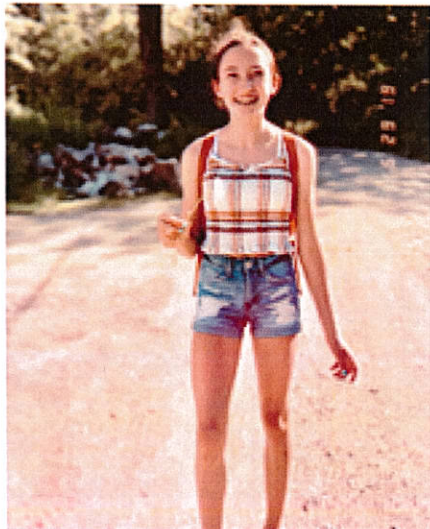

The Watershed Weekly

Conservation Newsletter



This is a picture of Patten Stream taken by me.



Kathleen Stephens

Grade 8

Blue Hill Heritage Trust

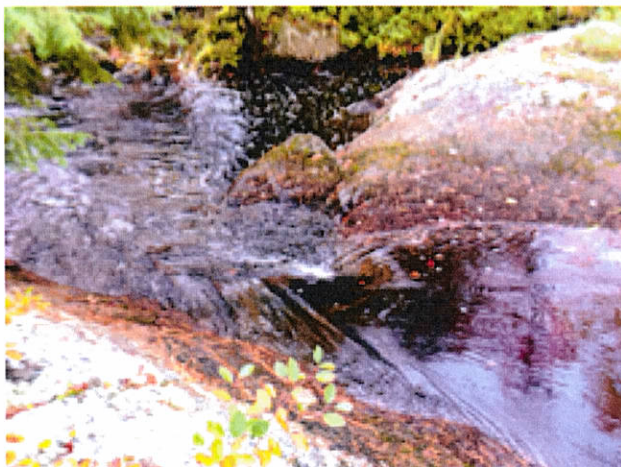
BHHT is a nationally accredited nonprofit, donor-based land conservation organization founded by residents of the Blue Hill Peninsula in coastal Maine. They work to conserve farmland, forests, wetlands, and wildlife habitat in the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Mission Statement

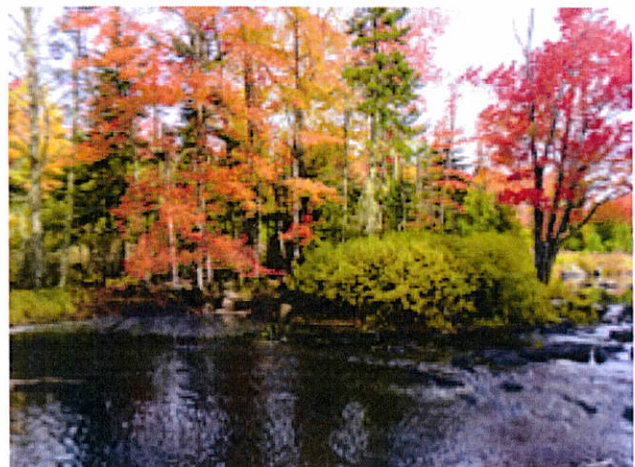
"To lead in conserving land, water, and wildlife habitat on the greater Blue Hill Peninsula. To promote ecological, economic, and community health for this and future generations." - Blue Hill Heritage Trust

Patten Stream

Patten Stream is a preserve near Surry Village. A winding trail brings you through 41 acres of conservation property. The round trip hike with both loops is about one and a half miles long. The South Loop Trail goes along the top of the slope, bringing you closer and closer to the water. It's filled with hemlock trees all along the ridge. The view of the stream is stunning, as the water flows through the rocks. Sitting on the edge of the water, I felt a wave of calm over me as I watched bubbles float through the water. The Spur Trail connects the North and South Loops. The North Loop Trail heads along the shore of Patten Stream then comes to a small bridge. Crossing the bridge you can see a small island covered with red oaks. Later you come to a point that has a stunning view of the stream. Then the trail turns right and heads back to the Spur Trail. BHHT purchased this land in 2013 for a family that had owned it for decades. They were happy that the organization was able to acquire it.



This is a picture of water flowing down the rocks at Patten Stream taken by Keira Stearns.



This is a picture of Patten Stream taken by me.

Ferry Landing

Ferry Landing is a property in Brooksville on the Bagaduce River with twenty-three acres of fields and woods. The area offers habitat for deer, small mammals, and birds. The hike is one mile long and takes you through the property to the shore. The Landing is a great place to take out a canoe or kayak according to Blue Hill Heritage Trust. In the 1800s, there was a ferry that transported people from Brooksville to Castine across the Bagaduce River.



This is a picture of mushrooms on the trail to the landing taken by Keira Stearns



This is a picture of the water at Ferry Landing taken by Keira Stearns.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is an invasive insect that kills hemlock trees. They come from Asia. They can be seen on the underside of branches at the base of the hemlock's needles. They feed on the tree's sugars and starches. This damages the tree by disrupting the flow of nutrients to its needles.

Hemlocks aren't only beautiful trees. They're also important because they provide shelter for deer. In the winter they trap heat under their thick branches and create an area with less snow on the ground for the deer to stay. In the summer they provide shade.

Our Findings

We checked for Woolly Adelgid at our school and at the Patten Stream Preserve. At our school the hemlocks were pretty far into the woods from our cross country trail. They were on a relatively steep hill next to the stream. At the Patten Stream Preserve there was more of a path with hemlocks on the sides of it. Thankfully, my group didn't find anything on the branches of the trees, and neither did any of the other groups. This means that Hemlock Woolly Adelgid haven't spread to our part of Eastern Maine yet.

Alewives

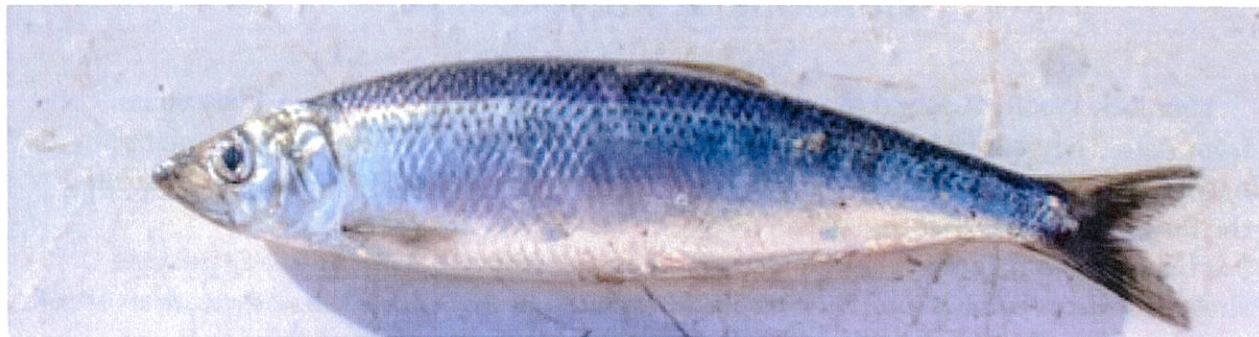
The alewife is a type of fish found in rivers and streams along the Maine coast. They spawn in freshwater then migrate to the ocean where they mature. Then the offspring return to the spawning area. They arrive in May to early June then move upstream into lakes and ponds to spawn.

Current Projects

People are working to provide fishways for the alewives to migrate to the spawning areas. A fishway is a series of pools built like steps to let fish bypass a dam or waterfall. A fishway allows alewives to swim upstream while resting in between steps.

Importance of Alewives in Maine

Alewives are important to Maine because they provide an alternative prey for birds such as the osprey and eagle. They also provide cover for upstream migrating salmon that are preyed on by eagles and osprey. They offer vital nutrients needed to maintain a healthy watershed.



This is a picture of an alewife from mass.gov

The Bagaduce watershed

A watershed is the area of land around a body of water that slopes downhill. Watersheds are important because they provide habitat for lots of plants and animals. They are also important because water needs a place to go. The watershed allows the water to flow down to the ocean. Otherwise the land would erode and become flooded. Blue Hill Mountain is a part of the Bagaduce Watershed. Water flows down the mountain and ends up in the ocean. To keep your watershed healthy don't leave trash or animal waste on the ground. They will eventually end up in the ocean and cause problems for the wildlife living there. Don't pour hazardous chemicals down the drain, because that will also end up in the ocean. Take them to a hazardous waste center. Use organic fertilizers.



This is a diagram of a watershed from Bedford County Conservation District.

