

Nature News

Newsletter of the Blue Hill Heritage Trust



Trail sign at
Cooper Farm

Photo by Molly Jennings

Molly Jennings

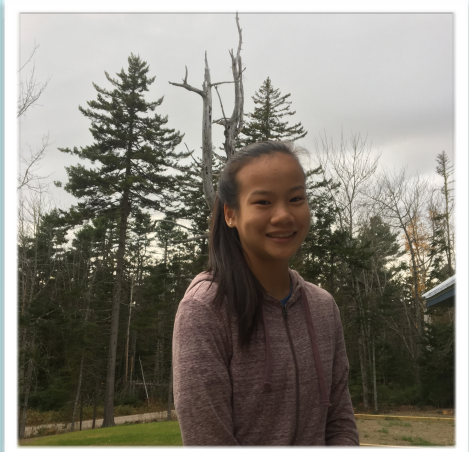


Photo by Molly Jennings

Watersheds

A watershed is an area of land that contains the same set of streams and rivers that all drain into a larger body of water. The Blue Hill Watershed affects 8 communities, Trenton, Ellsworth, Mount Desert, Bar Harbor, Tremont, Surry, Blue Hill, and Brooklin. Waters from these areas drain into the Blue Hill Bay.

Watershed protection is important because it affects fisheries, recreation, tourism, and water quality. Land use or environmental problems anywhere within the watershed area affect the health of the common body of water all communities share. A healthy Blue Hill Bay for example, depends on appropriate land use, waste management, and water resource policies. The health of larger watersheds depends on the health of many smaller watersheds, including the Bagaduce watershed that drains into Blue Hill Bay.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust Mission Statement

"To conserve in perpetuity land and water resources that support the long-term health and well-being of the natural and human communities on the Blue Hill Peninsula."

History About Blue Hill Heritage Trust

The Blue Hill Heritage Trust was founded in 1985, to help protect the natural environment around the Blue Hill Peninsula. The first piece of land the Trust protected was 13-acres in Penobscot on Toddy Pond. Today BHHT has 7,000 acres of land under protection. The BHHT not only protects land for recreational and scenic use, but also for environmental reasons, including healthy watersheds.

Ferry Landing

Ferry Landing was preserved in 1990. The Conservation Trust for Brooksville, Castine, and Penobscot, (TCT), acquired the land as a donation from Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Ferry Landing was conceived for multiple reasons, including to conserve wildlife habitats. Ferry Landing got its name from a ferry that ran from 1775-early 1900s.



Photo by Molly Jennings

Looking at the Bagaduce River from the Ferry Landing trail

Reflection

I really enjoyed this hike. The view of the Bagaduce River was very pretty and I learned a lot about this property. I particularly thought it was interesting to learn that there was a ferry on the Bagaduce River.

Weinland Nature Study Area

Blue Hill Heritage Trust acquired this property in 2014. It was conserved in 1997, as a gift to TCT from a private family, the Weinlands. It was conserved in Richard and Virginia Weinland's honor. Virginia led tours of this property until she was in her 90s, encouraging people to study the outdoors. This land was preserved for students and others to experience and learn from what this property has to offer. The Weinland property is 39.2 acres. It is wooded with wetlands, granite outcroppings, and a brook.

Reflection

I really enjoyed how this walk was in the woods. It felt very peaceful. I also enjoyed learning about the history of the Weinland property. I was inspired by Virginia Weinland's commitment to the environment.

Photo by Molly Jennings



A brook in the Weinland Nature Study Area

Cooper Farm

Cooper Farm is located on Caterpillar Hill in Sedgwick. Two other land trusts helped raise the money for this 134-acre property, Island Heritage Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Cooper Farm is protected because it is part of the Bagaduce Watershed, it has an amazing view, it's a wildlife habitat, and it has enormous blueberry fields where people can go and enjoy fresh picked blueberries. Cooper Farm was one of the largest ice production place in the East Coast.

Photo by Molly Jennings



Beds of moss

Reflection

The view from the top of Caterpillar Hill is one of the prettiest in the area. I really enjoyed taking a walk on this property. There were many interesting spots to stop and see diverse types of nature. The moss was particularly pretty.



The view from the top of Caterpillar Hill

Photo by Molly Jennings

The three property's featured in this newsletter capture the importance of local watersheds. We are lucky to have the Blue Hill Heritage Trust, which allows everyone to access and experience nature on the Blue Hill Peninsula.

