



# Frenchman Bay CONSERVANCY

*protecting the land you love*



PHOTO: ED CURTIS

## The Rewarding Work of Stewardship

by Jamie Brown and Tom Sidar

Whenever we acquire a new parcel of land or a new easement, Frenchman Bay Conservancy commits to stewardship in perpetuity. We carefully craft deeds and easements in legal language that protects the conservation values unique to each property. The moment we record the easement with the county, our stewardship begins.

But it is really the people in our communities who will make the most difference in protecting and preserving

our lands for generations to come. What perpetuity means is that our organization and our volunteers will pass along our love of these natural lands and our sense of responsibility to care for them from generation to generation. Our new emphasis on a community's connection to the land will help sustain our stewardship efforts. FBC's capable volunteers tell the story best.

In Corea, a group of enthusiastic neighbors came together to form the

'Friends of Corea Heath'. Garry and Rosemary Levin use their business, Chapter Two, as a gathering place and information hub to recruit people. People's interest in the North Corea Heath property began during acquisition and fundraising, but their real connection to the land blossomed during stewardship work. Both year round and summer residents comprise Friends of Corea Heath.

"People feel a real sense of ownership of the land. It's in their backyard, and

*continued on page 6*



# President's Column

## *A message from our president*

Greetings,

Land trusts have changed how we recount our successes. In the past all the emphasis was on acres conserved. Now we talk about lands under stewardship.

What is the difference? The difference is a philosophical shift in considering the importance of the people in the communities in and around the conserved lands. Stewardship done well allows land conservation organizations and their communities to build healthy relationships. Inviting people in the communities to have a say in how the properties are managed and inviting the public to enjoy the lands strengthens trust and mutual appreciation between land trusts and their communities. Such healthy relationships have both present and future benefits. People who appreciate their conserved lands will go to great lengths to protect them if they are endangered.

This “new” philosophy is one that Frenchman Bay Conservancy has espoused from our earliest days. Our mission statement emphasizes building lasting relationships and commitments.

All of our preserves are open to the public. Our “Short Hikes” map informs anyone who wants to hike the trails in the preserves where to find them.

Our oldest and most popular preserve at Tidal Falls has been open to the public since FBC purchased it in 2000. There are visitors there just about every day all year round! People sit at the tables to picnic and to contemplate the view; kayakers play in the reversing falls on the ebbing tide. In the summer the restaurant brings people for lobster and barbecue meals, and our Monday Music evenings draw very enthusiastic crowds to free concerts.

FBC's first capital campaign was to purchase Tidal Falls. The vision of its board and many generous donors was that Tidal Falls is a very special place that should be a public preserve. Tom's interview in this newsletter with Herb Hodgkins, who grew up at Tidal Falls, will show that his family and the local communities appreciated its unique qualities for years before it became an FBC preserve.

Our newest purchase, Northern Corea Heath, has brought along with it very enthusiastic Friends of Corea Heath led by Garry and Rosemary Levin. They have already begun making trails on the property. This group supplies a terrific example of the great relationships that can grow between a land trust and its communities. The lead article further describes their wonderful enthusiasm, energy, and work.

Thank you all for all your support and involvement this year. I look forward to working with many more of you.

Sincerely,



Lisa Heyward, *President*



PHOTO JAMIE BROWN

The Mitchell Property



# Land Acquisition News

by Jamie Brown

Thanks to the generosity of Danny and Charlotte Mitchell, the Conservancy acquired a 15-acre parcel in South Gouldsboro in July. FBC purchased the land below its appraised value, which is commonly known as a “bargain sale.” Danny was very fond of the land and wanted to see it protected forever. The property contains a deer wintering yard as well as habitat for inland wading birds and waterfowl. It also contains frontage along Mill Stream which connects Lily Pond to Frenchman Bay. The land is situated within the Schoodic-to-Schoodic initiative project area. Due to the property’s remote location far from public roads and the sensitive habitat it contains, public use is not encouraged at this time.

In September, the Conservancy entered into agreements to purchase two properties. The first project is located in Gouldsboro and contains over 400 acres of wetlands and woodland habitat. The property, combined with the adjacent land owned by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will create a larger land block and help to protect sensitive bird habitat. FBC and USFW are collaborating on a management plan for the two properties that will allow visitors to view the beautiful land without interfering with the conservation values. A portion of the purchase price has been raised through generous donors, with fundraising efforts underway to raise the balance of the purchase price and funds for stewardship activities.

The second project involves a 300-acre parcel in Sullivan that abuts our Baker Hill



easement. The acquisition of this land will create a large conservation block and could link the Sunrise Trail to a series of rustic trails on FBC lands. The property contains inland wading bird and waterfowl habitat, a deer wintering yard, and a small pond that is home to unique flora, including a healthy population of pitcher plants. Neighbors along Punkinville Road have played an important role in the acquisition phase of this project, and the Conservancy hopes to build on this relationship to ensure that the property is properly cared for once it is acquired.

FBC received a grant from the Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) program that will cover roughly a quarter of the acquisition costs. Fundraising for the purchase and stewardship of the property will take place this winter, closing sometime in the summer of 2009, as long as we meet fundraising goals. ❖



Wetlands on Mitchell Property.



Rock Formation on Sullivan Property.



View of Schoodic Mountain from Postage Stamp Pond.

PHOTOS JAMIE BROWN





The Lobster Pound, 1968

# Spirit of Tidal Falls

by Tom Sidar

I'm sitting at the table by the window that looks out over Tidal Falls listening to Herb and Pat Hodgkins recount memories of living their lives on the water, land and buildings of the Tidal Falls Preserve. Photos and slides and newspaper articles are spread out in front of us. Memories are rolling.

"Here's an article that appeared in the Ford Times New England Journeys magazine. Ford dealers used to give these to Ford buyers for free," Herb says and

hands me the journal from 1954 with the page marked at "The Reversible Falls."

I read the first sentence out loud—"Twelve miles east of Ellsworth, Maine on U.S. 1, there is a sight to stir the imagination—a waterfall which flows in both directions!" I look out the window. A kingfisher making a loud noise flies by and lands on the deck outside. At an hour before low tide, the falls are roaring.

Pat hands me a slide of the Lobster Pound from 1968. I hold it up to light from

the window and ask how the story of Tidal Falls begins.

"The Red Paint People were on this site before the Indians came," Herb says and continues with the Maine Central Railroad linking with the old Bar Harbor Ferry Terminal in the days before Trenton Bridge. "They built the first wharf for the Ferry here, but the tides were too strong and they moved it two miles down the bay around 1900."

Pat shows me a slide of a couple of young men working on the lobster float. I ask who they are. "That's Tooky Page and Herb. They're loading lobsters from the pound into crates. Herb and Tooky worked for Herb's father, Dana Hodgkins. Herb moved here from Hancock Point in 1950 when his father built the pound here. The family lived in the red house up there."

Where did you two meet? "I met Pat in a snowstorm at Husson College. I was there taking classes and found a bookkeeper for our lobster business. I saw her walking along the street. I pulled my car over and asked, 'Would you like a ride?' 'You're going the wrong way,' she said. 'I can turn around,' I said."

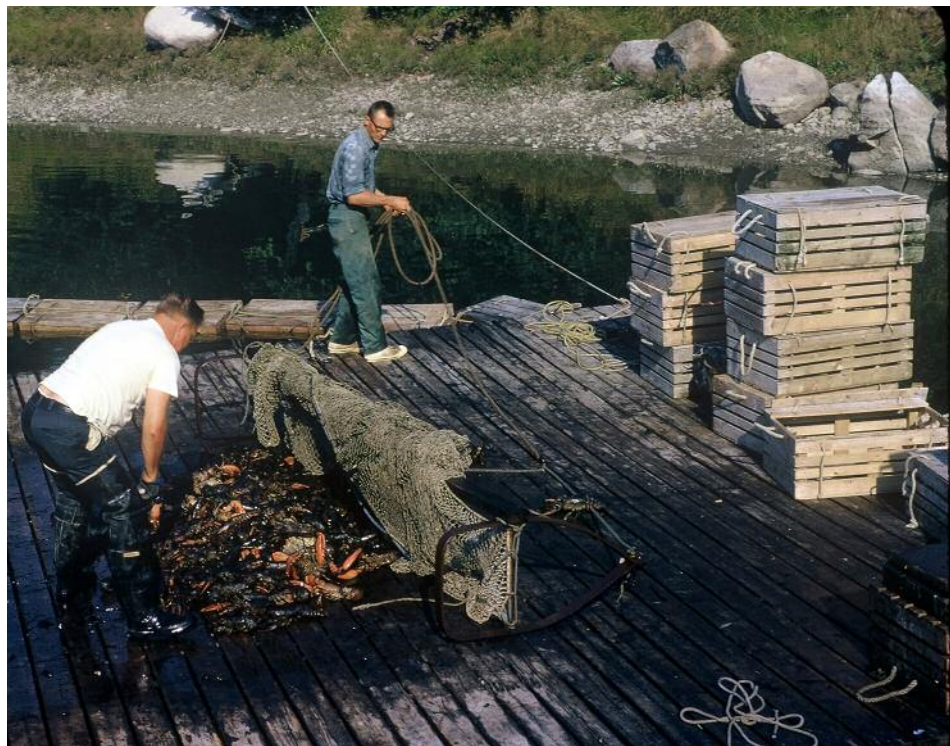
Where did you live first when you were married? "Right here above the restaurant." I go over to the sink and get a drink of







Dana Hodgkins



Seining Lobster

PHOTOS HODKINS FAMILY

water. I look down at the vintage name plate on the fixture, “Youngstown Kitchens by Mullins.” I think to myself that not much has changed. “Pat and I lived right here when Susan was born.” Herb says and Pat shuffles through more slides.

How was it growing up here?

Herb starts remembering... “Kids and dogs used to swim right in the pound in the summer. Kiki, our dog, used to swim

***“Kids and dogs used to swim right in the pound in the summer. Kiki, our dog, used to swim along with the same seal every day.”***

along with the same seal every day.” He laughs. “They were friends.”

One day back in the early seventies, my father and I were working at our lobster pound. My father looked up and around the falls and said, “Someday this should be public preserve.” Coming from him, it was an unusual remark. I stopped and looked at him. The next words out of his mouth were, “Now get back to work.”

Herb and Pat took me through the ownership changes for Tidal Falls over the years. Options to buy a conservation

easement on the property didn’t pan out, so in 2000 the Conservancy began the successful campaign to buy the property. In 2001, Frenchman Bay Conservancy’s

***“Someday this should be a Public Preserve.”***

Tidal Falls Preserve was opened to the public and protected forever.

Sitting around the table, Herb and Pat and I talked about how much joy this natural and dramatically beautiful preserve brings to the surrounding communities and people from all over the US and Canada. I thought about how Herb comes down to the preserve almost every day making repairs, keeping the road in good shape and generally brightening the day for visitors.

We talked of kayakers from as far away as British Columbia running the currents and eddies of the falls, families picnicking, children fascinated by life in the tidal pools. Then I spoke of the day I was outside enjoying the view myself and struck up a conversation with an older couple—a gentleman with a cane wearing sunglasses, his wife at his side. He said that they come down to Tidal Falls from Bangor every year. He’d grown up in Sullivan and played by the falls many times as a boy. I gazed out at the sunlight on the roaring whitewater and said what a beautiful

sight it was. The gentleman said that he was now completely blind. We talked more and then I left them to enjoy the sounds and the smells that reconnected him with nature and the memories of his joyful youth. When I finished telling this story, Herbie looked reflective and said only “Yeah.” I looked over at Pat and saw her eyes quietly well up.❖



PHOTO HODKINS FAMILY



they put work into it and feel a sense of pride. Then they tell others about it and word spreads. We all drive past the Heath every day, and knowing that such an important part of the community is protected, and that we have contributed to its protection, means a lot to us. People remember their trips to Corea and the work they did on the trails and can't wait to come back to enjoy this beautiful property that they worked on. Everyone feels this sense of ownership and being connected to the land." - Rosemary Levin

"I knew the land was special, but I was amazed at what was actually back there." - Garry Levin

Jay and Nancy Horshak have worked tirelessly on the Corea Heath trails and they are glad to see that conservation will balance protection with public access. "It's great because the trail only takes up a small part of the land, but it gives visitors a glimpse of the fragile ecosystem that is being protected." - Jay Horshak

Just down the road a group of neighbors in Sullivan, led by the intense energy of Clint and Eleanor Ritchie, has begun establishing a stewardship relationship similar to the Friends of Corea Heath for a local property that the Conservancy hopes to acquire next summer. At Indian Point in Ellsworth, local students and scouts cleared and repaired the trails and installed interpretive trail signs. Last summer a church youth group from Burlington, Vermont, worked on several of FBC's preserves to paint, trim brush, cleanup, and install bog bridges.

The Conservancy's stewardship work in the community is not just limited to its preserves. FBC currently holds twenty-one easements which must be monitored annually. Easements involve a different sort of stewardship relationship. The Conservancy and landowners work together to establish a plan that protects the conservation values for each property. However, when land changes hands, FBC

must develop new relationships with new owners who may or may not understand or agree with the terms of the conservation easement.

Ed Curtis, who with his wife Karen donated an easement on the 35-acre property that they own in Hancock, recognized the importance of stewardship. "We love the land and wanted to see it protected. The Conservancy has worked with us to ensure that the terms of the easement are followed, and their stewardship work will continue with future owners. We are very reassured to know that Frenchman Bay Conservancy will monitor our property to protect our wishes into perpetuity."

The Conservancy's stewardship obligations will greatly increase as we acquire more easements. All land trusts face this issue. Through collaborations with communities, a growing volunteer program, and good relationships with landowners, FBC is working to fulfill its perpetual stewardship obligations. ❖



PHOTO STEVE PERRIN

**HALCYON**—a fabled bird, identified with the Kingfisher, that was supposed to have had the power to calm the wind and the waves while it nested on the sea during the winter solstice.

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## Fundraising: *How we ask and why*

As a member of FBC, you'll receive several kinds of requests for funding. We do this because we know that people respond differently to appeals. Some are inspired by a picture of a completed project, some like to be in on a land purchase and some are interested in supporting the basic operations of the organization. We don't expect everyone to respond to every request and we are grateful for every gift you send. These are the kinds of appeals we send:

**Membership Renewal Notices** go out in the spring. These gifts go into the general operating fund, which includes all the staff time put into the land protection and stewardship programs.

**An Annual Appeal** is sent in the fall. These gifts also go into the general fund.

**Three Newsletters** each year include a donation card. Each newsletter will

highlight a specific program area or project and you'll have the opportunity to direct your gift to that program if you choose.

**Capital Campaigns** to purchase land or complete major projects have their own schedule, outside the regular fundraising routine. We always offer members the opportunity to contribute to such projects, either through a special appeal or a newsletter.

We also reach beyond our membership in capital campaigns to engage more members of the community in protecting the places that are important to them.

If you don't wish to receive specific kinds of mailings please let us know and we'll make every effort to respect your wishes. We can't customize the newsletter mailings because of the rules for bulk mail, but we can remove your name from the mailing lists of any direct appeal. ❖

## In Memoriam

We have received memorial donations in honor of L. Gordon Hamersley, Henry Vandewater, and Adina Back.

# Join us TODAY!

Most of our operating budget is provided by donations from our members. We count on your regular donations to enable us to protect more land and preserve the character of this very special place. We welcome donations at all levels—the growth in our membership over the years tells us that the community values our work.

Our members tell us that the benefit they value most is the knowledge that they've done their share in *protecting the land they love*. But, just as a bonus, they also get three editions a year of our informative newsletter, and they get the opportunity to help out with trail maintenance, planting flowers or getting out a mailing.

## Blue Heron Society

If your circumstances permit, 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 help us grow into a more ambitious and proactive land trust with more capacity to make a difference.

**YES!** I want to join Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Summer address from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

## Membership Levels

Please enroll me in the category checked below:

☐ \$5 STUDENT

☐ \$25

☐ \$50

☐ \$100

☐ \$250

☐ \$500

☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

### BLUE HERON SOCIETY

☐ \$1000

☐ \$2500

☐ \$5000

☐ I am interested in becoming an FBC volunteer.

☐ My check, payable to FBC, is enclosed.

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

*Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a nonprofit 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 nonprofit land trust founded in 1987. Its mission is to build lasting relationships and commitments that conserve the distinctive landscapes and natural resources of the Frenchman Bay and Union River watersheds.

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 tom@frenchmanbay.org**  
**www.frenchmanbay.org**



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## Frenchman Bay Conservancy and Crabtree Neck Land Trust Partner for Paddling Event

Rain and fog couldn't dim the colorful array of kayaks and the enthusiasm of 33 paddlers as they set out from Tidal Falls on the morning of August 11. Organizers from the Crabtree Neck Land Trust and Frenchman Bay Conservancy entrusted the group to Maine Sea Kayak Guides Tammy Kelley and Ander Thébaud who took the lead and rear respectively and kept the paddlers together. Even in the fog, the scenery was magical as paddlers peered through the mist and saw banks mounded with sea lavender, expansive grassy marsh areas, and islands in Old Pond and then Young's Bay. These sights

reminded the members of CNLT and FBC why we work to protect our local shores and watershed.

Sunshine broke through the clouds just as the group stopped for a picnic lunch at Sally and Peter Bryant's beach near Hancock Point. There, Lois Johnson, a local historian and genealogist, gave an informative talk of the history of the area. The 18th century maps she provided delighted everyone.

The last leg of the trip brought higher seas and a bit of wind rounding the point, but by the last mile, the sun was shining and the waters were calm. 14.3 miles after

they began, the weary but happy seafarers pulled ashore for refreshments and another presentation, this time by Gale McCullough, a naturalist who has been studying the seal population around Hill's Island for about 20 years. Gale's wildlife observations underscored the area's conservation values.

Both FBC and the Crabtree Neck Land Trust want to hold the event again next year. Paddle participants included CNLT President Judy Adelman, FBC President Lisa Heyward, and Tom Sidar, FBC Executive Director. ❖



*Frenchman Bay*  
**CONSERVANCY**

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