



My memory of Earth Day 1970 is of a cool spring day in central Massachusetts. I went to a small school that had a big front lawn dotted with apple trees, and I remember spending that whole day out there involved in environmental activities and learning. That word "environmental" was new in the popular lexicon, and it was indicative of how we were rethinking our relationship with both the land beneath our feet and the planet we inhabit.

The "blue marble" photograph of Earth from space – the image that would become the Earth Day flag – had not yet been taken. The first moon landing, however, had happened the previous summer and people had seen the beauty of a blue and welcoming Earth rising over a cold, desolate lunar horizon. That word environmental was part of a growing understanding that Earth was our collective and very finite

spacecraft, and this marked a shift in consciousness for many people. For a first-grader in 1970 – the youngest of Baby Boomers – this was a defining moment.

That day was a defining moment in a generation of work really, efforts which had begun a decade earlier, but which bore most of their fruit after April 22, 1970. Political action led to the creation of the EPA, and to clean air and water legislation; public interest brought increasing environmental education in schools, and most important for my purposes here, a new skepticism about unchecked development put a focus on local, nonprofit land conservation. Before the 1970s, conservation had been almost exclusively federal and state business, but that changed with the birth of the local and regional land trust movement. Here on the Blue Hill peninsula, this led to The Castine Trust being formed, in 1977, and then Blue Hill Heritage Trust, in 1985.

This was part of a generational transition in leadership which reshaped conservation around newly identified needs, using new organizational tools, and this has resulted in many thousands of conserved acres on the peninsula. This conserved land is a tremendous recreational resource, but importantly these lands are conserved farms and protected habitat and water resources too. All this together has protected a sense of place, and a heritage which is as important as the land. This was possible because a new generation saw things differently 35-40 years ago, and enacted their vision.

This is key as I consider the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, and the 35th year of BHHT operations. We are once again in a moment of generational transition, and it's a moment to be embraced. Conservation is evolving again – quickly – and this is being driven by climate change on the one hand, but also by the perspectives of younger people choosing to live here on the peninsula and bring new

insights into its future. The land we protect is a community asset, and the needs of community are being judged as central to future conservation. This means the work of conserving land has gotten much more complex, and the kind of organization it takes to carry out conservation is more complex too. This challenges us to see Trust operations as much more central to and involved in community than they appeared necessary in 1985.

This has changed BHHT for the better I think, and we have young, smart, and talented people stewarding land and community, and also helping to lead the way. As we move into another generation of conservation on the peninsula, I am confident the Trust will do good work here, but also be an example beyond our peninsula, thanks to this generational evolution.

with Collaboration and Innovation

I realized recently that I am the first Board President of this organization who is younger than the organization itself. The Trust's first easements were established in the summer and fall of '86, only a few months before the Christmas morning when I was born at the Blue Hill Hospital, and I grew up with the benefit of its conserved land. The movement for small, local land trusts and conservation organizations grew around the country as I was growing up, and so all the places I've ever lived have been shaped by their conservation work. Thanks to the perseverance and foresight of the previous generation of leaders at BHHT, I'm fortunate to have known some of the most beautiful parts of this peninsula only as public spaces, open and accessible to all.



Since becoming involved with the Trust I've had many conversations with my peers, and occasionally with myself, about how easy it is to take these trails, views, open spaces, and wild places for granted — we've never felt the threat that they might not be available. But as my generation begins to embrace adulthood, have children of our own, I see our perspective shifting to understand that the work of protecting these places is never really done. Rather it's part of an ongoing relationship between our community and our landscape, because conservation isn't driven by nostalgia. It's not about "preserving" a place by trying to keep it the same. The work is embracing what it means for lands to grow and change in sustainable ways, protecting and caring for habitat and resources from watersheds to farmlands, and creating landscapes and communities that are part of larger, resilient systems.

The generational transition happening now is one of collaboration and innovation. By listening to a range of perspectives we have the ability to solve problems more effectively. It allows for the vital combination of wisdom and energy, of ingenuity and experience. Land protection is inherently inter-generational work and with this broadening involvement, conservation is more dynamic than ever. This is illustrated in the diversity across our board, staff, donors, and trail users in terms of the range of ages, politics, economics, and reasons for engaging with conservation. We are supported by families who moved to the peninsula recently as well as people whose families have lived here for

generations. We engage donors who have been giving to this organization for decades, and attract first-time donors every month. We have advocates whose parents supported our work, and whose children support our work too. I see these facts as some of the most important metrics of we success have our doing because. we're things in ways that serve both the land and people, for generations to come.



Your Support Makes a Sound Organization



Support for Blue Hill Heritage Trust comes in two broad categories. First, there are your unrestricted donations, given with no stipulation on how we use them. In 2019, the median unrestricted gift was \$100, and your total unrestricted donations were 399,632. This funded 70% of our operating budget, the remainder coming from grant funding, leases, and merchandise sales, as well as a draw on the earnings from our investments.

Of the total operational budget, 75% went to land protection and stewardship (this included funding a Jim Dow summer intern and \$17,000 in real estate taxes), 15% to administration and general operations, and 10% to fundraising. In 2019 we added a full-time education and outreach coordinator, which brought our staff to six. We see work in our communities as vital to future land protection, and have built this need into our long-term budgeting.

The second category of Trust income is restricted donations, bequests, and grants for projects and long-term stewardship. Restricted income is not necessarily spent in the year donated, but held until project completion, and in 2019 we expended \$775,467 in restricted donations and grants. Most of this restricted money went to the purchase of Meadowbrook Forest and abutting properties, described further on in

2019 Real Estate Taxes - \$17,119



Though we are a tax-exempt organization, we feel paying open-space property taxes is an important part of supporting our communities

2019 INCOME (not yet	audited)
Unrestricted for operations	\$399,632
Restricted for Acquisitions	\$105,331
Grants for Programs and Pr	ojects \$49,826
Leases, Merchandise, Other	\$62,884
Interest & dividends	\$71,490
Total	\$689,163

2019 EXPENSES	(not yet audite	d)
Conservation & O	utreach	\$433,341
Management & O	perations	\$86,668
Fundraising		\$57,779
Total		\$577,788

this report. We also expended \$49,826 in dedicated grant funding for stewardship projects, most of which was new trail construction and trail improvement.

Fulfilling our responsibility to the lands we conserve, the communities we serve, and to the financial resources we steward is only possible thanks to your consistent and generous donations. The contributions you have made and continue to make allow us to bring new lands under conservation, to complete and improve upon education and outreach projects, and to further our stewardship work.

Thank you for all that you do.

Each year the Trust has a financial audit conducted by an independent CPA. The Trust's fiscal year is the calendar year

2018 Audited Financial Position		
Total Liabilities & Net Assets (Including Land)		
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$6,091,823	
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$6,063,279	
Current Liabilities & Long-term Debt	\$232,944	
Total	\$12,388,046	

Protecting Land in 2019



Thirty-five years ago Blue Hill Heritage Trust began protecting land, and 2019 was another banner year for conversation on the peninsula. We completed the purchase of the 2000-acre Meadowbrook Forest project, which we have been working on since 2017, and purchased an adjacent 78 acres from the City of Ellsworth.

In addition to these purchases, we received many generous gifts of land last year. Wilbur and Margery Saunders, of Surry, donated a 52-acre parcel near Surry Forest. This parcel is east of the Toddy Pond Road and is mix of hardwood uplands and wetlands. We broke the news in last year's report that the Lawrence Family Foundation was going to add to our Patten Stream Preserve with a pledged gift of 138 acres on the east side of the stream.

Total Acres Conserved

10000

Easements
BHHT Owned

2000

Angelo

We are now in ownership of that land, and are pleased to report that an anonymous gift late in 2019 allowed us to add the 110-acre contiguous parcel to the south. This will provide pedestrian access into all of our property east of Patten Stream Preserve, including Meadowbrook Forest. It will now be possible to walk from Surry to Route 1 on the roads and trails on all these properties.

In late 2019, BHHT was also gifted an easement on 5.67 acres on the Salt Pond in Sedgwick. Candice Bray and Peter Smith donated a Conservation Easement over the grassy meadow, spotted with clumps of birch, spruce, and bayberry allowing public access for recreational, hand-carry boating on the Salt Pond. BHHT will develop a walking path to the shore and a small two-car parking area adjacent to Hales Hill Road in the summer.

We are very grateful to all our partners in conservation this past year!



Stewardship and Education on the Peninsula

Caring for the land is at the heart of the BHHT community and our outreach, which reached more than 2500 people last year, not including our school programs. Whether it's adults learning backyard forest management for wildlife and resources at Kingdom Woods, or highschoolers waking up at the crack of dawn to join a beach clean up at Carter Nature Preserve, land stewardship is central. This ethic is evident, too, when local organizations donate berry bushes and seedlings to our community garden, and it manifests when kids sit under the cardinal flowers on the banks of Patten Stream and write poetry to give words to their sense of and their love for place. These words are direct acts of care, though more subtle than the others, and they are critical to a

deep stewardship ethic later on.

In 2019, we started a Forest Day pilot program that takes children out to the woods weekly, in all weather and all seasons, and there have been some wonderful learning experiences. One young girl said she disliked the outdoors and didn't want to participate, and to begin she would sit on a stump and look glum. Then something spoke to her in the experience and she realized how much she loved being out. Several weeks into the program she was carrying giant sticks to build a fort and cracking them over her knee for our firewood collection. She was happier than she could have imagined! Sometimes the first step in becoming a steward of the land is simply becoming comfortable and building friendships with the other life on the land. Sometimes it is gaining confidence in a world that is less and less familiar to children today.



school Our programs are about nature immersion: wandering, exploring, playing, and spending the time needed to developing relationships. And you have to spend time through rain and shine, ice and mud: partake in worm rescue



missions, taste new flavors of pine and wintergreen, follow tracks and scat under thick balsam groves. You have to come back again and again knowing there is always more to learn and to share in/with a place. That is when lifetime relationships really begin to form and give rise to empathy, care, and passion for the land.

BHHT, we believe that good environmental education about more than learning information and skills. kindergarteners run around the forest on a snowy day freeing up branches that are covered in snow and explain that "the trees are cold so we are shaking them off," this is foundation for information and skills. "See how their branches bounce back up? They are happy!" and this intuitive act honors that trees life and even feelings. kindergartners might not know the scientific names of those tree species, yet, but they care about them. They have empathy for them, and research shows that this is the first step in many peoples' trajectory to becoming a conservationists. And that is what we are trying to create after all, the next generation of caring conservationists who will take care of the land we have cared for before them.

Reaching Out to Our Community

In 2019, we asked for your feedback, in a series of listening sessions held over last summer, and also with a survey about the Trust's work. Both of these excercises were of great value to us in our strategic thinking, and we are very grateful to everyone who took the time to engage in one or both, so we wanted to report back to you what we heard.

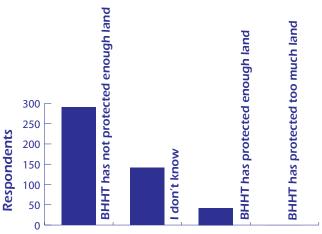
Over June, July, August, and September, we met twice in each of the seven towns we serve to ask what you were thinking, both about our work and conservation in general. We were pleased to hear how much our communities value the Trust, but we also heard that you have concerns about the future.

Many people raised the issue of farmland conservation and the need to address issues of food insecurity with more local production. Locally grown food also seems more stable than over-relying on global production, and people wanted to see more protection of both working farms and fallow land that might make good farmland in the future.

People had similar questions and concerns about source water protection, including streams and wetlands. Many people noted how quite a few of our towns are populated around the edges, with big blocks of forest and wetland in the interiors. This is land historically used as woodlot, but this has also protected it as vital habitat for wildlife and plants, as well as watershed protection. The general hope was that these areas would remain open and protected.

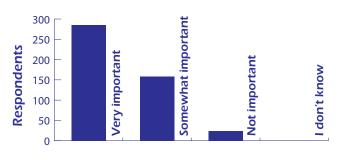






Does BHHT Have Enough Land Conserved?

In the background of many of these conversations was concern about climate change. People have a clear picture of this issue on a global scale, but had many questions about what change would mean for local land and water. How will sea-level rise impact land, animals, and plants? Will we see an influx of people escaping places more seriously impacted? People valued our work, also our collaboration with other organizations on issues related to our mission, and wanted to see us help lead on this subject with our land conservation and educational efforts.



How Important is Continued Conservation



People also had a lot of questions about the Trust as an organization, and this was particularly true of the long-term needs we have for stewardship. Conservation only begins with the purchase of land, and these sessions gave us an opportunity to share with folks the financial and organizational needs that come with our promise to protect land in perpetuity.

We went out seeking information and advice from people, and we got a great deal of those, but we also learned that people have a lot of questions about our operations and our work in the community. This is particularly true now that we have grown into an organization that can intersect with people's lives in a number of different ways, but these may not give folks a complete picture.

In addition to the listening sessions, last summer we also asked people in our communities to respond to a survey about the Trust. We are very grateful that almost five hundred of you took the time to answer our questions, the answers to which are summarized here.

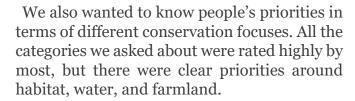
We wanted to know your perceptions of how much land we have already protected and whether it was a priority to protect more. As you can see on the graphics on page 6, a great majority of you felt that more land should be protected, and that it was important for us to continue this work. This tied together with what we heard in the listening sessions.

Annual Meeting of Bl

Public Meeting To Be Follo

August 22, 2

Please join us to hear more about the Trust year's meeting will be held in Blue Hill. Detai available later this year.



Lastly, we wanted to understand how people valued the outreach programing we are doing in our communities. This is a much newer aspect of our operations, only becoming a focus for us in the last five years, and aimed at engaging this and the next generations in the work of conservation on the peninsula.

individual In the comments about programming it was clear that people value it highly, but it is also clear that the work of land protection is still seen as more of a priority. This is true of both the outreach programming we are currently doing and also the list of potential activities we made part of the survey.

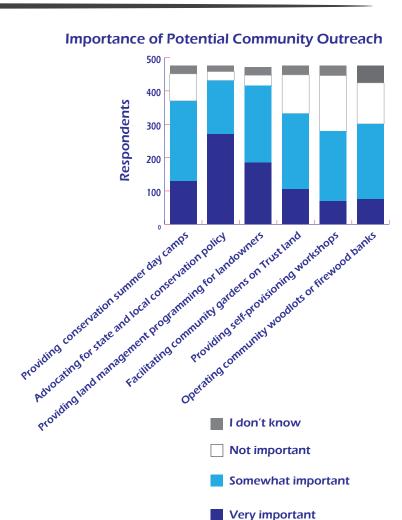
A large majority of people see BHHT as important or somewhat important ecological health and community wellbeing on the peninsula, and we were struck by the overwhelmingly positive comments people made individually.

As the Trust works on its next strategic plan, during 2020, the information we gathered last summer will be central in our thinking. It is our goal to keep the Trust at the center of good work in our region and to be a engaged partner in our communities. Thank you all again for taking the time to keep us connected and informed.

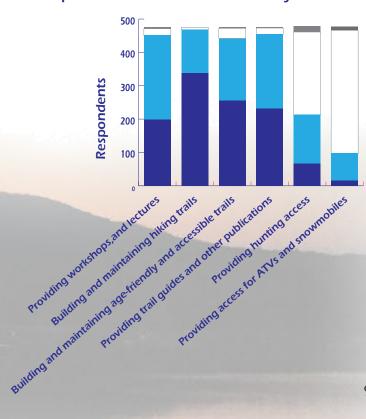
ue Hill Heritage Trust owed By Our Annual BBQ

2020, 3-7 pm

and to celebrate our 35th Anniversary. This Is on location and tickets for the BBQ will be Please join us if you can.



Importance of Potential Community Outreach



Our Amazing Community and Partners

Volunteers

Josh Adam Lucas Allen

Norman Alt

Pam Aubuchon-Fields

Christopher Austin

Mary Barnes

Jo Barrett

Johanna Barrett

Tony Beardsley

Ellen Best

Bundy Boit

Bailey Bowden

Gerry Brache

Susan Brookman

Eli Budget

Ken Burgess

Charlie Cannon

DJ Case

Lyra Cauley

Leslie Clapp

Peter Clapp

Jane Clifton

Pete Colman

Mike Cook

Terri Cooliong

Julia Cooper

Bonnie Copper

Douglas Cowan

Hugh & Susan Curran

Randy Curtis

Hannah Cyrus

Leif Deetjen

Chris DeGraw

Blaise deSibour

Chris DeVore

Alison Dibble

Sean Dooley

Matt Dunlap

Merrie Elev Ben Emory

Bud Fisher

Larry Flood

Friends of Morgan Bay

Maggie Garfield

Aaron Glazer

Candace & Adam Gray

Linda Greenlaw & Crew

Susan Guilford

Samantha Haskell

Joe Hermans

Max Hillgraff

Jon & Peggy Hopkins

Horsepower Farm

Ann Humphrey

Jim Kannry

Paul Kelly

Donald King

Riley King

King Hill Farm

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Bryan McLellan

John Merrifield

Nina Milliken

Nancy Morris

Sue Morse

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Norman & Paula Mrozicki

River Muise

Katherine O'Dell

Sarah O'Malley

Libby Orcutt

Brooke Parish

Goshia Parker

Dan Parrott

Tim Parson

Jim Paulus

Galen Peracca

David Porter

Quill's End Farm

Patricia Quirk

Max Rhine

Heather Richard

Thomas Richardson

Anne Rivers

Lilli Robbins

Michael Rossney

Katy Rossow

Jed Sawyer

Carla Scocchi Dorinda Sherwin

Susan Hand Shetterly

Nicholas Sichterman

Nikos Singelis

Bob Slaven

Strong Brewing Company

Bob Sullivan

Julianne Taylor

Phyllis Taylor

The Seed Barn-Lee Lee

Kate Tomkins

Garbriella Trov

Kara Tyson

Tracy Utting

Michael Wade Hannah Webber

Laurie White

Anna Wind

Cynthia Winings Tate Yoder

Collaborative Partners

Acadia Wildlife Center Arborvine & DeepWater Brewing Co. Bar Harbor Bank and Trust Blue Hill Books Blue Hill Chamber of Commerce

Blue Hill Consolidated School

Blue Hill Country Club Blue Hill Garden Club

Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Blue Hill Public Library

Blue Hill YMCA

Brooklin Garden Club

Brooklin Inn

Brooksville Free Public Library

Brooksville School

Bucks Harbor Market

Camden National Bank

Castine Yacht Club

Colloguy Downeast Compass Rose Books

Craig Brook Fish Hatchery

Cynthia Winnings Gallery

Downeast Audubon

Downeast Conservation Network

Downeast Institute

Downeast Salmon Federation

Earth Watch

El El Friioles

fête - La Mason

First National Bank

Frenchmen's Bay Conservancy

Friends of Morgan Bay

George Stevens Academy

Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust

Hancock County 4-H

Harbor School Healthy Peninsula

Holbrook Island Sanctuary

Horsepower Farm

Island Heritage Trust

Keeping Track King Hill Farm

Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries

Maine Coast Heritage Trust

Maine Conservation Corp.

Maine Farmland Trust

Maine Wabanaki REACH

Mainescape Garden Shop

Native Gardens of Blue Hill

Nichols Day Camp Northern Light Blue Hill Hospital

Old Ackley Farm

Parker Ridge

Penobscot Alewife Committee Quills End Farm

Reversing Falls Sanctuary

Schoodic Institute

SEED Barn

Strong Brewing Company Surry Elementary School

The Bay School

The Blue Hill Co-op

The Gatherings The Shaw Institute

The Simmering Pot

Way of the Earth School WERU

Wild & Scenic Film Festival Wild Seed Project

Witherle Memorial Library

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Visionary \$50,000 and up

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John & Carol Merrifield Sam Miller Little Lorenzo Mitchell Diane & David Modesett

Annual giving is the financial cornerstone of all our work, and those individuals, families, and private foundations who contribute \$1000 and over to our operating budget annually make up our Heritage Society.

Heritage Society members are key to conserving new lands and stewarding the lands already protected. They are also the foundation of all the community and educational work we do.





Thank You for Your Gift to Operations in 2019

Your Donations Make It Happen!

Business Donors

\$500-\$999

Adam Gallery Ellen Best, Attorney at Law Fairwinds Florist & Gifts La Mason, Bon Fete Cuisine Mainescape Garden Shop TradeWinds Marketplace

\$250-\$499

Blue Hill Books Downeast Chapter of Maine Audubon Society

\$100-\$249

5 Star Nursery & Orchard
Acadia Law Group, LLC
Anderson Gallery
Arborvine Restaurant/DeepWater Brewing Co.
BHD Containers
Birch Moon Midwifery
Blue Hill Co-op Community Market & Cafe
Blue Hill Farmers Market
Blue Hill Hydraulics, Inc.
Blue Hill Inn
Blue Hill Peninsula Chamber of Commerce

Blue Hill Wine Shop
Blue-Zee Farm
Burman Land & Tree Company, LLC
Cassi Lu Lobster Boat
Castine Kayak Adventures
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King Hill Farm

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honors those who have
created a legacy through
Blue Hill Heritage Trust in
their will or trust

To receive more information on joining the Steward's Circle,
please contact?

Christina B. Allen, Development Director
Christy@bluehilheritagetrust.org
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PO Box 222
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Michael & Kate Mainen Barbara & Rick Malm Edward Manuel & Catherine Thompson Norm Marcus James L. Markos Jr. John Marshall & Kathy Olsen **Curtiss Martin** La Mason Maria Matthews & Michael Scott Dr. Paul & Lyn Mayewski Heather McCargo & Brian McNiff Thomas McGuire Christina McHenry Jane McNichol & James Conboy Marie Merkel Ray F. Merrill Eugene B. Mever Scott & Ruth Miller Steven & Maria Mishkind William & Carolyn Mor Michael Morrison Linda Murnik & Hugh Nazor Martha Murphy Murphy-Shrewsbury Charitable Fund Debra Nygaard & Alan Hais Mary Katherine O'Brien & Thomas Bacheller Burr & Robin O'Connor Sarah O'Mallev Joseph & Elizabeth Pacileo Christopher Packard and Annie Hayes-Grillo Diana Page & Oscar Ruiz Kristen Parker Ann B. Parson Esther Parson & Stephen Strand Timothy & Elizabeth Parson Paul & Kip Perkinson Calvin & Pam Peters McKim C. & Linda Peterson Woody Petry Mark & Martha Pokras **David Porter Bonnie Preston** Audrey Pritchard & Lorenzo Goco

Eve Pritchard

Erin Ray

Fred & Rosamond Rea

Nancy & Jim Reinish

Kathryn Rensenbrink & Jon McMillan

Lenette Richardson

Phil & Rita Roberts

Bruce & Marilyn Rutland

John Ryan

Hugh & Heather Sadlier

James & Bridget Saltonstall

Thomas Schaub

Janet Schlesinger & Jerry Jaffee

Jennifer Schroth & Jonathan Ellsworth

Carla Scocchi

Elsie Sealander

Dorrance & Patty Sexton

Dorinda Sherwin

Susan Hand Shetterly

Susan & Sandy Sierck

Nikos Singelis

Up to \$99

Carol Adams & Rick Armstrong David & Elise Adams Andrew Ames Gavle Anderson Manning

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Oueene Hooper Foster

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Noi Garland

Ron & Carol Anderson Stephanie Aquilina Paul & Julie Astbury Kevin Bach & Michelle Berger Robert & JoDee Edwin Barkdoll Jo Barrett Edward & Emily Beach Carole Beal Dorothy Bean Mark & Martha Bell Trudy & Scot Bell Jeffrey M. Berger & Danielle Rice James Bergin & Judith Garvey Nancy & Warren Berkowitz Alan & Jane Birk Holly Bixby Tom Bjorkman & Roxanne Donahey Dorothea Black Temple & Victoria Blackwood Albert B. & Penny Boardman, III



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Karl & Katherine Schoettle

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Thank You!