and provides waterfowl habitat, this gift has an additional value– it may serve as a portion of the match required by the NAWCA grant described above, thereby leveraging the protection of other wetland habitat.



*This new gift of land in Brooksville has nearly 1,000 feet of tidal shore frontage on Horseshoe Cove, provides high-quality waterfowl and shore bird habitat, and is located near John B. Mountain and our Bell's Farm Preserve.*



## More Scenic Protection



A view from the Newbury Neck Road in Surry and across the field most recently protected by conservation easement

## Beautiful Views of Union Bay and Acadia

A new conservation easement gift extends the protection of the scenic views enjoyed by the public from the Newbury Neck Road in Surry.

The easement prevents future development on nine acres of blueberry fields that run from the public road to the shore of Union Bay, providing easterly views over the water to the mountains of Acadia National Park. The land abuts other fields to the north that have been previously protected by conservation easements donated to our Trust by Marshall and Peggy Smith. Together the easements on these lands will ensure that the continuing development of the shoreline land along the Newbury Neck Road will not erase the public's opportunity to benefit from the beautiful and inspiring views that it has long offered those who ride, bike, run and walk there.

We are grateful to the trustees of the William H. Shafer Trust for their decision to join their neighbors in protecting this scenic resource.

## Events

For more information, please check our website or call us. All events are FREE and open to the public. Please contact us to pre-register.

July 6-8

**Art on the Land Photography Workshop for Kids**

July 18

**Explore the Outdoors: Storywalk**

July 21

**King Hill Farm Tour**

July 28

**Intertidal Exploration Walk & Talk**

Mid-July to mid-August

**Blueberry Pick in Our Fields at Cooper Farm in Sedgwick**

August 1

**Full Moon Hike Walk & Talk**

August 11

**Explore the Outdoors: Beavers**

August 12 (No pre-registration)

**Mountain Day Celebration!**

August 18

**Quill's End Farm Tour**

August 25

**Hemlock Forest Ecology Walk & Talk**

September 6

**Annual Meeting**

September 15

**Old Ackley Farm Tour**

September 29

**Mushroom Walk & Talk**

September 30

**Explore the Outdoors: Trees**

October 12-14

**Art on the Land Photography Workshop for Adults**

November 8

**A Moment of Water**

Presentation by Ann Flewelling

## Snow's Cove Trail: Grand Opening!

Over 25 people of all ages joined us for the official opening of the Snow's Cove Trail in Sedgwick. The recently completed trail that was constructed with lots of volunteer help, offers a varied and interesting two-mile walking experience, including a long stretch near the shore of the Bagaduce River.

A group of children from the Sedgwick Elementary School after-school program, called the "Nature and Garden Club" recently enjoyed an outing on the new trail with Joan Allen Clapp, the program's volunteer leader, and Adam Bishop, our Conservation Lands Manager. The discovery of a wide assortment of horseshoe crab shells made the trip memorable.



A student from Sedgwick Elementary School is captivated by a horseshoe crab shell found on the shore of the Bagaduce River while hiking the new Snow's Cove Trail.

## New Trail Completed at Patten Stream



A new trail has been constructed at our Patten Stream Preserve in Surry, thanks to more than 100 hours of volunteer time contributed by a variety of volunteers. Visitors will find a reconfigured parking area and trailhead at the south end of the Preserve, and a trail now offering a south and north loop (round trip length of 1.5 miles). The newly completed section of trail offers hikers dramatic views of Patten Stream's rushing waters, with large moss and fern covered boulders scattered both in the stream and along

its banks, all set in a forested ravine dominated by large hemlock trees. We thank all of the volunteers who helped with this trail building project and extend a special thank you to Pete Coleman, a professional trail builder, who contributed many hours of his time to the trail's layout, design, and construction. We also thank Dugas Construction, our neighbor at Patten Stream, for donating the stones that were used in the construction of a staircase on the trail.

Above, one of our many work crews takes a break.

## Stewardship Volunteers – Invaluable!

Our Conservation Lands Manager, Adam Bishop, offers a hearty "Thank you!" to the following members who have volunteered their time assisting him with various stewardship projects this year. (A total of 200 hours have been contributed through May, with more to come)

Norman Alt, Mary Barnes, Ken Burgess, Pete Coleman, Merle and Bonnie Copper, Andy Felger, Rebecca Hopkins, Pam Johnson, John Mathieu, Terry Moulton, Norman Mroziki, Kip Perkinson, Alan Pooley, Joy Richardson, Kurt Shao, Fern Stearns, Terry Titcomb, Jen Traub, and Charcy Yi.

## The Power of BEQUESTS

Create a meaningful and lasting legacy for future generations. Please consider naming Blue Hill Heritage Trust in your will.



# THANK YOU to our 2011 members!

*Membership follows the calendar year.*

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We apologize if we have misspelled or omitted any of our donors' names. Please advise us of any error or omission so we may correct our records.





# Jed Island: Protected!

Jed Island, at the mouth of Morgan Bay, is now conservation land and will remain available as productive habitat for eagles, seals, and other wildlife and as a place where people can enjoy a strikingly beautiful island experience. We partnered with Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) to raise the necessary

funding to purchase the island and to ensure its future stewardship. MCHT, which specializes in island conservation, will hold title to the island. Our Trust will assist MCHT with the future stewardship of this island gem. THANK YOU to the many local residents who contributed to this project.



## Alewives and an Inspired Volunteer

The return of the alewives is a sure sign of spring and a captivating demonstration of the wonders of nature. Because alewives are a key element in nature's food web, our Trust has been supporting efforts to restore alewife runs on our Peninsula. In May, the alewives

were trying to move from the ocean up Patten Stream in Surry to spawn in the ponds near the stream's headwaters. As has been the case for many years, an obstruction at the bridge blocked their passage. This year they got some help.

Inspired by his participation in our *Discovering Alewives Walk and Talk* (organized with the help of a group of Surry residents working to find a way to remove the obstruction), Greg Weaver, a local builder, went home and designed and built a fish ladder. With an OK from the state fisheries biologist, he and friends installed it in the stream. It did not work. He modified it. It didn't work. He modified it again. Voila! Fish started moving up the ladder – hundreds of fish.

This is only a temporary solution – but an important one. Planning is underway for a more permanent fish passage.



PHOTO: PAUL MARTIN BROWN

### Wildflower Notes: Trailing Arbutus

Trailing arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) is one of many wildflowers that is best admired where it grows naturally. The new trail at Patten Stream will give visitors an opportunity to enjoy *Epigaea* in its natural community. Trailing arbutus prefers cool, sandy slopes where fallen leaves will not smother its evergreen foliage. Flower buds form on the previous season's growth. Since the plant is a shrub its woody core must be protected; rootlets in its trailing parts are insubstantial and offsets cannot be transplanted.

— Pam Johnson

## Mountain Day

A free community celebration for the entire family!

August 12th 12-3 pm

Blue Hill Mountain  
Hayes Trail Field

Bring your own picnic and join us for live music, yoga, a scavenger hunt, guided walks up the mountain, children's activities, and more! Sponsored by The First, Camden National Bank, Cadillac Mountain Sports and American Sun Electric.

## Birdsall Honored with Statewide Award



PHOTO: BILLY HELPRIN

Paul Birdsall (left), pictured here with Tim Glidden, President of MCHT, received the Espy Land Heritage Award earlier this year.

Paul Birdsall, one of our Trust's founding Board members, has been named the recipient of the prestigious 2012 Espy Land Heritage Award. This award, presented by Maine Coast Heritage Trust at the 2012 Maine Land Trust Conference, honored Paul for extraordinary contributions to land conservation, and especially farmland conservation, over several decades.

In nominating Paul for this highly competitive award, Jim Dow wrote: "There is no other single person in the State of Maine who has done more to advance the con-

servation of farmland by private non-profit land trusts at the local and state levels. For three decades Paul has brought vision, tireless advocacy, hard work, clear thinking, sheer doggedness and great personal generosity to farmland conservation efforts and to the Maine land trust movement, always as a volunteer, always while running his own farm, always selflessly, always with good humor. If every land trust were blessed with one person with Paul's commitment, ability and desire to make things happen, how lucky we would all be."

## Hannah Hurvitt: Summer Intern



We welcome Hannah Hurvitt, a senior at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts as our Summer Land Conservation Intern. Hannah grew up in Blue Hill and is a graduate of George Stevens Academy. Last summer she helped initiate Farm Drop, a local-food distribution system. We are grateful to Smith College's Praxis Program for funding Hannah's internship.

## Join us today!

Or give a gift membership

Nesting bluebird

Help conserve the character of the Blue Hill Peninsula landscape for future generations.

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