

Beloved Bean Island Donated to Frenchman Bay Conservancy by Eileen Bader

Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) rang in the 2016 New Year with a new preserve, Bean Island! Bean Island is a 27-acre wooded island, a little over a mile west of Bean Point in Sorrento, Maine. Bean Island was donated to FBC by Lisa Heyward of Sorrento on January 7. A dedicated and passionate conservationist, Heyward is a long-time FBC member and board member.

“My great grandmother purchased Bean Island from two families then passed it along to her daughter, my grandmother, who passed it along to me. We have all loved this small island that sits centerpiece in our view and that of so many Sorrento and Hancock homes. I expect FBC will continue to encourage enthusiastic, responsible public use of Bean Island,” said Lisa Heyward.

In the early 1900s, Bean Island was used by the family for grazing sheep and was primarily open field.

Historically, many of the islands in the Gulf of Maine were logged and became pastures for grazing livestock safeguarded from predators.

In 1975, Lisa’s grandmother, opposed to the idea proposed by a grandchild of subdividing and developing as many lots as possible on the island, put it under conservation



Hikers exploring Bean Island.

PHOTO LISA HEYWARD

easement with Acadia National Park. The easement allows for construction of a residential structure and non-permanent dock. FBC’s ownership ensures that the island will remain undeveloped and available for public use for generations to come.

“The endowment of Bean Island to Frenchman Bay Conservancy is a gift to every citizen of our communities and to the visitors of Downeast Maine. The legacy of Lisa Heyward and her family will forever be preserved by this beautiful place. It is a responsibil-

ity FBC will dutifully uphold through conservation and stewardship,” said FBC President, Randy Ewins.

We will hold our grand opening event and our Annual Meeting on Bean Island on August 7, 2016. For more information on Bean Island and FBC’s other preserves, please contact Eileen at 207-422-2328. ❖

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facebook.com/frenchmanbay

President's Column

a message from our president

Since retiring to Maine a number of years ago, my wife and I have never found ourselves with a lack of things to do. Aside from our home chores, we discovered early on the need and gratification that comes from volunteering. April is National Volunteer Month—a time to reflect and recognize the value of giving back to your community. Regardless of your talents and skills, there is a place for you. Whether taking an hour a week to read to children at your local school, helping out at the community garden, your church, a local land trust (hint, hint - Frenchman Bay Conservancy), hospital or community center, or assisting seniors with transportation to the doctor or grocery store, the volunteer opportunities are vast, and the needs are endless. Though this newsletter will be distributed nationwide, the need for volunteers right here in Downeast Maine is greater than ever.

FBC operates with three full time staff, a volunteer Board of Directors, and upwards of 90 volunteer stewards who keep our conserved lands and trails open for public use. Additionally, 800+ FBC members fund our work with their generous donations. Thank you all! FBC would not survive without your hard work and support.

If you are not doing so already, I encourage you to find your niche and volunteer. You will discover a sense of accomplishment not always found in the 8 to 5 grind. You will meet new and positive people who share your commitment to give back, and you will feel a sense of accomplishment and pride in the organization of your choosing. So often I hear, “I just don’t have the time to volunteer.” In some cases, that very well may be true, but, one or two hours a week or a month will make a difference. And if you are serving in an organization that serves people directly, that difference is profound to both the recipient and volunteer.

Additionally, you may have an opportunity to learn and/or teach a new skill, talent or business operation. When I joined the FBC Board, I had little knowledge of what a land trust organization did, other than the generic definition of, ‘they somehow take land and protect it from development.’ I have since learned a lot about conservation and securing public access. Today, as I wrap up my two year position as President of the Board, I reflect back on the wealth of knowledge and patience I have been afforded by my peer Board members, the two Executive Directors and staff personnel with whom I have worked, and yes, the many, many volunteers and donors I have had the pleasure to meet and work side by side with either across the conference table or on the trail. You all know who you are. Thank you for the opportunity to serve as a volunteer in this incredibly productive, efficient and necessary organization.

— Randy Ewins
President, FBC



Grass Pink Orchid, *Calopogon tuberosus*

Thank you, Joyce!

Last February, long-time FBC Office Manager Joyce Cornwell moved on to other pursuits following thirteen years of service to our organization. FBC’s first Executive Director, Barb Welch hired Joyce in 2003 to process donations and track gifts with Ebase, a program FBC continued to use for Joyce’s entire tenure. Through two subsequent Executive Directors and many new acres of conserved land, Joyce remained a constant at our organization. With her impeccable attention to detail and organizational skills, she coordinated numerous events, scheduled our Monday Music lineup for many years, kept our books, processed all gifts and sent thank you notes.

Finally, in the weeks before she left she worked with consultant Karen Schaller to transition our 2,000 plus donor database from the archaic Ebase to Little Green Light, a far more modern and effective program. She also literally wrote the book on office management at FBC, leaving a 120-page Office Manager Handbook for her successor.

Joyce, thank you for your years of service to FBC! ❖

Improvements Planned for Tidal Falls Preserve in Hancock

Frenchman Bay Conservancy expanded its Tidal Falls preserve in Hancock on March 27, when it purchased 2.7 acres adjacent to its flagship preserve, and 318 feet of frontage on the Taunton River resulting in roughly eight acres total. The new property contains the red house overlooking the picnic area of the preserve.

The purchase marks the beginning of a multi-year effort to improve the preserve, restore portions of the waterfront, and expand upon the educational and stewardship opportunities FBC currently offers to local and out-of-town visitors. The purchase of the red house will also

currents create a beautiful reversing falls. Visitors frequent the preserve to picnic and enjoy the spectacular falls. The preserve is especially popular on Monday nights during July and August when FBC hosts their weekly, free, outdoor concert series.

Bald eagles, eiders, seals, kingfishers, and other wildlife are frequent sights at this popular picnic destination. Kayakers regularly paddle the rapids, launching from the FBC parking lot. Tidal Falls has a rich history, including being the site of an early iteration



PHOTO PAUL BREEDEN

Tidal Falls as seen from a kayak.

This place is a popular and accessible destination, and a great illustration of why conservation matters in eastern Maine.

provide a permanent and sustainable base for the land trust's operations.

The Tidal Falls Preserve overlooks the channel between Hancock and Sullivan linking Taunton Bay and Frenchman Bay where powerful tidal

of Maine Central Railroad's Hancock ferry connection to Bar Harbor in the late nineteenth century. In the last century, the Hodgkins family operated a lobster pound and buying station, and then later a seafood

take-out restaurant for many years. FBC bought the property with broad public support and a grant from the Land for Maine's Future program.

"This place is a popular and accessible destination, and a great illustration of why conservation matters in eastern Maine" said FBC's Executive Director, Aaron Dority. "It was a pleasure working with Lilla and Jesse Phinney and Frank Hodgkins to purchase this property, and we're excited at the future possibilities for this special place." ❖



View of the red house from the Tidal Falls Preserve picnic area.

Conservation for Migratory Fish and Birds

by Aaron Dority

Dropping my daughter off at preschool recently, I noticed a welcome sign of spring—a cacophony of new bird calls seemingly surrounding me in the trees. As I watched the flurry of activity at a nearby feeder, I wondered how far some of those tiny animals had traveled to arrive in eastern Maine in late March. Of course, signs of spring are everywhere now—the buzzing mating call of a woodcock in the late evening, the swelling buds that give a red hue to maple groves—but spring migrations are something



PHOTO GERRY MONTEUX

Common Yellowthroat Warbler, Hancock

altogether different and truly remarkable. In fact, the cyclical movements of millions of individual animals are some of the most enjoyable annual reminders of the importance of land conservation.

It was only a few years ago, at a conference held at the Schoodic Institute in Acadia National Park in Winter Harbor that I started paying much closer attention to the incredible winged migration that Mainers have the good fortune to experience every year. On that day, the warmer breezes invited me outside during a break and a friend noted that he heard no less than four different warbler species. Easily visible while the trees were still bare, we watched the long-distance travelers on their northern journey flitting from branch to branch at a point overlooking

Bar Harbor. This vast stretch of conserved lands is enjoyed by locals and many of the quarter million migratory summer people, but it and other conserved lands are also critical to the very survival of migratory songbirds that overwinter in the tropical jungles of Central and South America.

While many of us would get lost when traveling to a new place without the aid of signs and maps, many birds travel ten thousand miles or more navigating by the stars, moon and sun, and even following the Earth's magnetic fields. Juveniles make their journey north having never been to their destination before. After flying over large swaths of ocean and depleting their energy reserves, these animals depend upon high-value habitat in specific locations to rest and refuel. Thankfully, Maine still has forested coastline and large, undeveloped blocks of land, and Frenchman Bay Conservancy works to protect critical habitat such as this in eastern Maine.

Migratory fish are a little harder to notice unless you happen across a barrier to upstream fish passage around the high tide. Then, if you crouch near the water, letting your eyes adjust to the glare on the surface as you strain to see below it, you begin to notice the dozens and perhaps hundreds of dorsal fins protruding through the surface. They are the alewives meandering just below the falls waiting for the opportunity to pass through to reach an upland lake or pond.

There are numerous species of 'diadromous' fish—those that travel between fresh and saltwater at various times during their lives. After cohabiting with Atlantic Herring and related species that spend their entire lives in saltwater, Alewife, Shad and Blueback Herring return from the sea to the places where their lives began, a process known as natal homing. These fish spawn in freshwater where

their young will live for two years before returning to sea and beginning the process over again. Eels are on the opposite cycle. The elvers that return to Maine's rivers in the spring began

Maine is one of the last places where populations of both elvers and alewife are still relatively healthy.

their lives in the Sargasso Sea, though the specific location is still unknown. Then they spend most of their lives in freshwater before returning to the sea to reproduce.

Maine is one of the last places where populations of both elvers and alewife are still relatively healthy. While these fish have migrated up rivers for millions of years, dam building and development have tragically eliminated critical habitat over the past two hundred years. However, better fisheries and land



PHOTO DEBBIE STAHR

Alewife at Tidal Falls

use management regulations are now in place to allow recovery.

At FBC, we play a role in recovery by conserving buffers around important streams, preventing poorly planned development and protecting the surrounding ecology from human



PHOTO LISA HEYWARD

Planned Giving for the Conservancy's Future

Planned giving for charitable purposes is possible through a variety of ways, some very straightforward and others a little more complex. The easiest way to continue your support of Frenchman Bay Conservancy and its mission is to remember the Conservancy in your Will or Living Trust. One can also plan to give a gift to the Conservancy outside of a Will or Living Trust by naming the Conservancy as a beneficiary to a retirement plan, IRA, bank or brokerage account, life insurance policy, Charitable Lead Trust, Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity.

Your attorney or financial planner can help determine the option that works best for you. These are all easy and tax-efficient ways to give and support the Conservancy and help ensure its ability to protect land well into the future. Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization so that all gifts to the Conservancy qualify for a tax deduction. The Conservancy's federal tax identification number is 22-2849309. ❖

Conservation *continued from page 4*

disturbance. We're now exploring the more direct role of restoring fish passage by removing the barriers, including poorly-sized culverts and small dams. Land trusts are increasingly engaged in this work, and we would do it in partnership with municipalities, land-owners and other organizations like the Downeast Salmon Federation and The Nature Conservancy.

In eastern Maine, we are blessed with opportunities to conserve intact ecosystems, including the Union River watershed and the undeveloped corridor between Schoodic Point and Tunk Lake. Your support makes it possible for us to protect the habitat needed by our seasonal migrants. Note that we have two bird walks planned for this year, on May 14 and June 19. We hope that you can join us in witnessing once again the songs and vibrant colors as migratory birds return to our woods in Maine. ❖



PHOTO EILEEN BADER

FBC Welcomes New Office Manager

When you contact Frenchman Bay Conservancy, you'll now be greeted by a new voice. Carly Talbott became the newest addition to FBC's team as Office Manager on March 7. Carly comes to us most recently from an internship with Friends of Acadia where she researched and pursued

grant opportunities. She grew up on the Southwest coast of Florida, and has a Bachelors degree from the University of Central Florida, UCF. Carly traveled to Florence, Italy, where she taught English. She then worked at the UCF Center for Public and Nonprofit Management, an organization that aims to develop the capacities of Orlando based public and nonprofit organizations. She is also currently pursuing a Masters in Nonprofit Management, also at UCF. We're excited to have Carly aboard! ❖

Subscribe to FBC's Monthly E-newsletter

FBC has a monthly e-newsletter, which includes updates on recent and upcoming news, events, and activities. It is easy to subscribe via the subscribe button on our website, or email Eileen at eileen@frenchmanbay.org



PHOTO EILEEN BADER

Monday Music 2016 Schedule

July 11	New Shades of Blue
July 18	Jazz Time 99
July 25	UMaine Machias Ukulele Band
Aug 1	The Acadia School of Traditional Music & Arts
Aug 8	Him & Her
Aug 15	Gus La Casse
Aug 22	Fletcher's Landing Philharmonic Orchestra

All Monday Music Concerts are held at Tidal Falls from 6:30–8:00pm

All our free concerts are weather permitting, no rain dates. Bring a picnic or purchase something from Thyme Traveler food cart.

Cancellations will be posted at www.facebook.com/frenchmanbay.

LOBSTER at Tidal Falls

Friday Evening, July 22, 2016

Serving 5:30-6:30pm

Rain or Shine

Reserve early, pre-paid reservations only. If you didn't receive an invitation to our annual fund-raising lobster dinner, contact the office at 422-2328. FBC will provide picnic tables and tent.

BYOB



PHOTO GERRY MONTEUX

The Rest of Our Summer Events...

There are so many 2016 events scheduled for the summer that we listed them on a handy insert you can hang on your refrigerator. We can't wait to see you at the bird walk, the children's program at the library, or a trail day!



PHOTO STEVE FULLER

Volunteers at the June 2015 Branch Lake Clean Up day in Ellsworth



PHOTO EILEEN BADER

Hikers at the Mariaville Falls Grand Opening in October 2015

Honorary Gifts

IN MEMORIAM

Rick Beckjord
Oliver Crosby
Greer Gilka
Mary O'Meara
Stan Machnik

IN NOMINE

Jeff Cosulich
The Crowley Family
Linda Gaal



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.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Summer address from _____ to _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Please enroll me in the category checked below.

☐ \$5 STUDENT

☐ \$250

BLUE HERON SOCIETY

☐ \$25

☐ \$500

☐ \$1000

☐ \$50

☐ \$750

☐ \$2500

☐ \$100

☐ \$ _____

☐ \$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 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!



Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is a not-for-profit land trust founded in 1987. Our mission is to build lasting relationships and commitments that conserve the distinctive landscapes and natural resources of the Frenchman Bay and Union River watersheds.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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STAFF

Aaron Dority, *Executive Director*

Eileen Bader, *Community Outreach Coordinator*

Carly Talbott, *Office Manager*

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

(207) 422-2328

aaron@frenchmanbay.org

www.frenchmanbay.org



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and join Frenchman Bay Conservancy from your smart phone with a credit card.

Environmental Steward to Join FBC for 2016

Frenchman Bay Conservancy will hire a full-time, seasonal Environmental Steward from Maine Conservation Corps this summer to complete trail and preserve stewardship tasks, engage volunteers, and to lead a new weekly volunteer stewardship day. The weekly workday is a new strategy for FBC. The workday will be the same day and time each week to encourage available volunteers to drop in as their schedules allow. We will still host periodic weekend volunteer events as well.

Our preserve and trail maintenance—stewardship work—is completely dependent upon volunteer support. Over the past five years, we have increased our conserved lands by more than sixty percent and increased trail miles by fifty percent. While we enjoy a dedicated and energetic group of stewardship volunteers, now is the time to increase and diversify our volunteer base and ensure that we maintain high-quality trails for all.

The Environmental Steward will provide a temporary boost as we maintain more trail than ever before, currently 25 miles, and as we prepare to hold the

grand openings of three new preserves this summer! Last year, as many readers may recall, FBC hired a six-person MCC trail crew for eight weeks to build the Schoodic Connector Trail, a 2.5-mile trail connecting our Baker Hill and Long Ledges preserves to Schoodic Mountain. The crew skillfully crafted stone staircases, cut new trail, removed stumps, and built bog bridges, exceeding our expectations for the amount and quality of work that could be completed in eight short weeks.

While the Environmental Steward is tasked with different responsibilities for the coming season, we are confident that the Maine Conservation Corps hire will be an exceptional short-term addition to our staff and build upon the success of last year's MCC crew.

The Environmental Steward will begin on June 6 and stay on board through November 11. If you happen upon this hard-working individual at a preserve this season, be sure to stop and say hello.

We encourage you to consider volunteering with us! Spending a few hours working outside in the woods is guaranteed to leave you feeling refreshed and

satisfied knowing you've contributed to maintaining and preserving a valuable community asset. ❖

For more information on ways to volunteer, contact Eileen at 422-2328, or eileen@frenchmanbay.org.

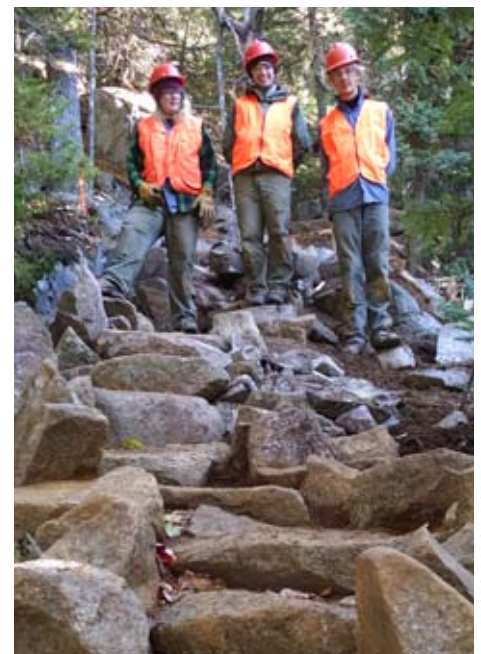


PHOTO AARON DORITY

The MCC trail crew members looking down on newly finished stone steps in 2015.