

**SCARBOROUGH LAND TRUST**  
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LAND TRUST**  
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## Save the Date!

**Broadturn Farm Dinner**  
**Thursday, July 25, 2019**

Mark your calendar for our first-ever **mid-summer** Broadturn Farm Dinner. Tickets will go on sale in June.

## Community Business Partners



For a full list of Community Business Partners, go to [SCARBOROUGHLANDTRUST.ORG](http://SCARBOROUGHLANDTRUST.ORG).



**SCARBOROUGH  
LAND TRUST**

Conserving land for people, for wildlife – forever.

### Spring 2019 Events

All events are free and open to the public except where indicated. Please see [www.SCARBOROUGHLANDTRUST.ORG](http://SCARBOROUGHLANDTRUST.ORG) or our Facebook page for rain dates and further information as details are finalized.

We love poohies but ask that you leave them home for all group outings.

#### MAY

Saturday, May 4 @ 9:00 AM • Annual Spring Clean-up • Multiple Locations  
 Tuesday, May 7 @ 7:00 PM • SLT Annual Meeting • Camp Ketcha  
 Saturday, May 11 @ 10:00 AM • Kid's Hike • Libby River Farm Preserve  
 Saturday, May 18 @ 4:00 PM • Birding Walk with Eddie Woodin • Broadturn Farm  
 Tuesday, May 21 @ 5:30 PM • Matchless Firestarting • Frith Farm  
\* In cooperation with Rewild Maine. Pre-registration at [rewildmaine.org](http://rewildmaine.org). Fee required.

#### JUNE

Saturday, June 8 @ 10:00 AM • Kid's Hike • Libby River Farm Preserve  
 Tuesday, June 11 @ 5:30 PM • Nature Walk • Pleasant Hill Preserve  
\* In cooperation with Earth Walkers. Pre-registration at [earthwalkers.me](http://earthwalkers.me). No fee.  
 Saturday, June 15 @ 3:00 PM • Elm Tree Dedication • Pleasant Hill Preserve  
 Tuesday, June 18 @ 5:30 PM • Bittersweet Basket Making • Frith Farm  
\* In cooperation with Rewild Maine. Pre-registration at [rewildmaine.org](http://rewildmaine.org). Fee required.  
 Saturday, June 22 @ 10:00 AM • Wildflower Walk • Warren Woods



### Watch for our Spring Appeal

Watch for our Spring Appeal in your mailbox in May. 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 monthly eNews.



**Tracts & Trails**  
 Newsletter of Scarborough Land Trust

## Blue Point Preserve: A Rare Conservation Opportunity in Pine Point Area

### SLT Launches \$100,000 Fundraising Campaign to Purchase

We are very pleased to announce that **Scarborough Land Trust is working to conserve our first piece of land in the Pine Point area!** The Blue Point Preserve will be an asset for the community by providing public access, habitat protection for many species of birds and wildlife, and climate change resiliency. **Fourteen acres of land adjacent to the Scarborough Marsh will be preserved** when our campaign is successful.

**A walking trail on the property will wander through the forest and a small field to the edge of the Scarborough Marsh**, alongside a freshwater wetland, and through surprisingly interesting terrain in this typically flat

part of town. A new access point on the Marsh will offer opportunities for many kinds of recreation, including bird watching, photography, skiing, snowshoeing, and let's not forget just sitting and watching the amazing parade of life in the Scarborough Marsh.

Protection of the Scarborough Marsh has long been a priority for Scarborough Land Trust. Although most of the actual marsh is owned by the State of Maine and is safe from development, nearly all of the shoreline around the vast wetland is privately owned. Pollutants like lawn fertilizer, faulty septic systems, and litter make their way from homes and businesses into the Marsh. One goal in protection of

*(continued on page 2)*

## Collaboration in Action at SLT

*by Hannah Chamberlain, Stewardship Director*

It's well known that Scarborough Land Trust properties are great places to get out and enjoy nature on your own or with a few friends. We see dog walkers visiting Fuller Farm and parents taking their toddlers on Eleanor's Trail all the time. Since joining the SLT staff in 2018, I have been exploring ways to expand our reach and get even more people to use the lands we protect.

My main method to accomplish this goal has been to reach out to groups in the area who can help amplify our work. Some of these collaborations have been with like-minded groups and individuals, like the upcoming outdoors skills workshops with **Rewild Maine**, promoting our trails with local guiding services like **Renewal in the Wilderness** and **Earth Walkers**, or hosting kid-friendly outings led by an **early-childhood educator** with a passion for getting muddy.

We are also working creatively with groups that aren't inherently nature-focused; there's a fun challenge in developing outdoor opportunities for folks who might not self-identify as nature lovers or hikers. Working with the **Scarborough Public Library (SPL)** resulted in a hugely successful tracking workshop that had nearly 20 kids looking for wildlife signs in the snow. We have more SPL collaborations in the works. We are working with the head of staff of a local inn to create a volunteer retreat for her staff that will help build local pride and connection. Later this spring, this group will work on improving habitat for New England cottontail at Libby River Farm.

Collaboration can strengthen the ties that already exist for SLT and help us create new connections within our community. Do you know a group that might want to collaborate with us? We're excited to think outside the box and keep striving to get more people out on the land.



Hannah and kids having fun tracking animals at the library

## President's Message

by Rick Shinay



Scarborough Land Trust has something for everyone this year!

For those who enjoy getting outside with others, we're offering a wide range of hikes; knowledge builders like a birding walk and a nature journaling class; and,

for the first time, outdoor skills classes in coordination with *Rewild Maine*, a local nonprofit with a mission to deepen people's connection with the land around them. **See the back cover of this issue for a listing of what's in store through June.** Also, be sure to check in on our website or social media to find out about any new events or changes to the schedule.

Don't forget that volunteers are what keep our trails in great shape! Volunteering is a fun way to meet people, get some exercise and fresh air, and do your part to care for the places you love. Our annual **Spring Clean-up is happening on Saturday, May 4** and we'd love to have your help! We also work on projects just about

**(Blue Point Preserve... continued from page 1)**

this land is to provide a bit of buffer from these harms. We will also remove a dilapidated home that, if left alone, would inevitably fall apart resulting in damage to the nearby marsh.

We are very grateful to our partners in this project, The Friends of Scarborough Marsh, who have pledged financial support as well as guidance in our efforts to protect and restore the Marsh. Scarborough Land Trust has also applied for a grant from funds remaining in the Town of Scarborough Land Bond. Even with these resources, **a gap of approximately \$100,000 must be filled for the Blue Point Preserve to become a reality.**

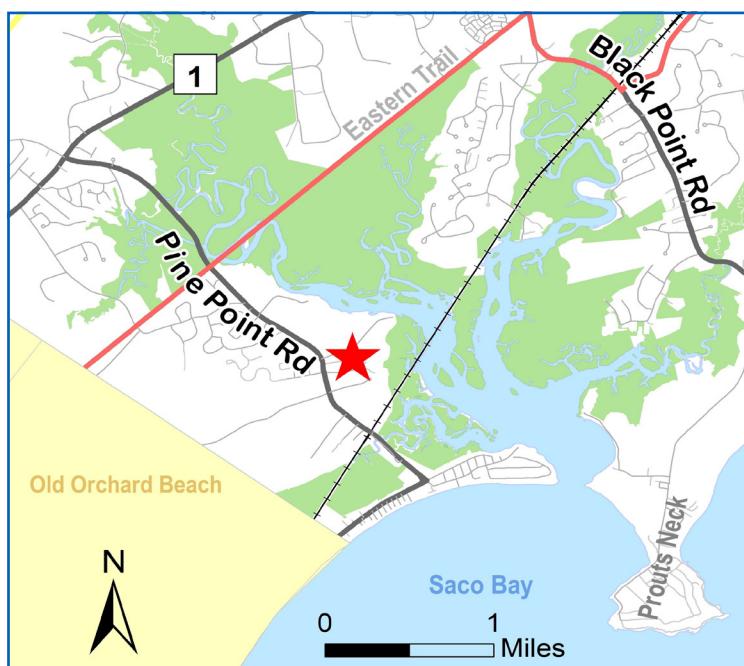
To donate, go to, [WWW.SCARBOROUGHLANDTRUST.ORG](http://WWW.SCARBOROUGHLANDTRUST.ORG). You may also send a check to Scarborough Land Trust, PO Box 1237, Scarborough, ME 04070. Indicate on your check that your gift is for the Blue Point Preserve. Contact Executive Director Rich Bard with any questions about the property or to discuss other ways to donate, such as a gift of stock, IRA charitable distribution, pledges, etc.

every week from now through fall, so get in touch if you're interested in lending a hand.

If you'd rather get outside on your own or with friends, we're continuing to improve and expand trails in our community. All of our trails are available 365 days a year and are free for anyone to enjoy dawn to dusk. Many people hit the trail with their best four-legged friend! Dogs are allowed on our properties on leash, except where signs indicate that dogs can be off-leash. We're proud of our community of dog lovers who pitch in to keep all of our properties clean.

For everyone who is a fan of the Land Trust, whether you head outside to hit the trails or not, we have **great news about property in the Pine Point area that SLT is currently raising funds to buy**. Be sure to see the article in this newsletter for more information about the **Blue Point Preserve!**

Finally, I hope you all will **join us for our Annual Meeting at 7pm on Tuesday, May 7 at Camp Ketcha**. We'll be sharing news about the Blue Point Preserve, updates on what's new out on the trails, time for you to ask questions about the Land Trust, snacks, and more! It's a wonderful time to connect to talk about the places we love. See you there!



## Thank You to Long-term Volunteer Stewards Jim & Sandy MacMahon

Fuller Farm is the most popular property owned by Scarborough Land Trust. On a given summer day, a dozen or more cars sit in the parking lot, hikers dot the expansive field as they make their way to the woods beyond, wildflowers sway in the breeze, and grassland birds like bobolinks and meadowlarks flit here and there as they raise their young in the field. It was an image like this that first drew Jim and Sandy MacMahon to buy their home in Scarborough back in 2000. The Land Trust was gathering resources to purchase Fuller Farm at the time and the very idea of it convinced Jim and Sandy the home they were considering, just around the corner, was the right one for them.

As soon as Fuller Farm became an SLT preserve, Jim and Sandy got to work helping to trim the trails and keeping an eye on things. As their relationship with the land strengthened, the couple became the official Lead Stewards of the preserve, meaning they took on primary

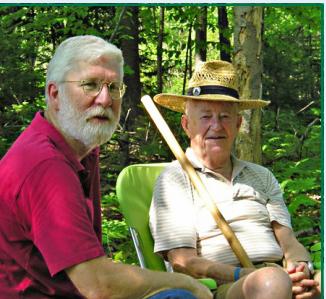
responsibility for the day-to-day care of Fuller Farm and they also held positions on the SLT Stewardship Committee, which is composed of Lead Stewards of all our properties across town.

Now, almost twenty years later, the MacMahons are on to their next adventure. Although their shoes will be hard to fill, a pair of volunteers have stepped up to become the Fuller Farm Lead Stewards, so Jim and Sandy needn't worry about the beloved preserve they have worked so hard to care for over the past two decades. We'll miss their humor, their hard work, and their passionate love for Fuller Farm.

The entire Scarborough Land Trust family wishes the MacMahons the very best as they begin the next chapter of their lives!



## SLT Pays Tribute to Phineas W. Sprague (1925-2019)



Phin Sprague (r) and former SLT President Paul Austin (l) at Warren Woods dedication.

SLT lost a beloved founder and conservation leader in February with the passing of Phineas Sprague of Cape Elizabeth. Phin was one of 8 visionaries who formed SLT's founding board of directors in 1977, back when we were known as the Oswascoag Land Conservation Trust and he and his family lived in Scarborough. Sprague family members

have been strong supporters of SLT's conservation work over many years, and through the Phineas W. Sprague Memorial Foundation. Phin was a driving force behind the conservation of Libby River Farm Preserve, SLT's first purchased property.

He knew Harvey Warren, and was one of a small group who braved the searing heat on a June day in 2013 to attend the dedication of Warren Woods, when he was 88 years young. Phin also knew Jerrerd Benjamin, who owned the property that later became Pleasant Hill Preserve. It was Phin and his partner in crime, his wife Mary Lou, who confessed to posting a "For Rent" sign on the remnants of the old farmhouse on the property, which was unfortunately beyond repair.

Wherever Phin went, humor and mischief were never far behind.

The Sprague family has quietly led by example in conservation. They conveyed Scarborough Beach State Park to the State of Maine and also conserved a property along the Scarborough Marsh. From their family property along the Spurwink River in Cape Elizabeth, they have partnered with Maine Audubon to help protect piping plovers on Higgins Beach, and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to create and maintain habitat for the endangered New England cottontail. The Sprague family generously allows public access on private property, which is becoming a rarity in this day and age, and thousands of people each year are the beneficiaries.

Phin and his family have deep ties to Prouts Neck. For many years, Phin and Mary Lou lived near Prouts Neck Yacht Club. He was a co-founder of the Nonesuch Oar and Paddle Club, which has a boathouse at Ferry Beach. He loved the ocean and boats.

Phin had many notable accomplishments and associations throughout his amazing life. We wanted to pay special tribute here to his love for the land and the sea, and to his unforgettable contributions to conservation in Scarborough, for which we will be forever grateful.