There was an intricate set of do’s and don’ts this year with COVID-19, but Blue Hill Heritage Trust pushed through with hiring two interns under the James W. Dow Intern Program. This year was our third consecutive year having two fully funded summer interns, and we think it turned out to be a pretty typical summer, despite masks and social distance.

In early June Miranda Flora, a recent graduate from Colorado State University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Natural Resources Management arrived in Blue Hill and quarantined at her donated housing in South Blue Hill. In mid-June, Andrew Czwakiel, a rising senior at University of Maine-Orono in Ecology and Environmental Sciences, joined the team thanks to funding from Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s Richard G. Rockefeller Intern Program.

Miranda and Andrew quickly became valued members of the “family,” and brought broad educational and practical experience to the organization. We had twenty-six applicants for these positions, which made us feel like BHHT has excelled in providing an experience coveted by many, providing experience in all aspects of land trust work.

Our interns learn trail maintenance and construction, outreach, forest management, communications and development, and land management, but our overall goal is to teach a stewardship ethic that goes beyond just how to take care of trails or the forest. We are helping develop the next generation of conservationists, from those that want a career in conservation and land management, to future philanthropists who wish to support important conservation work everywhere.

Funding for the intern program received a huge boost this year from the Anahata Foundation, and the endowment for interns is now close to the $100,000 level. Our target for the endowment is $400,000 to fund the program in perpetuity.

We are greatly appreciative of this gift and are very happy to see our passion for this program being shared by our partners.

Planning for next year’s crew of interns is in the works, even as we miss this summer’s team. If you would like to learn more about our past interns, you can find a link to the program on our website. If you would like to donate to the James W. Dow Intern Fund, you can do that on our website too.

Everyone should be aware of the ways the 2020 CARES Act can benefit charitable giving, by making a new benefit available (up to $300 per taxpayer or $600 for a married couple) on charitable donations, even for those who take the standard deduction and do not itemize. For those who do itemize deductions, there are also changed rules that will benefit them and the organizations they support. We very much hope that you will take advantage of these one-year tax changes to support our work, and we also hope you will consider an increased donation. It would really make a difference this year.

Our work is your work, and we thank you for being our partner. With your help, we will stay strong and ready to serve our communities and environmental health of the peninsula.

www.bluehillheritagetrust.org
Looking Forward to 2021   Hans Carlson, Executive Director

Please stay safe and well.

of that mission to discover. I don’t know if we will ever
for the benefit of everyone, and there are always new facets
important. In the end, when people come together on the
field and adjacent woodland, and they gave the town of Sedgwick an adjoining lot, so that people
That Salt Pond property came to us in 2017, a gift from the Next Generation Foundation of Maine,
community, as well as help community, as number of volunteers noted afterward. Those who dug
Harvest happened in September (cover photo), and delivery was made to the food pantry. Because of
thousands of people this spring, but this was another way that land was proving central to our lives.
In good times and challenging times, land is respite, land is learning, land is sanctuary. Land is also sustenance we were
reminded, and in challenging times that may be most important.
In the end, when people come together on the land like this, and put that effort to work with it for the
mutual benefit, land is also the heart of community.
The same is true when we come together to protect land for the benefit of all.
The central mission of the Trust is just that, to protect land for the benefit of everyone, and we are always new facets of that mission to discover. I don’t know if we will ever
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Two New Trails in Downtown Blue Hill        George Fields, Associate Director

Starting the Trail

Staff, interns, and volunteers
work clearing trees and prepping the site for construction.

About the same time that we were buttoning up the age-friendly trail for the winter, BHHT received a grant from the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (ME BP&L) for the revitalization of the PP-SS trail.

Much of the 2019 trail building season was impacted by wet weather and as a result the age-friendly
trail was not in a good position to help, and the potatoes grew through the summer.

This Spring, as the weather was getting warmer and we were all feeling some

Two New Programs for the Fall    Landere Naisbitt, Outreach Coordinator

Outreach, by necessity is ever adapting to the times and needs of the community, and
this is particularly true in 2020. This Fall we have launched two new programs to serve public need during the Covid era, which we hope will meet current demand and also set the stage for future growth.

New Programming for the Fall  

Landrah Naisbitt, Outreach Coordinator

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