



Tracts & Trails

Newsletter of Scarborough Land Trust

StewCom at Work

by Hannah Chamberlain, Stewardship Director

When I think about Scarborough Land Trust's approach to stewardship, "enthusiasm" is the word that comes to mind. Enthusiasm is what greeted me when I asked to meet the Stewardship Committee (or StewCom, as they like to be called) this summer, prior to accepting my position with SLT. Expecting to meet one or two volunteers, I was floored when nearly the whole committee made the time to take me hiking on Monty's Trail at Pleasant Hill Preserve. During that walk, I experienced the boardwalk sections built this past year. Those of you who've seen the boardwalk might imagine how I felt seeing this incredible, tangible testament to what SLT volunteers are capable of.

Despite unexpected changes to SLT staff, this year has been a great one for stewardship. StewCom meetings are meetings in name only. In actuality, StewCom meetings consist of an awesome crew of volunteers making much-needed improvements on our properties – from basic trail maintenance to invasive plant removal and repairs on the Pleasant Hill Preserve barn. **Here are a few highlights of the improvements made to our properties and trails this spring and summer by this terrific committee.**

(continued on page 3)



President's Message

by Rick Shinay



The biggest buzz in Town these days is the proposed development at Scarborough Downs. **The Downs property shares more than three quarters of a mile of property line with the Scarborough Land Trust's Warren Woods property** (see page 5 for

more on Warren Woods). This creates some exciting possibilities for linking the two properties to benefit the entire Town. We have been in touch with the owners of the Downs and look forward to working closely with them as their plans develop.

Of particular interest for the Trust is the creation of a trail connection between Scarborough Downs and Warren Woods. If this trail is extended using Town-owned land on both ends, there could be a walking trail that connects the Eight Corners School, Warren Woods, the Downs, and the main school campus. As the Downs is developed, these trails will benefit the hundreds of new residents to the property, the employees of businesses located at the Downs, students who can use the woods as an outdoor classroom, and the community at large, by creating a large hiking trail network in the center of Town. **Between the existing trails at Warren**

Woods and this potential new trail, visitors could access about 4 miles of trails right from the schools, the Downs, or from Warren Woods parking lot on Payne Road.

We are also watching the development plans to provide input, where appropriate, for opportunities to protect ecological features and connectivity for wildlife across the property. The owners of the Downs have been receptive to these ideas, and we'll continue to keep an eye on the project in hopes of continuing a collaborative effort to make our vision of such a trail system a reality.

Another item on our radar is the proposal by Verizon Wireless to build a new cellphone communications tower on land owned by the Scarborough Sanitary District adjacent to the Scarborough Marsh. The Trust is concerned by the visual impacts to the thousands of people who visit the Marsh every year. **We have encouraged the Planning Board to explore all options with the developer to find an alternative that will meet the public's need for cell phone coverage while protecting the views of the Marsh.**

Read on for more about developments at Scarborough Land Trust, including our newest staff person, Hannah Chamberlain, the latest developments and plans for our properties, some information about The Nonesuch Circle, a profile of Broadturn Farm's flower business, and more! **As always, we thank the many people and organizations who continue to support the Trust, both with financial support and volunteer efforts.**

Meet our New Stewardship Director

SLT is delighted to announce the addition of **Hannah Chamberlain** to our staff as our new, full-time Stewardship Director. She brings a wide range of experience to the position. Most recently she served as Land Steward for Midcoast Conservancy, based in Edgecomb, where she monitored and managed over 6,000 acres of land, cared for some 25 miles of trails, managed a large GIS database, and recruited and trained volunteers for all types of stewardship projects.



leading interpretive programs and hikes, and monitoring boundaries. Hannah, who grew up in Massachusetts, holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from UMass Amherst. After graduation, she completed a year of AmeriCorps service as the Land Stewardship Coordinator for a small land trust in northwestern Massachusetts.

During the two months Hannah has been on board, she has been very active in the community and on our properties. Of her move to the Scarborough area, Hannah says, "I feel lucky to get to explore another beautiful part of Maine." She is currently working on property monitoring and is scheduling and leading multiple volunteer trail projects. Welcome, Hannah!

Following her **5-month thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail in 2015**, she worked for the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, maintaining trails, coordinating volunteers,

StewCom at Work

(continued from page 1)



- At **Fuller Farm Preserve** – made trail improvements to prevent erosion, installed a new bridge on the Hayfield Trail, new signs in collaboration with DOGS (Dog Owners of Great Scarborough) to minimize conflicts with other users and a new dog waste station.
- At **Pleasant Hill Preserve** – continued our ongoing work to remove debris and invasive species and thanks to the Piper Shores Woodshop crew, a new bench was installed under the Survivor Elm Tree.
- At **Libby River Farm Preserve** – made needed repairs to the observation deck that overlooks the marsh.
- At **Warren Woods Preserve** – installed new trail signs, cleared underbrush around parking area for greater visibility, and removed pine trees from the meadow areas on the Cranberry Trail to maintain the open fields and the beautiful wildflowers that grow there.
- At **Broadturn Farm** – installed a new bridge on the Silver Brook trail and new trail signs.

Our partnership with Piper Shores remains strong – their woodshop crew donated additional trail signs, as well as a gorgeous bench. **They also made a generous donation to help us purchase tools and equipment.** Thanks to them, we can outfit a volunteer crew for trail work and do our invasive plant removals much more efficiently. We also **purchased a beautiful 2015 Tacoma pickup** this year – and let’s just say it can haul a whole lot more than my little Honda Fit!

As Stewardship Director, it’s my great pleasure to work with such enthusiastic volunteers and with such support from our community. Since becoming part of the team, I’ve been working to expand our volunteer base by offering even more opportunities for people to take part. As I look toward the winter months, I’m excited to work with members of StewCom and other stakeholders to define our stewardship goals for the upcoming year. I’m looking forward to filling 2019 with trail building, fun events, and spending lots of time out on our beautiful Scarborough preserves!

What is the Nonesuch Circle?

The Nonesuch Circle was established in 2015 to recognize the top supporters among Scarborough Land Trust’s roughly 400 annual donors. While every dollar from every supporter is important to us, individuals or families are inducted into the Nonesuch Circle to recognize an annual unrestricted gift of \$1,000 or more. An unrestricted gift is a donation that comes without limitations on what the funds may be used for as long as they go toward advancing our conservation work.

The name of the Nonesuch Circle was chosen to evoke thoughts about the Nonesuch River. Running from west to east for 20 miles, through almost the entire length of town, the Nonesuch River tells a story of landscapes that make Scarborough special. The river flows from the forests and farms of West Scarborough, through the neighborhoods of North Scarborough, sweeping wide around Oak Hill, flowing under Route One, Black Point Road, and the Eastern Trail.

Just as the Nonesuch River is the largest source of fresh water for the Scarborough Marsh, Nonesuch Circle donors are vitally important for the Scarborough Land Trust and are key to sustaining our conservation mission. If you would like any additional information about the Nonesuch Circle or the impact you could have with your generous donation, please contact Rich Bard, SLT Executive Director, at 289-1199.



Broadturn Broadside – Fabulous Flowers



Resident farmers John Bliss and Stacy Brenner have been growing field-grown flowers at Broadturn Farm since 2006. **“The flower farming is a hobby gone wild,”** says Stacy. “We both have a love for making and growing, thus flower farming and flower design work is like an extension of the challenges of food production melded with the art of design.”

What started out as a hobby has become an increasingly important part of their farming business, providing work for 2 full-time, year round and 25 part-time, seasonal employees. **Broadturn Farm, Inc. now offers floral arrangements year round** for parties, gifts, baby

showers, weddings and funerals. During the growing season, they use their own farm grown and gathered flowers; in the off season, they hand select flowers from reputable wholesalers in the U.S. and abroad. A new greenhouse has allowed them to grow flowers from April through November.

These fabulous flowers and floral arrangements have always been available at the farm through their Flower CSA program, at their on-farm Flora Bliss floral design studio, and for onsite and offsite weddings, but now they can be found in Portland at their **new flower shop in a shared space with Forage Market at 123 Washington Ave.**, at all Rosemont Markets, the Portland Food Co-operative, Town Landing Market, The Cheese Iron, Browne Trading, Union Kitchen and at Whole Foods, where they provide three large flower deliveries a week.



“Our design focus is loose, big, wild and full of texture,” says Stacy. “We love to use herbs, flowering branches, vines, and the fullest blooms in the fields. We want your bouquet to smell delicious, mimic the feel of the season and have just a little touch of goodness in each one.”



You can order your fabulous & unique Broadturn Farm flowers to be delivered online at www.broadturnfarm.com, by calling Angela at 207-510-4822, ext. 2, emailing angela@broadturnfarm.com or pick up your own bouquet at their Washington Ave. store, open Wed. – Sun., 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wonderful Warren Woods



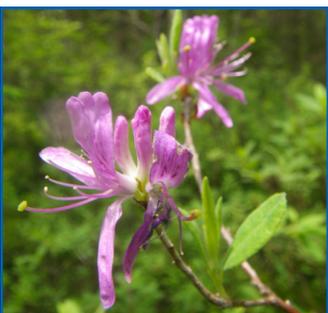
Sometimes the best choice is to move slowly when making big decisions, particularly when you're talking about a conservation property that must be preserved for future generations. Such is the case for Warren Woods, a property that SLT purchased in 2012 but that is just now beginning to get the attention it deserves. In the meantime, we have been watching the land, seeing how the seasons change the look and feel of the trails, observing the flow of the many wildflowers that bloom over the course of a year, paying attention to the potential trouble spots for more trail development, and keeping an eye on the influence of the Nonesuch River on the rest of the property.

None of this is any surprise to Becky Seel, whose family (The Warrens) owned this land for many years prior to selling it to SLT. *"Warren Woods is a gem and I'm so happy that it has been permanently protected. I hope members of the public will make an effort to explore this special place. I'd also encourage people to stop by the SLT office and take a look at the notebooks I prepared documenting some of the history of the property and the flowers we have found there over the past few decades. My parents would be very pleased by the trail system SLT is maintaining and the educational walks it sponsors for the public. I truly appreciate the efforts of the Trust to encourage the public to walk the trails and enjoy what Warren Woods has to offer."*

Now that we have a full-time Stewardship Director, help and advice from Becky Seel, and a better grasp on what our priorities are for Warren Woods, we can get down to more work there. We will be working on a management plan between now and spring, which will guide our next steps on the property. Already, **we have created almost 1.5 miles of hiking trails, improved our signs to help people navigate the trails, erected a kiosk with information about the property and SLT in general, and improved a parking area adjacent to Payne Road.**

If you go to Warren Woods, be aware that the property is low-lying and level, so water that accumulates has nowhere to go. As a result, the trails tend to be wet for days or even weeks after a rainstorm and in the spring. Waterproof boots are the key to a happy walk at Warren Woods. This is one of the challenges we'll be tackling in the coming year.

The star of the show at Warren Woods is the parade of wildflowers during the warmer months, but any time is a good time to see nature on display in the fields and woods. The changing colors of the late fall are beautiful here, and the wide trails are perfect for snowshoeing or skiing during the winter. For more information about Warren Woods, go to our website at www.scarboroughlandtrust.org.



SCARBOROUGH LAND TRUST

(207) 289-1199

Email: Info@scarboroughlandtrust.org

Board of Directors

- Rick Shinay, *President*
- Elizabeth Peoples, *Vice President*
- Patrick O'Reilly, *Treasurer*
- Nancy Kelleher, *Clerk*
- Melissa Anson
- Betts Armstrong
- Rita Breton
- Mark Follansbee
- Seth Hanson
- Diane Neal
- Gil Paquette
- Dawn Piccolo
- Alex Timpson
- Jeremy Wintersteen

Staff

- Rich Bard, *Executive Director*
- Sandi Dargi, *Administrative Coordinator*
- Hannah Chamberlain, *Stewardship Director*

Editor: R. Breton

Writers: R. Bard, R. Breton & H. Chamberlain

Design & Printing: Partners Printing

♻️ 30% Post Recycled



SCARBOROUGH LAND TRUST

P.O. Box 1237
Scarborough, ME 04070

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Portland, ME
Permit #469



Nonesuch Circle Member Spotlight

Doug and Susan Williams of Scarborough have supported the idea of protecting open space for many years. Doug served on a town committee and **remembers well the finding that it saved taxpayers money to protect land rather than develop it.** This, along with the idea of supporting public recreation and wildlife habitat, led The Williams to make a donation that qualified them for the Nonesuch Circle.

As a former member of SLT's Board of Directors, Doug knows first-hand the value of what SLT does. He says, "We believe in open space. We believe in the way the Trust protects it. We believe in the Trust's stewardship of these properties."

Doug and Sue like to get out now and then to enjoy either Fuller Farm Preserve or Libby River Farm Preserve, but they are also very enthusiastic about just knowing that these places have been protected for future generations to enjoy as much as we do.



Doug Williams pressing cider at recent Nonesuch Circle event



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!

Follow us on Facebook & Instagram

Visit our website to sign up for our periodic eNews.