

## CELEBRATING PLACE: 30TH ANNIVERSARY NOTES FROM BHHT

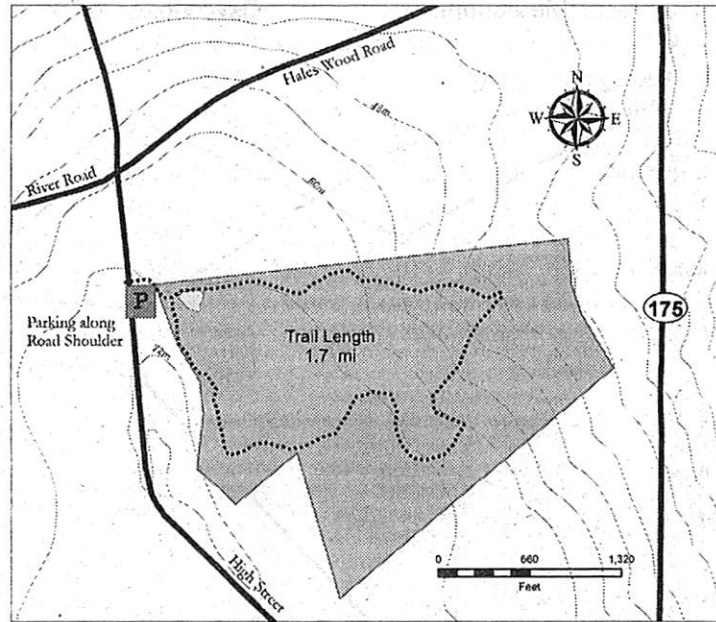
### Places to walk: Hundred Acre Wood

By **JIM DOW,**  
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Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin have their Hundred Acre Wood, thanks to the imagination of A.A. Milne. We here on the Blue Hill Peninsula have our Hundred Acre Wood, thanks to the generosity of Jane Williamson and Stephen Winthrop.

Unlike the fictional place that Pooh, Kanga, and Eeyore inhabit in Milne's children's stories, our Hundred Acre Wood is a very real place located in North Brooklin. It is a place where people can enjoy a long walk through a beautiful and diverse natural area (that is actually 113 acres in size). It is mostly forested, with a variety of tree species and shrubs, and includes small streams, wetland, blueberry ground, and an assortment of ledge outcroppings near Brooklin's highest point.

Jane and Stephen and their two children are members of a family that has summered in Brooklin for generations and that has a great affection for the town. After acquiring this land and an adjacent house in the 1990s, they began enjoying summer walks through its woods. When they later sold the house, they kept most of the land because they had fallen in love with its trails and varied habitat. Yet they found themselves



Map of the trail at Hundred Acre Wood in Brooklin.

Map courtesy of Blue Hill Heritage Trust

visiting it less frequently.

As active walkers, Jane and Stephen recognized the need for safe and peaceful places in Brooklin for people to walk, places away from the traffic on the main roads. They thought their land might be such a place. They also could not stand the idea of the land being chopped up into house lots. So they initiated a conversation

with our Trust. The notion that the land would remain as a natural area if we owned it and that the public would have the opportunity to enjoy its recreational use appealed to them. They decided to donate the land to us, which they did in late 2012. We decided to keep the name their daughters had given it.

After taking some time to get to know the land, we began laying out a trail. We hired a local resident,

Cathy Rees, who is an experienced ecologist, to inventory the natural resources on the land to be sure that a trail avoided any fragile or sensitive parts of the property. With the help of a grant from the Maine Community Foundation, the labor of lots of volunteers, and a team from the Brooklin Youth Corps and the leadership of our trail

volunteer extraordinaire Ken Burgess, we developed a nearly two-mile long trail that shows off the diverse forest types and vegetation that is found there. A host of people, including Brooklin selectmen, joined us for a trail opening in the fall of 2013.

The popularity of this new trail surprised us. It clearly met a local need for walking opportunities. Many Brooklin residents, as well as residents of other Peninsula towns, are regular visitors. Jane and Stephen were equally surprised, and very pleased. As Jane told me recently, "We were totally taken back by the joy it has brought people. People have been effusive in expressing their appreciation for our gift."

This year with the help of a grant from the Brooklin Garden Club we have added an educational dimension. A series of small signs that identify various trees and shrubs and explain their ecological value are now located along the trail. In the near future we hope to add an off-road parking area.

If you are looking for a place to enjoy a quiet woods walk, and perhaps learn a thing or two as you walk, try Hundred Acre Wood. You can find a map on our website at [bluehillheritagetrust.org](http://bluehillheritagetrust.org). If you encounter Winnie-the-Pooh, please let us know.