



Morgan Zenter and Soren Denlinger

she enjoys hiking, gardening, cooking and yoga. Morgan says she is looking forward to getting more familiar with the preserves and trails on the peninsula while learning what it takes to conserve this beautiful coast that we call home.

Soren Denlinger, from Bethlehem, New Jersey, is also excited to spend the summer on the peninsula and help preserve its natural character. Soren majors in environmental computation and geoscience at Colby College in Waterville, where he too is entering his senior year. He is co-president of the outing, baseball analytics, and billiards clubs, and in his free time, he enjoys hiking, beekeeping, disc golf, sabermetrics, and hockey analytics.



Introducing Two New Staff!



(Left to Right) Beth Dickens, Landere Naisbitt, Hans Carlson, Soren Denlinger, Chrissy Allen, Morgan Zenter, George Fields, and Sandy Walczyk.

Beth Dickens has also joined our staff, replacing Kayla Small as Administrative Coordinator. Many of you may know Beth from the Blue Hill Coop, where she has been the Ownership & Educational Outreach Coordinator. She has lived in Hancock County since attending College of the Atlantic, and raised a family on the Blue Hill Peninsula. She was drawn to the peninsula by the beauty and uniqueness of our landscapes, and we are glad to welcome her to our conservation team.

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We are very pleased to introduce the Jim Dow Interns for this summer. Once again, we've found two energetic and talented undergrads to help us with all the various work we do in your towns.

Morgan Zenter comes to us through a partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust. Local to the peninsula, Morgan grew up in Castine, and now attends Connecticut College, where she will be a senior in the fall. She is majoring in Environmental Studies and Biology, and works as a Student Sports Medicine Aide, is a member of the Connecticut College Women in STEM, and also volunteers in the student-run Sprout Garden. Aside from academics,



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Surry Forest Planting



Volunteers (left to right) Randy Curtiss, Susan Guildord, Tracy Utting, and Nikos Singelis, with Forester Sandy Walczyk

for schools and other community spaces. Thanks to a water tank donated by the Surry Volunteer Fire Department these seedlings will stay well watered and will flourish in years to come.

The Maine Forest Service also donated white spruce seedlings to the Surry Elementary School, and sixth graders braved blackflies and blackberry thorns to plant over 100 in old logging trails. Finally, we teamed up with the Schoodic Research Institute to plant 500 seedlings as part of a climate change research project. These seedlings will be measured and monitored over time to provide important data on plant growth and survivorship.



The wet, cool weather this spring was challenging, but provided ideal conditions for planting thousands of seedlings in Surry Forest. These were part of four separate projects and involved many organizations and volunteers.

Most of the seedlings were purchased and planted through a grant from Project Canopy, a program run by the Maine Forest Service. More than 2,000 seedlings were planted out into Surry Forest to increase its diversity and resilience, and over 100 were planted into a fenced nursery to be grown into shade trees

Taking Our Show on the Road

The oldest Millennials are nearing 40, and they are a big topic of conversation in conservation these days. Now the largest demographic in the American workplace, land trusts must have their participation, as we talk about conserving land in perpetuity. We need to be involving this generation of voters, leaders, and donors so that they will carry on the important work of conservation.

The Trust has worked to include younger voices on both its board and staff, and Development Director Chrissy Allen has worked to connect our work with the wider Millennial community. You may remember a campaign she ran last year, called 40Under40, involving Millennial favorites like social media, crowd funding, and beer. Other organizations took notice and she was invited to lead a session on the subject at the state land trust conference, along with Board Vice-President Samantha Haskell and local filmmaker Tate Yoder. She also collaborated on a report for the Land Trust Alliance titled "Developing the Millennial Leaders That Land Trusts Need" which will be featured in their *Saving Land* publication later this year.

Now Chrissy and Samantha are taking their show on the road, teaming up with millennial staff at a New York land trust, and leading a half-day session at the national Land Trust Alliance's Rally 2019. They will discuss strategies for including Millennial leadership across staff and boards, and also reaching out to donors and volunteers.

This is an important topic for organizations playing the long game, and we're proud to tell you that BHHT is leading the way.

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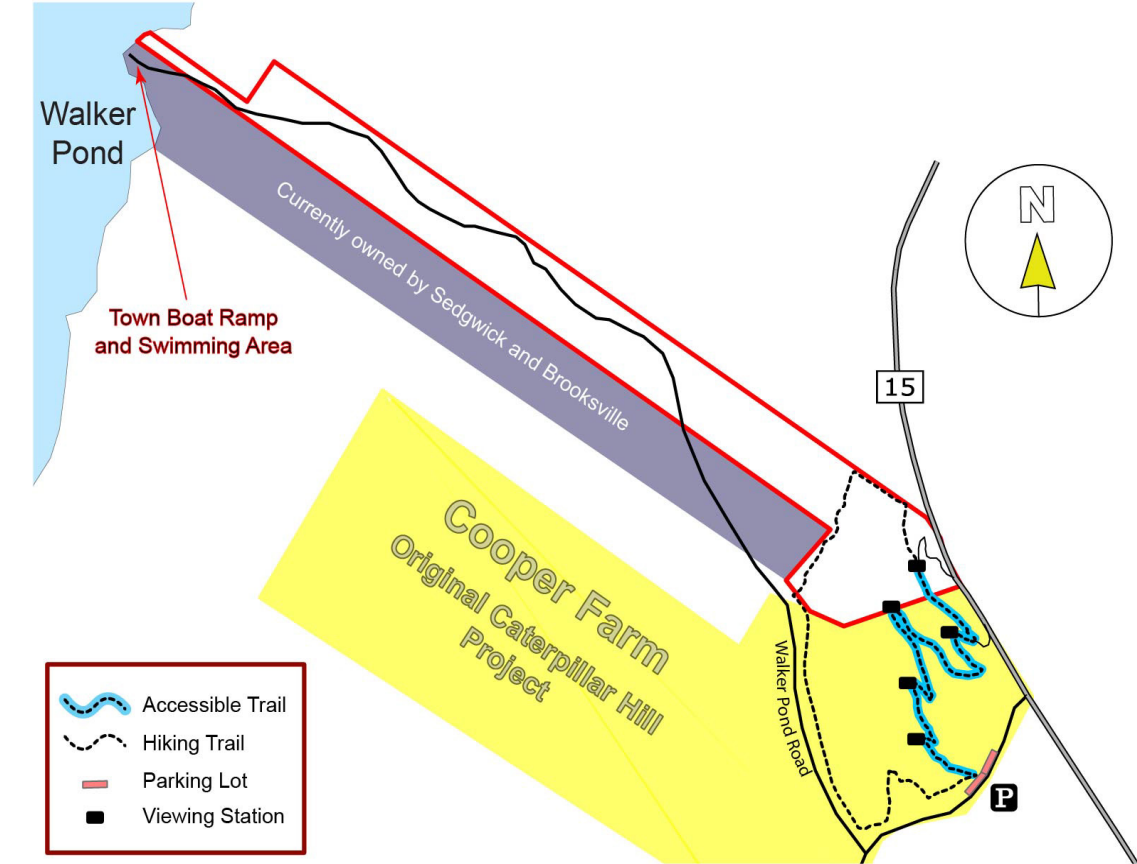
On August 14, from 5-9 pm, BHHT will be hosting an Auction at the Boatyard Grill in Blue Hill to benefit our work on Caterpillar Hill. Secretary of State Matt Dunlap will be our auctioneer and all proceeds from the evening will go to the Caterpillar Hill project. (To learn more about this event and the auction items, please visit <https://bluehillheritagetrust.org/2019/auction/>).

In December of 2018, we completed the purchase of 32 additional acres on Caterpillar Hill, which we added to our Cooper Farm holding. The property runs from the old gallery building on Rte 15, down to Walker Pond near the public boat launch and swimming area.

Our primary goal in conserving this land was to protect and open up the view of Eggemoggin Reach and the islands. In the coming months we will remove the buildings, which are structurally unsound at this point, and open the site for use. Equally important to completing this phase of the project, however, is to make the entire site more accessible, because many people enjoy the view from the parking area, but are not able to walk the trails through the blueberry field.

When our fundraising is complete, we will expand the parking area on the Walker Pond Rd. and make the trail to the highpoint a universally accessible path, wide and gently graded enough for easy use. There will also be benches and viewing areas along the way.

Our goal is to invite people into the landscape in a way that will not interfere with the view from the top, by blending into its surroundings. Work will begin on this in 2020.



growing town with safe, scenic pedestrian trails. We are doing this thanks to government and foundation funding, and through the private donations of those concerned about this issue.

A new gravel walking path through the iconic blueberry fields at Caterpillar Hill, as well as the mostly complete John H. Murphy Memorial Trail on George Stevens Academy's property, off Main St and Tenney Hill in Blue Hill, will provide access for people of varying ages and mobility levels to experience the physical and mental benefits of being in nature. These trails will provide inclusive scenic spaces which allow all community members to connect with the land and its beauty. These projects stand alone in increasing accessibility, but one in particular is part of a larger vision for one of our towns.

For several years BHHT has been working on trail connections to address a need for pedestrian and bicycle connectivity throughout the town of Blue Hill. Blue Hill Community Development has taken the lead on this and has developed a "connectivity plan" along with BHHT and numerous other stakeholders in the community. Part of this plan is increased and better sidewalks, and BHCD and the town have secured a half million dollars for this aspect of the plan. Our part is the improvement and increased accessibility of our South Street-Parker Point Trail, which will complete a loop connecting South Street to Downtown.

This trail, already heavily used by the Blue Hill community, will be rehabilitated to provide a safer tread surface, but also will be reworked to reduce erosion and sedimentation within the watershed. The goal is designed to bring users from the town center to businesses and schools on South Street without using a vehicle or walking along a paved road. Users will benefit from the physical exercise and mental relaxation that come with hiking through the woods, but they will also be reducing emissions associated with motorized travel. Our hope is this will become a viable method of daily movement, and that people and the environment will both benefit. Thanks to grant funding through AARP, the Quimby Family Foundation, L.L. Bean, and the Bureau of Parks and Lands, work on both this and the Murphy trail will be completed this season and we anticipate a grand opening sometime in the fall.

The final phase of our work to increase accessibility will be the new trail at Caterpillar Hill, which is slated to begin in 2020. This new trail will give everyone the opportunity to take in that iconic view in the beautiful natural setting of the blueberry fields, rather than along the roadside. Fundraising is ongoing for this project.

