



Tracts & Trails

Newsletter of Scarborough Land Trust

Green the Fund

Election Day is almost here! On Tuesday, November 5, Scarborough voters will have the opportunity to make a positive statement about how much conservation means to this town. Question 3 on the ballot will ask voters to replenish the Town's Land Fund (i.e., Green the Fund) with up to \$2,500,000 to protect land that is important to the community. This fund has been "greened" three times since 2000, contributing to the protection of over 1,100 acres here in Scarborough for the benefit of current and future generations. Now is the time to vote once again in favor of investing in locally-driven conservation.

If you're getting this newsletter, you've engaged with Scarborough

Land Trust and appreciate how important conservation is for a largely rural town like Scarborough, on the edge of a rapidly expanding city. In fact, Scarborough itself is one of the fastest growing towns in this part of the state. By voting Yes on 3 to Green the Fund, we are ensuring there will always be places like Pleasant Hill

Preserve, Broadturn Farm, and the Blue Point Preserve (*see the article below about our newest conservation property*).

Land conservation is also a fiscally responsible way to manage the costs of development. By investing in the protection of Pleasant Hill Preserve in 2014, it is estimated that the town will see a net benefit

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Funds from Scarborough's Land Fund can be used to protect recreational areas, places of significance to the community, or critical habitats for wildlife, including monarch butterflies.

Blue Point Preserve is Opening Soon

Imagine a quiet quarter-mile walk down a grassy lane. Forest dominates your view alongside the lane with songbirds flitting through the branches. Maybe you hear a deer jump from its day-bed and run off into deeper forest. If you walk mindfully, the path is just long enough to quiet your mind, slow your heartbeat, and bring all the beneficial effects of immersion in nature. At the end of the path, you walk around a wall of shrubs and see the Scarborough Marsh open up in front of you.

This is the Blue Point Preserve, Scarborough Land Trust's newest conserved land. Following a successful fundraising campaign, the property was purchased in early September. Part of it belonged to the Town of Scarborough and part was owned for many years by the Blue Point Congregational Church.

The Land Trust was pleased to partner with the church to conserve their land because of what it meant to the

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A group was treated to a sneak preview of the Blue Point Preserve in June.

President's Message

by Rick Shinay



There is no more powerful force for good than a group of people joining together for a common purpose. This happens on many levels that we are all familiar with. As a supporter of the Scarborough Land Trust, you are doing your part for

locally-driven land conservation, right here in your town. But we have to ask you to do something more. As you hopefully know by now, the Land Trust is campaigning to “**Green the Fund**” by encouraging Scarborough residents to **Vote Yes on 3** on the ballot on Tuesday, November 5. As described more fully in the cover article, this will allow the town to invest up to \$2.5 million for land conservation in Scarborough. By coming together in this way, we will protect more recreational areas, more wildlife habitat, and more places that are significant to the community, both today and far into the future.

People support the Land Trust in various ways. Being a financial supporter is something within everyone's

reach. Gifts of all sizes make our work possible. We also are incredibly grateful to those who are able to volunteer their time and talents to directly complete the work of the Land Trust. Whether serving on the Board of Directors, building bog bridges to keep hikers' feet dry, removing invasive species, or coming to the office to organize files and help with paperwork, we simply couldn't do our work without volunteers. I was amazed to learn from our Stewardship Director that she has already logged more than **500 hours of volunteer effort this year**, with more to come by year's end. We are truly honored to have so many people in our small community willing to come together to support the Scarborough Land Trust.

Finally, we are proud to have raised the necessary funds, with the help of Friends of Scarborough Marsh and many generous donors, to purchase the Blue Point Preserve. Once it opens later this year, I hope you'll take the opportunity to go out and walk this beautiful property. The Scarborough Marsh is such a treasure and it is always fulfilling to see it from many different places and in all seasons of the year. We're happy to provide one more place for such an inspirational and fulfilling experience.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Land Trust, I thank everyone for your continued support.

(Green the Fund... continued from page 1)

of more than \$2,000,000 over the course of 20 years by avoiding public services to house lots and school expansion that would have been needed to accommodate the families living there.

We know the people of Scarborough support this concept, and our major challenge will simply be getting enough people out to vote. In off-cycle elections without national or state political offices on the line, residents who would otherwise vote to Green the Fund may decide to sit this one out. The world is run by those who show up, **so please, show up on November 5 to cast your vote in favor of Question 3**, or contact the town office to find out about early voting.

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

congregation. In a statement on their website, the church wrote, *“In a time when we are seeing the natural resources around us being wasted, mistreated, harmed and neglected, we have – until now – found it difficult to address the challenges of how to make a difference – how to make a lasting impact. So, when we began to consider selling to the Scarborough Land Trust the strip of land that runs from the back of our 'active' property down to the marsh, we were thrilled for the opportunity to put into action what we believe being good stewards asks of us.”*

The Blue Point Preserve will be open to the public later this year after we complete some initial restoration work and improve public access. Sign up for our monthly email newsletters on our website to keep up to date on the latest developments.

Scenes from our 8th Annual Broadturn Farm Dinner

A huge thank you to everyone responsible for once again making the annual **Broadturn Farm Dinner** an incredible evening – our volunteer dinner leaders and servers, our generous sponsors and caterer, our hosts John Bliss and Stacy Brenner, and of course, all of the dinner attendees. This wonderful event raised over \$25,000 for stewardship of Broadturn Farm. It was also here that we received the final donations that put our Blue Point Preserve campaign over the top (*see article on page 1*). We already can't wait for next year!



Caring for Your Preserves

by Hannah Chamberlain, Stewardship Director

This project season has been productive and fun, and it's not over yet! Here are some of the projects we've been working on across town:

At **Fuller Farm**, we installed two new bridges on the Brook Trail to replace those constructed back in 2006. Fingers crossed that our new construction (pressure treated) lasts as long as those amazing cedar bridges held up! We tested a new method for erosion control on a trouble spot on the Brook Trail, and we are working with the Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District to plan for more erosion control on the Maine Trail.

This summer was a big one for **Sewell Woods**. Volunteers from the Stewardship Committee completed beautiful new bog bridging on the Frith Farm Trail, making the large wet sections much more navigable. We also had a local Boy Scout complete his Eagle Scout project at Sewell Woods. Nick Dehler built two beautiful and sturdy benches, then organized a work day for his troop where they installed the benches and made some much-needed trail improvements.

Broadturn Farm's **Silver Brook Trail** got a bit of an update as well. Stewardship Committee chair Seth Hanson built a beautiful new kiosk. The trailhead location was changed slightly to make it easier to find, so just look for the shiny new kiosk right near the parking area off Hanson Road.

Libby River Farm has been a hub for public engagement this year. In addition to hosting the 4-month Kids Hike series, it was also the

site for volunteers participating in the United Way Day of Service. All told, volunteers spent a total of 80 hours clearing invasive plants in strategic locations, a huge dent that Stewardship Committee members have been building off of ever since.

The **Warren Woods** driveway got some much-needed TLC with gravel provided by the Town of Scarborough. Thanks to the purchase of a walk-behind brush mower, we were able to keep the trails free of tall grass all summer, making the trails easier to follow and reducing exposure to ticks!

Not to be left out, work continues at **Pleasant Hill Preserve**. A new trail section has been laid out, and some work has started. Though we're waiting for some permits to continue the trail projects, volunteers have worked tirelessly on the invasive plant population. We did several cuts on the Japanese knotweed and we'll continue to manage it in years to come.

One of the most exciting things about this summer's projects is the help we've had from volunteers. **Volunteers contributed over 500 hours** of trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, trail mowing, and planning. That's equates to about 12.5 weeks of full time help. In addition to our Stewardship Committee, we were able to host a few work group projects, including teams from IDEXX, the Scarborough Rotary Club, and United Way of Greater Portland. We still have many projects on the schedule for this fall, including work at the brand-new Blue Point Preserve! So if you're interested in being part of the team, please get in touch.



Stewardship Committee members hard at work keeping hikers' feet dry.

Year in Review



Kids hike at Libby River Farm



Kids Wildlife Tracking Workshop at the library.



Annual Spring clean-up of preserves in May.



United Way of Greater Portland work group at Libby River Farm.

Legacy Gifts Honor a Cause You Love

Patricia Mordecai was a relatively new transplant to Scarborough when she became a member of the SLT Nonesuch Circle – a group of donors who make annual gifts of \$1,000 or more – in 2014. She told friends conservation was important to her and she loved the community work of Scarborough Land Trust. Pat had a long history of supporting nonprofits throughout her life and created a career of helping to make the world a better place through her various jobs with the Episcopal Church.

Pat understood that the work of land conservation never really ends. She enthusiastically supported the Land Trust while she lived here in Scarborough, and wanted to make sure the resources she accrued during her life would continue to help our work after she was gone. After she died earlier this year, SLT learned that

Pat had made a generous bequest to us in her will to make a lasting impact on our work – something we call a legacy gift.

Just as the gift of a bequest is a way of looking forward beyond the lifespan of the donor, the Land Trust will join this legacy gift with others we have received to help support our work far into the future. Earnings we receive by carefully investing these kinds of bequests provide annual support while preserving the original gift.

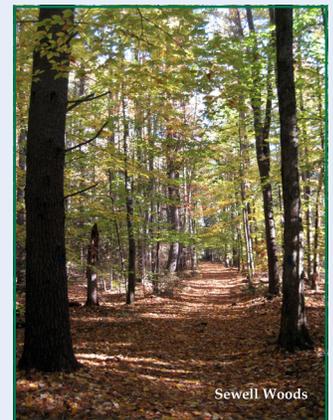
If you would like to know how you can continue to support the great work you have invested in as a Scarborough Land Trust donor, don't hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Rich Bard, at rbard@ScarboroughLandTrust.org or at (207) 289-1199.



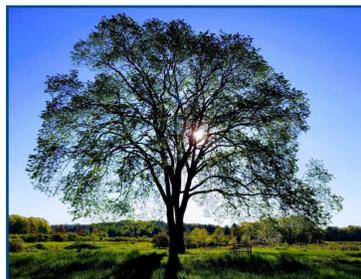
Piper Shores Takes a Peek at Land Trust Preserves

Earlier this fall, two groups of residents at Piper Shores were treated to a bus tour of some of Scarborough's special natural places. Land Trust Executive Director Rich Bard narrated the two tours, which focused on visits to our seven preserves. Along the way, he also pointed out the important conservation work of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge, the State of Maine Fish and Wildlife Department, the Friends of Scarborough Marsh, and Maine Farmland Trust. He also talked about the importance of the Scarborough Marsh and the various

ivers that feed into it, especially the Nonesuch River, which winds its way through town and crossed our path many times over the course of our two tours. We are happy and proud to introduce folks of all ages, from kids to seniors, to our beautiful Land Trust properties.



Birding walk at Broadturn Farm led by Eddie Woodin.



Emerson Elm dedicated in honor of Fred Emerson.



Family StoryWalk™ at Pleasant Hill Preserve with the library.



Eagle Scout project at Sewell Woods.

SCARBOROUGH LAND TRUST

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**SCARBOROUGH
LAND TRUST**

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Youth Engagement in 2019

Scarborough Land Trust is committed to staying relevant and responsive to our community. In 2019, we have made efforts to improve our outreach to young people and families.

We held four educational events in collaboration with the Scarborough Public Library, including a wildlife tracking event, a Meet & Greet Story Time, a virtual pool StoryWalk™ at PHP and a Teen Meetup focusing on invasive plants. Local educator Kelly Pietrzak led a series of fun hikes geared toward getting families outdoors as winter progressed into spring. Camp Ketcha invited us to join their After School program to talk about how we keep our trails in tip-top shape.

So what's next? We are working with the library to develop Discovery Backpacks that can be checked out and brought on a hike. Next spring, we hope to offer a few hikes that include free transportation from a community hub to the trailhead.



Your Support Makes a Difference

Everything you read about in this newsletter is made possible by support from community members like you. Donate anytime at www.ScarboroughLandTrust.org or send a check to Scarborough Land Trust, PO Box 1237, Scarborough, ME 04070. Thank you!

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