

The Jordan Homestead by Aaron Dority

We have until this fall to raise the funds to buy this remarkable Ellsworth property.

For years, I had been curious about the undeveloped land along Bayside Road in Ellsworth abutting the Union River. A family cemetery rises above the road on its western side. Old farming implements in a hay field are visible from the road, relics of glory days past. Once, while skiing on trails at Birdsacre, I ventured a little too far off the trail and ended up only a short distance away from this property, surprised that land stretching from the Union River to Route 3 in Ellsworth still remained undeveloped.

Then, last August, I received a call from a supporter who knew of our interest in conserving waterfront on the Union River to protect wildlife habitat and to preserve the largely-intact, rural nature of the beautiful river. “I think that FBC might be interested in this land. It has forested river frontage and old farm fields, something really rare for a property this close to Ellsworth. It just came on the market.”

Despite having been the fastest growing city in Maine prior to the 2008 recession, Ellsworth still hosts a beautiful array of small, but mature forests close to downtown worthy of conservation for public benefit. As

it turns out, this land, owned by the Jordan family, contains some of this rapidly disappearing forestland and historically significant farmland.

Ralph Jordan invited me and Stan Richmond to meet with him

of land to Birdsacre over the years,” Ralph said. As his father had done before him, Ralph wanted to protect his family’s land for all to enjoy.

He knew that he could put a road through the middle of it and sell off



PHOTO: AARON DORITY

View of the Union River from the Jordan Property

In order to protect the rural character of the Union River between Ellsworth’s downtown and the Bay, we need to conserve this remarkable property.

to discuss conservation options for the land formally owned by his mother, Alice. Stan is the Director of Birdsacre in Ellsworth. Ralph had agreed to sell six acres to his organization on the east side of Bayside Road, abutting their existing land. “My father donated and sold a lot

housing lots, but that didn’t quite fit with his family’s historic connection to the land.

The Jordan family found prosperity through hard work. Carroll Jordan, Ralph’s father, had been a farmer, a truck driver, and later in life, a businessman. He started a local farm

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President's Column

Many of you, especially those from Hancock and Sorrento have heard that the town of Bar Harbor is considering purchasing the old Blue Nose ferry terminal and extending the pier significantly so that several cruise ships could tie up there at one time. The town has already taken several steps to make this plan a reality. The next steps include two votes at their town meeting in early June, one in support of the pier development and another proposing limiting the size of cruise ships and in favor of capping the number of cruise ship visitors (*MDI Islander* article on the two ballot choices: <http://www.mdiland.com/maine-news/dueling-terminal-visions-ballot>).

On the one hand this is a Bar Harbor fight between different visions of the impact of their tourism economy. On the other hand, a pier that could extend half a mile into Frenchman Bay and draw more cruise ships inside the Porcupine Islands will effect the rest of us around the bay as well as the health of the waters in the bay. I think that this sort of issue really begs regional management

for an entity such as a bay, where the actions of one town could impact the residents of other surrounding towns. A forum where all affected parties could weigh in could help to generate more constructive solutions to such issues.

The board of Frenchman Bay Conservancy has decided not to take a position on this issue for a variety of reasons, but individual members can take positions on the issue. If you are concerned and want to learn more, I recommend that you seek out articles on the *Mount Desert Islander* website (beyond the one listed above). If you decide that you want to take an active role in opposing the construction of the pier, an organization called the Friends of Frenchman Bay will welcome you. You can find them at friendsoffrenchmanbay@gmail.com.

May we all work together to make this part of the world better.

— Lisa Heyward
President, FBC

Marlboro Beach *Help FBC grant Eleanor Norris' wish.*

“More clams come out of Lamoine than several of the surrounding towns combined, and most of them come right out of here,” Jim Norris said as he looked out over a minus 1.5

for half of its appraised value, a bargain sale of \$45,000.

Frenchman Bay Conservancy agreed to play match-maker. We will raise the funds to purchase the

appropriate \$10,000 toward the purchase price.

In an incredible expression of altruism and support for the conservation of this beloved property, an anonymous donor has already stepped forward to match all gifts to Frenchman Bay Conservancy, dollar for dollar, toward the purchase of this property.

Frenchman Bay Conservancy protects access to water for recreational use and commercial fisheries. Your support will help ensure there is never a gate or ‘no trespassing’ sign at Marlboro Beach. ❖



PHOTO AUSTIN SCHUVER

View from Marlboro Beach

foot low tide at Marlboro Beach. His mother, Eleanor, had always wanted the Town of Lamoine to eventually own these 2.75 acres. Eleanor passed away in 2008, and Jim and his brothers and sister agreed to sell this piece

property with an agreement that secures public access in perpetuity, and then we will give the property to Town of Lamoine. The residents of Lamoine already agreed at their annual meeting on March 8 to



Snow Bunting at Marlboro Beach

PHOTO AUSTIN SCHUVER

Jordan *continued from page 1*

supply store called Ellsworth Feed and Seed, still operating behind L.L. Bean on High Street. Ralph reminisced about growing up across the street from the land that FBC hopes to purchase, “The food we grew there fed my family when I was a kid. Money was tight, but we had this land.” Carroll died several years ago and his wife Alice is now in assisted living. Ralph reminisced about the old days when the Jordans, the Rays, the Seaveys and other local families raised their kids on the Bayside Road. “We’d be out all day long. We’d have lunch at a neighbor’s house, then go back out and ramble through the woods. Kids came and went and nobody minded.

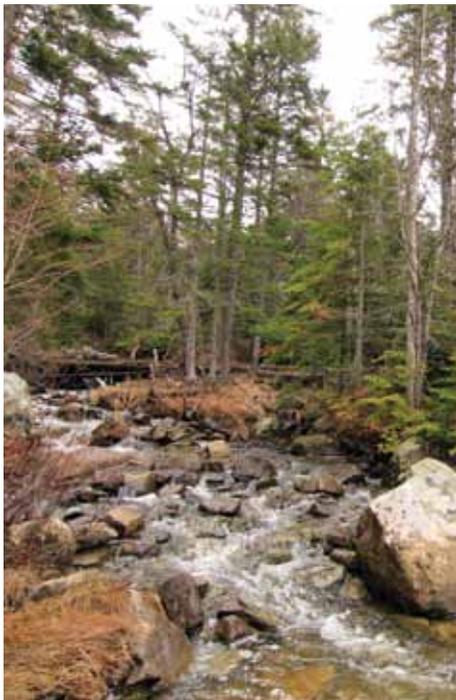


PHOTO AUSTIN SCHUEVER

Looking upstream on Whittaker Brook from the Jordan Property

Everybody’s door was always open and families kept an eye out for each other’s kids.”

After a short walk through the woods, we stopped at a cellar hole with a large tree growing from its center, an indication of the age of the house that once sat above this foundation. “That was the site of the original Jordan house.” Being quite a history buff, a trait that he picked up

from his father, Ralph told me that the land was acquired by his ancestors through a French land grant. “This land has been in my family since before Maine was a state.” He chuckled when our environmental consultant called one day to ask

This land has been in my family since before Maine was a state.

—Ralph Jordan

routine questions about old houses on the property and whether there was an associated septic tank and leech field. “Well, maybe Whittaker Brook,” he said “Nobody’s lived in that house for 150 years.”

In order to protect the rural character of the Union River between Ellsworth’s downtown and the Bay, we need to conserve this remarkable property. We hope to build trails for the public as we have at Indian Point Preserve, and to link them to Birdsacre across the Bayside Road. FBC has secured the option to purchase the land.

Ralph and his family are willing to sell the land to FBC for a bargain. We have until September to raise \$230,000 to cover the acquisition and stewardship costs. In honor of Carroll, Alice and the entire Jordan family, we’ll name the property “Jordan Homestead Preserve. ❖

If you would like to support the this Union River/Bayside Road purchase, please contact Aaron Dority at (207) 422-2328, or mail a check payable to Frenchman Bay Conservancy to:

Frenchman Bay Conservancy
P.O. Box 150
Hancock, Maine 04640

We’re proud to protect the land you love!



PHOTO AARON DORITY



Volunteers at a Branch Lake Clean Up event, June 6, 2015.

PHOTO STEVE FULLER

Trails Make Connections by Eileen Hall

Trails transcend generations and bring folks together from all walks of life.

In a survey administered by Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) as part of recent strategic planning efforts, we found that 87 percent of participants had visited an FBC preserve. No surprise here; it's probably safe to say that our preserves and trails are what many appreciate most about the Conservancy. It is our responsibility to maintain FBC conserved lands and trails in perpetuity, which of course, is a very long time. How do we ensure this happens? With help from all of you, our supporters and volunteers!

For the past thirty years, our stewardship program has been almost entirely volunteer-supported, with occasional help from the Maine Conservation Corps or a seasonal intern. The magnitude of volunteer hours dedicated to the maintenance of these public hiking trails over the years is truly impressive!

We are all drawn to hiking trails for different reasons: for a moment of peace and solitude, to get moving and log a bit of cardiovascular exercise, to enjoy nature and the various seasonal changes in the woods, for use as an outdoor classroom, for a breath of sweet, woodsy, fresh air, or to access a favorite fishing spot. Participants of all ages run a trail course at the Baker Hill and Long Ledges Preserves during FBC's Annual Autumn Trail Race. It seems

nearly everyone can appreciate a path through the woods. Trails transcend generations and bring folks together from all walks of life.

Trail work at FBC has supported young Mainers beginning to explore possible career paths in wildlife ecology, conservation, and forest and parks management through the Maine Conservation Corps and internships. This year, FBC is fortunate to have been awarded an intern

This year, FBC was awarded an intern through Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Land Conservation Summer Internship Program.

through Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Land Conservation Summer Internship Program. Matthew Brewer, a student at the University of Maine majoring in Wildlife Ecology, will join us mid-June for nine weeks. Matthew grew up in Corinth, Maine, and is an outdoor enthusiast. We look forward to the energy and passion Matthew will bring to our stewardship program and leading our volunteers in trail work.

We will hold weekly volunteer trail work days again beginning

Wednesday, June 21. Volunteers can plan to meet at the Tidal Falls Preserve parking lot at 8:30 am on Wednesday mornings and from there we will head out to a stewardship project at one of FBC's preserves. We will also hold a number of Saturday work days too; see the event schedule insert included with this newsletter for further details.

As we continue to conserve more acres and make additional miles of trails available to our local communities, we also need to continue to build our volunteer base. Will you consider volunteering with us this season? Need a little more encouragement? Here's what long-time FBC volunteers and Sullivan residents Clint & Eleanor Ritchie had to say about volunteering over the years, "Volunteer work with FBC, for us, is a labor of love and we take pride in what we have accomplished ourselves and with other volunteers. We have made lasting friendships, and of our various volunteer activities, FBC is at the top of the list."

Frenchman Bay Conservancy trails connect us all to more than nature. They connect us to each other. We hope you'll find time to enjoy our many miles of trails this year and better yet, to volunteer with us! ❖

Day Ridges Preserve by Aaron Dority

On an early spring morning with snow still on the ground, I met David Wells and two of his adult children and his son-in-law to walk our common property boundary in Gouldsboro. His property and ours are part of a nearly unbroken swath of wilderness from Schoodic Point to Frenchman Bay Conservancy's easement on the southern end of Tunk Lake, donated by the Bryan family several years earlier. Given the land's topography, we're naming it the Day Ridges Preserve.

Though the property had been logged by Prentiss and Carlisle only a few years prior, the harvester left standing a diversity of mature trees scattered around the property. Earlier visits on foot turned up tracks and scat from porcupine, deer, and moose. The abundant signs of wildlife illustrate just how valuable this property is as a connector between the Gouldsboro peninsula to the south, and the forestland stretching to the Tunk Lake Maine State Reserve land to the north, and from there on into Maine's infamous north woods.

When I arrived at David's house, he was well prepared with a compass in hand and a path through the woods already scoped out. The purpose of our visit was to examine our common boundary and then to



PHOTO BOB DEFORREST

Paddling Lower West Bay Pond.

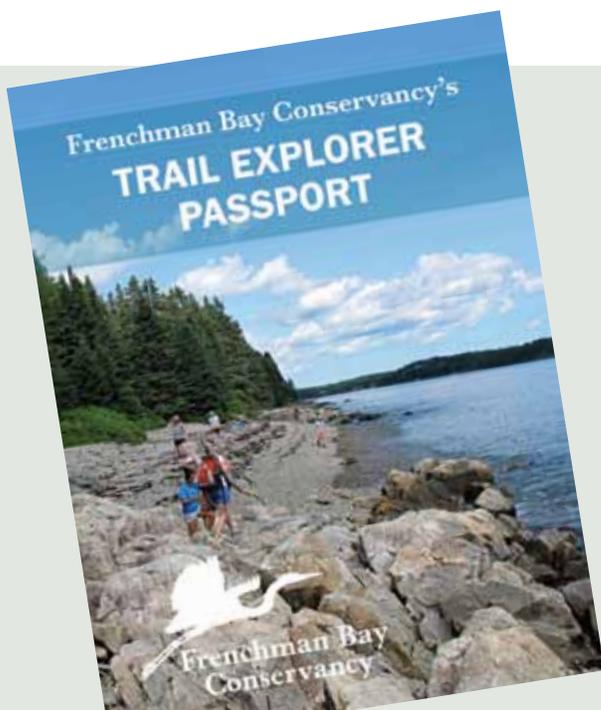
formalize an agreement, improving the poor property descriptions on deeds stretching back for decades. The actual boundary was so elusive that last year, local surveyor Steve Salsbury had to go as far back in the records as the original description of William Bingham's land from the late 18th century. Bingham was a wealthy banker from Philadelphia, who acquired one million acres of land in the region between Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Bays around the year 1786 when the land that is now Maine was then part of Massa-

chusetts. Land transactions over the ensuing 230 years didn't always rely on accurate descriptions, including at times referring to "a spruce stump" as a boundary marker—clearly not very helpful after a few decades in the woods of Downeast Maine.

Having surveyed numerous parcels for Frenchman Bay Conservancy in the past, Steve Salsbury helpfully marked the boundary line with red flagging, placing pins at the corners. David and I wanted to be sure the Salsbury survey corresponded with David's understanding of the common boundary. After all, the Day Trust property we purchased was advertised as 250 acres, only later to be increased to an even 300 following the survey. I jokingly remarked that we ought to survey it again as part of our land acquisition strategy.

Once we were in the woods, I realized that we were among kindred spirits. David's son, also named David, was a craftsman, a mason, and also clearly an experienced outdoorsman. We all stopped periodically to read some tracks, visualizing a snowshoe hare bounding across the trail or a porcupine ambling along toward a favorite perch in a nearby tree. Once we arrived at the pond, we walked across the ice to the point

continued on page 6



The Trail Explorer Passport

FBC challenges you to explore 4 trails this summer and fall. Use a Trail Explorer Passport to record your hikes and submit them by the end of October for a prize! Trail Explorer Passports will be available at the FBC office at Tidal Falls Preserve and at the trail head kiosks at Baker Hill, Frances B Wood, Indian Point, and Taft Point Preserves.

*Meet the 4 Trail Challenge
and Win a Prize!*

of land bisected by our property boundary. The air temperatures had been reliably below freezing for a couple weeks, but we still proceeded with caution across the late-season ice.

After scrambling around a bluff, we found the first marker. With the survey in hand, and red flagging to follow every ten yards or so, the GPS and compass were almost unnecessary. We achieved what we set out to do. Along the way, David, who had moved to Maine from Pennsylvania only a couple years ago asked about Frenchman

the Downeast Reliability Project that developed this power line also brought another 800 plus acres to FBC as a way to mitigate the environmental impacts of the utility corridor from Bangor to Calais. “Are these lands open to the public?” he asks. “I’m glad you asked! That’s one of the biggest reasons that we conserve land. We have built 25 miles of trails and we want people to use them.” I went on to explain that we allow hunting and fishing on the vast majority of the land that we own as well.

“I’m glad to know that this land is going to be protected” David says as



PHOTO GERRY MONTEUX

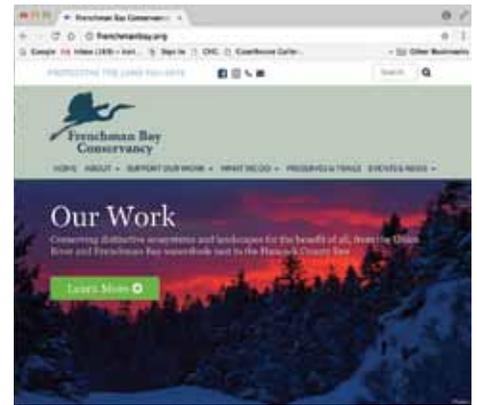
View of Lower West Bay Pond.

Bay Conservancy. “Where do you get your funding?” he asked. “From conservation-minded people like you,” I replied. We paused while crossing the power corridor that meanders through this part of Gouldsboro, and I explained that

we circle back out of the forest to his house. I enjoyed a beautiful walk in the woods with our new neighbor, a father and his adult children, and I am glad too that this land will be protected, for all to enjoy, forever. ❖

Eighteen months ago, Frenchman Bay Conservancy and Maine Coast Heritage Trust spearheaded the Schoodic Mountain to Peninsula Coastal Maine Partnership, which was awarded \$1 million from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, a program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To receive the award, our organizations also committed to raise \$2 million as a 2 to 1 match. The stated goal of the grant is to conserve high value waterfowl and wading bird habitat.

Thankfully, the funds will allow our organizations to take a great step forward toward conserving one of the last remaining areas along the entire eastern seaboard where wilderness stretches from the inland forests to the rugged coast, virtually without interruption. One of our first purchases was the 300 acre Day Trust property. Stay tuned for more information on trail building and a grand opening.



FBC Launches Website Redesign

Frenchman Bay Conservancy launched a new website this spring at the same URL:

www.frenchmanbay.org

New web features include:

- Interactive preserves and trails map
- Streaming live feed at Tidal Falls—Now you can check out the scenery at reversing falls no matter where you are!
- Many new photos of our preserves and conserved lands throughout the website.

We hope you enjoy the sleek new design that’s as easy to navigate on your desktop computer, as it is on your mobile device! Thank you to web designer, Michelle Keyo! ❖

Honorary Gifts

IN MEMORIAM

Sloane Shelton
Doris D. Henley
Rick Beckjord
Marjorie Libby Monteith
Earl Johnston

IN HONOR

Barbara W. Davis
Dyer Wadsworth
Dorothea P Mead
The Crowley Family
Larry & Diana Smith
Barbara & Robert Woodhouse



Join us TODAY!

Your membership and donations help us protect and preserve the character of this very special region. We welcome donations of all levels. Members receive a free decal, our bi-annual newsletter, and opportunities to volunteer.

BLUE HERON SOCIETY

If possible, we urge you to consider joining the Blue Heron Society by making a commitment to give \$1000 or more each year for general operating support. You can also support the Conservancy through a bequest. Remember us in your will or explore other estate planning options with your lawyer.

YES! I want to join Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

 Please enroll me in the category checked below.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000 |

- My check, payable to FBC, is enclosed.
- I prefer to remain anonymous in public membership lists.

Please remit form and check to: Frenchman Bay Conservancy
PO Box 150, Hancock, Maine 04640

To pay by credit card, visit our website www.frenchmanbay.org

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a not-for-profit 501c(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!



Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy's mission is to conserve distinctive ecosystems and landscapes for the benefit of all, from the Union River and Frenchman Bay watersheds east to the Hancock County line.

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For more information on the Conservancy, please visit our office at Tidal Falls, or contact us by mail, phone, or e-mail:

Frenchman Bay Conservancy
PO Box 150 Hancock, Maine 04640
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FBC and LMF Celebrate 30 Years!

Frenchman Bay Conservancy and the Land for Maine's Future Program both celebrate thirty years in 2017. A small group of individuals who were concerned about development threats to many of our natural gems in the region started FBC, first meeting in living rooms and operating on a shoestring budget. With help from Maine Coast Heritage Trust and a lot of perseverance, FBC

The land on the Hancock side of the reversing falls was owned by Christianne Hodgkins, and it had been appraised at \$620,000. It's always at least a little unnerving for a relatively young organization to take on the challenge and risk inherent in a bold project, and that was true with Tidal Falls Preserve. After several detours along the way, FBC successfully protected this property for all to enjoy forever, by purchasing the land in 2000 with funding support from Land for Maine's Future.

Land for Maine's Future, known as LMF, is a forward-thinking Maine program that has conserved more than 150 special places statewide, totaling over 600,000 acres. Sixty percent of Maine voters in both 2010 and in 2012 voted in favor of LMF bond funding—money that supports Maine's most important industries including tourism, forest products, agriculture and fishing.

FBC has partnered with Land for Maine's Future numerous times over the years, including to protect Branch Lake—the drinking water supply for residents of Ellsworth, Indian Point Preserve in Ellsworth, Long Ledges and Schoodic



Eagle in flight

PHOTO DEBBIE STAHERE



An otter investigates the shore at Tidal Falls Preserve

PHOTO DEBBIE STAHERE

conserved several properties over the ensuing years, starting with Little Tunk preserve, now treasured by many in the region, as well as a donated easement on Lower West Bay Pond. Then, by the late 1990's FBC chose to take on its most ambitious project to date, the conservation of a beloved property in Hancock known as Tidal Falls.

Bog Preserves in Sullivan, and of course Tidal Falls Preserve in Hancock.

With your support, Frenchman Bay Conservancy has achieved some remarkable accomplishments in Hancock County. And, Land for Maine's Future has leveraged public and private support to conserve natural treasures across our state. Take a moment this year, with friends and family, to experience these special places for yourself. Check out www.landformainesfuture.org, and of course www.frenchmanbay.org. ❖

Now that FBC has purchased the red house at Tidal Falls from Frank Hodgkins and Lilla Phinney, we have some exciting plans for the Tidal Falls Preserve that we will share with everyone later this year. Please stay tuned for more information.