



# Tracts & Trails

Annual Newsletter of Scarborough Land Trust

## Second Permanent Trail at Pleasant Hill Preserve Completed!

Weed whackers whining, bush-hogs trashing, tractors rumbling, saws buzzing, and hammers pounding. These were just some of the sounds heard at Pleasant Hill Preserve (PHP) this spring, summer and fall as a small group of hardworking volunteers built the Preserve's second permanent trail.

When we purchased PHP in December 2014, one of our primary goals was to build trails as soon as possible to open this beautiful 135-acre property to the public. In 2015, we contracted with Terrence J. DeWan & Associates of Yarmouth to design a **master plan for the entire trail system**, and completed our first permanent trail in November 2016. Named Eleanor's Trail in honor of anonymous donors to the PHP Capital Campaign, and with additional funding from the Morton-Kelly Charitable Trust, it is **our first ever universal access trail**. Built by Jed Talbot and his OBP Trailworks crew from Turner, Maine, this 1/3-mile trail has a compacted surface of fine crushed stone that can accommodate all visitors, but especially those with wheelchairs, walkers and other assistive devices.

Work on our **second permanent trail** began in earnest this spring. Led by Stewardship Coordinator Toby Jacobs and Stewardship Committee Chair Seth Hanson, the project began

in April and May with the removal of invasive plants and debris, including 40 telephone poles, lots of building debris from beneath our survivor elm tree, and piles of demolition wood near the metal barn. We were able to accomplish this thanks to our all-volunteer Stewardship Committee and the many community volunteers who came out to help at our 4th Annual Spring Clean-up in May and during several corporate workdays. This kind of **dedicated volunteerism** continued throughout the summer and fall and was the key to completing this 1.25-mile loop trail by early October.

Our goal in creating this trail is to allow visitors to **experience different landscapes and ecological zones** on the property, including shaded forest canopies, lovely open meadows, bird-filled wetlands, and a variety of wildlife viewing areas. The loop trail begins to the right or left of the metal barn just before the end of Eleanor's trail. The right-hand trail climbs up into Beach Hill Woods, descends into a field, then meanders through more woods and wetlands before opening into a beautiful area called the Hidden Meadows. From there, the trail loops back to the metal barn with panoramic views of large Pine groves and Aspen stands, and another view of what has

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## President's Message *by Rick Shinay*

As we approach the end of 2017 and celebrate the Land Trust's 40th anniversary, I would like to highlight a number of events and accomplishments that have made the year a success.

Our **new website** was introduced at our Annual Meeting in March, providing virtual visitors expanded resources, including property descriptions, trail maps, volunteer opportunities, and ways to support the important work we are doing to preserve land in Scarborough.



We held many events during the year where many gathered to clean up our properties, learn about invasive plants, and enjoy our properties during a number of **guided nature walks** at Warren Woods and Pleasant Hill Preserve. A midsummer gathering at the

Prouts Neck Yacht Club afforded the opportunity for us to thank our many friends and supporters in that community, and to announce the **establishment of an endowment** funded initially by an anonymous \$40,000 donation in recognition of our 40th anniversary. And we were pleased to once again enjoy a casual evening with members of The Nonesuch Circle at the home of Board member Betts Armstrong, during which we heard from one of the initial founders of the Trust, Wally Fengler, who spoke about his recollections of the Trust's early years.

Work continued at our properties with much of the effort focused on Pleasant Hill Preserve led by Seth Hanson, the Stewardship Committee and many volunteers. **Eleanor's Trail**, our first handicapped accessible trail, extending from the parking area to

the swallow barn, was completed and continues to enjoy much use. And just recently the **first full loop trail** from the end of Eleanor's Trail through the wooded areas and open fields on the southerly side of the property and back to Eleanor's Trail, was completed, including a number of boardwalks. The boardwalk through the second wooded section of the trail, an almost three hundred foot long stretch, is a truly magical spot well worth seeing. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped to complete this important section of our planned trail system at Pleasant Hill Preserve.



After five years as our Executive Director, Kathy Mills moved on to the Maine Farmland Trust where we know she will bring the drive and enthusiasm to her work there as she did at the Trust. Following an extensive search, we are pleased to announce that Rich Bard will be joining us in mid-November as our **new Executive Director**. We are very excited to have Rich on board and look forward to introducing him to our friends and supporters and moving forward under his guidance and leadership.

As we begin our second 40 years, we look forward to continuing the work at our properties, particularly at Pleasant Hill Preserve, to improving and expanding our trails systems for all to use, and to pursuing further acquisitions that will afford the public even greater opportunities to enjoy the land and all that it has to offer. Together, with your volunteer help and continued generous financial support, our efforts to conserve Scarborough's special places will continue for many years to come.

## Meet our New Executive Director Rich Bard

After a thorough 2-month search, Scarborough Land Trust is very pleased to welcome Rich Bard as its new Executive Director. Rich comes to us from Downeast Coastal Conservancy (DCC), a regional land trust in Washington County. As DCC's Executive Director for the past four years, he helped conserve, steward and promote the public use of over 80 properties covering 6,000 acres.

Previously, he served as a wildlife biologist for nearly 10 years with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in their Downeast regional office. There he managed over 10,000 acres of public land, including extensive salt marsh habitat, and conducted a number of wildlife censuses, including eagles, shorebirds, seabirds and deer. He was also involved in a Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Project in Arizona, and served as a zookeeper at the Bronx Zoo in New York and the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans.



A graduate of Cornell University, Rich will soon be moving from East Machias to the Greater Portland area with his wife Becky and their two children Zoe and Max. He will begin his ED duties at the land trust on November 13th.

SLT president Rick Shinay said, "We feel fortunate to have been able to recruit a person like Rich, whose extensive conservation experience and non-profit leadership and fundraising skills will serve our growing land trust well as we move forward."

"I'm delighted to have been chosen for this challenging and rewarding position," said Bard. "I look forward to focusing my energies on a smaller geographic region,

while working with partners like MDIFW, Maine Audubon, and a supportive town to conserve the rich natural diversity in Scarborough."

Rich succeeds Kathy Mills, who served for the past five years as SLT's first full-time Executive Director.

## Second Permanent Trail at PHP Completed!

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been nicknamed “Tree Island,” a tree-covered ledge mound surrounded by fields and wetlands. The master trail plan minimized wetland crossings, but the areas where they were necessary are definite highlights of the trail.

### Building Boardwalks

Over **500 feet of boardwalks were built** to traverse and protect the wetland areas on this trail. Toby and Seth began planning the ambitious boardwalk building project in January. The first delivery of discounted boardwalk framing from Deering Lumber arrived in June and was quickly relocated to the metal barn with the volunteer help of Dick Fowler and his John Deere tractor. After Stewardship Committee members and volunteers from Macpage helped move the boardwalk lumber to the various construction sites with names like Field, Beach Hill, Woodland and Cat ‘n Nine Tail Crossings, boardwalk frame construction began. The vast majority of the work was done between May and September by **three weekly volunteer work parties**.

By the end of July, boardwalk framing for all four crossings was completed, including leveling and stitching the frames together. Then it was time to begin the arduous process of cutting, stacking, staging and nailing many board feet of decking. In August, dueling saws, lumber feeders and decking stackers allowed volunteers and Stewardship Committee members to cut all the required decking lumber, and on Labor Day, thanks to the loan of a John Deere Gator from Chad Little Equipment, they were able to ferry all the decking to the four work sites.



With all materials cut to size and staged in place, it took under a month for our **committed Dream Team** of volunteers to complete the nailing of the decking on 500 feet of boardwalk! This ambitious project was declared complete on Monday evening, October 2nd, under a moonlit sky, when the last nail was driven into the last deck board by Stewardship Coordinator Toby Jacobs. We could not have accomplished the building of this beautiful new trail in only five months without the time and talent of this extraordinary group of volunteers.

“The boardwalk project was a massive undertaking and our dedicated volunteers all rose to the task in a truly amazing way,” said Project Leader Toby Jacobs. “The volunteer group grew throughout the field season in both size and enthusiasm, and I know all visitors to the preserve are going to enjoy the fruits of their labor.”

We would like to recognize and sincerely thank Stewardship Committee Chair **Seth Hanson**, and members **Diane Neal, Donna Betts, Jim & Ann Hancock, Steve Pinette, and Jim & Sandy MacMahon**; Community/Neighborhood Volunteers **Paul Wagner, Deb McDonough, Victoria Broadwater, Susan Williams, Andrew Flewelling, Steve Underwood,**

**Sam Jacob, Steven Jury, Dick Fowler, Kevin McDonough, Daniel and Gayle Brazeau, John Bradford**, as well as our **4th Annual Spring Clean-up volunteers and the Scarborough Democrat and Macpage groups**. Also, special thanks to the following local businesses who generously provided donated or discounted services: **Chad Little Outdoor Equipment, Dick Fowler, Hillside Lumber, Deering Lumber, The Grounds Crew, CPRC Group and ACE Hardware**.

“We are very fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers that pitched in week after week,” said Stewardship Chair Seth Hanson. “It was the high level of dedication that made the completion of this trail and these boardwalks such a great milestone. Everyone has commented on how addicting the project has been and all are looking forward to the next phase of trail building at PHP”

# SLT Celebrates 40 Years of Land Conservation

November 3, 2017 marked our 40th anniversary. We kicked off our anniversary year celebration at our Annual Meeting at Camp Ketcha in March with the unveiling of **a new website and a lively 40th Anniversary video** created by Development-Communication Committee member Dawn Piccolo. The video can be viewed on our new website, along with updated information about our trails and conserved lands, and a feature page on Scarborough's amazing natural heritage.

Several supporters surprised us with **very special 40th anniversary gifts**: 40 Peter Alden autographed copies of National Audubon's *Field Guide to New England* from consummate SLT supporter Eddie Woodin, which we distributed to interested people at our nature walks throughout the year; a creative check from a longtime supporter for \$4040.40; and a very generous \$40,000 gift from an anonymous donor which we will use to seed our first endowment to help ensure the future success of land conservation in Scarborough.

With strong community support, **SLT has conserved more than 1,600 acres of land over the past four decades**, ranging from working farms, forests, watersheds and marshlands. Six large SLT properties are open to the public year-round, offering a variety of landscapes to explore.

A visit to the Silver Brook Trail behind the farmstead at **Broadturn Farm** on Broadturn Road will take you to our largest property, a 434-acre landmark farm that has been brought back to life by SLT and farmers John Bliss and Stacy Brenner. Just down the road is **Fuller Farm Preserve**, our

largest network of trails on 220 acres of sweeping open fields and woods that nudge up against the Nonesuch River. **Sewell Woods** on Ash Swamp Road offers a gentle woods trail on 35 acres that crosses Stuart Brook. New trails at **Warren Woods** on Payne Road take you to a green oasis of 156 acres tucked

between Eight Corners and Cabela's. Next to Camp Ketcha, **Libby River Farm Preserve** encompasses 75 acres with trails that lead to an observation deck overlooking the marsh. Last year, we built our first handicapped accessible trail, the first trail at **Pleasant Hill Preserve**, and this year we have just completed our second permanent trail on this beautiful 135-acre property.

SLT has also worked with a number of partners over the years to conserve land. With Friends of Scarborough Marsh, we helped protect the 45-acre **Gervais property** and the 3-acre **Janelle property**, both of which have been added to Scarborough Marsh.

We helped Maine Farmland Trust protect **Frith Farm, Comstock Farm** and **Waterhouse Farm**. With Portland Museum of Art and Prouts Neck Association, we helped conserve the **land and viewshed of the Winslow Homer Studio**.

None of this would be possible without strong community support, an active Board of Directors, hard-working staff, and dedicated stewardship volunteers who help take care of our lands. Conserving land while Scarborough grows spurred SLT's founders to action back in 1977 and continues to motivate our work today. In this 40th anniversary year, **we celebrate all of the people and partners** who have worked to conserve land in Scarborough, for people, for wildlife – forever.



Winter Walk at PHP led by Gil Paquette



Jed Talbot & Terry DeWan 2017 Annual Meeting Speakers



4th Annual Spring Cleanup Crew at Fuller Farm



Spring Nature Walk at PHP led by Eddie Woodin

# Broadturn Broadside

Driving down Broadturn Road you can't help but smile as you see the rows and rows of beautiful Broadturn Farm produce and flowers. The harvest of organic vegetables, fruits, herbs and flowers from Broadturn Farm can be found in markets and on menus throughout the local area.



Scarborough Land Trust's landmark 434-acre property is a beautiful place. John Bliss and Stacy Brenner,

our resident farmers, have a 30-year lease for 275-acres at Broadturn Farm (BTF). They have transformed it into a vibrant organic farm where visitors of all ages are welcome to experience and enjoy the fruits of their hard work. We are very fortunate to have such an incredible farm family continuing the farming heritage on this property.

The remarkable **success of their flower and floral design business** was featured in the fall issue of *Country Gardens* magazine. Stacy and her crew offer everything from dreamy wedding flowers, special occasion pieces, elaborate venue floral designs, simple bouquets and even wholesale flowers. The Broadturn Farm Flower CSA continues to be incredibly popular as well.



Keeping the community connected with this working farm remains a top priority for SLT and John and Stacy. Visitors of all ages enjoy the farm throughout the year. Hiking trail,

educational programs for kids, weddings, family gatherings, business meetings, and even the opportunity to spend the night through Airbnb can all be found at Broadturn Farm.

This fall, SLT hosted its **6th Annual Fresh from the Farm Dinner**, where we continued to celebrate our 40th anniversary of conserving land in Scarborough. Over 200 guests and 60+ volunteers gathered at the farm for the celebration. On a beautiful September evening, everyone experienced the benefits of our community's conservation work – the food, the flowers, the fresh air and the overall good feeling. Dandelion Catering featured Broadturn Farm grown and harvested products. Scarborough Garden Club joined the farm's flower crew in harvesting flowers and making arrangements that were displayed all around the event and taken home by guests. Our lead sponsor Eddie Woodin said it best, as he glanced around this amazing property – **"This is our legacy."**



Thanks to proceeds from last year's Farm Dinner, we were able to **paint the Flower Barn, paint the trim on the Farm House and finish up the multi-year project on the Long Barn** by re-siding the north side of the barn and adding much needed light with new windows. Thanks to generous contributions and proceeds from this year's dinner, we are getting a head start on our 2018 maintenance projects.

The next big project for SLT at Broadturn Farm is to **expand our trail system** so visitors can enjoy the secret back corners of the forested areas of this beautiful 434-acre property. Stay tuned for future eNewsletter updates on our progress.



Macpage Corporate Work Group helping with trails at PHP



Jeremy & Kathy giving a presentation at Prouts Neck Yacht Club



New Kiosk at Libby River Farm - an Eagle Scout Project



Reception at 6th Annual Fresh from the Farm Dinner at Broadturn Farm

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**Volunteer Spotlight – SLT’s Stewardship Dream Team**



*L-R: John Bradford, Rick Shinay, Toby Jacobs, Vicki Broadwater, Paul Wagner, Donna Betts, Andrew Flewelling, Peter Hayes, Seth Hanson, Ann Hancock and Jim Hancock.  
(Please see full list of all PHP Trail volunteers on page 3.)*

Building a 1.25-mile trail with over 500 feet of handmade boardwalk in just five months is nothing short of phenomenal. It was accomplished through the careful planning of Project Leaders Toby Jacobs and Seth Hanson and **over 500 hours of hard work by our three weekly groups of incredibly committed volunteers.** “It was so rewarding to be part of a great group of volunteers who care about land conservation,” said Stewardship Coordinator Toby Jacobs. “And it was exciting to see it all come together with the completion of a major project like the second permanent trail at Pleasant Hill Preserve.” A big **THANK YOU** to all.



**Watch for our  
Fall Appeal**

Watch for our Fall Appeal in your mailbox in November. SLT is growing, and your generous gift will help us continue our work to conserve Scarborough’s special places and care for them – forever.

Thank you!

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