



The Origins and Progress of Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Interviews with three of our founders by Tom Sidar

In the summer of 1987, Steve Perrin woke up on Burying Island in Taunton Bay and saw smoke rising from the west shore in Hancock. “That’s where the eagles are nesting. This isn’t going to work for the eagles.

current and the fierce whitewater falls. He tells me that it is hard for him to concentrate. He is watching the seals and cormorants and gulls fishing the alewife run and the eagles diving at the birds.

development with little regard for its impact on the natural wildlife habitat or clean water.”

Steve pulls out a well organized file folder which contains The Ellsworth American, August 13, 1987. There it is—forty people came to the Hancock Community Center and twenty signed on as the “Frenchman Bay Land Trust launching committee”.

As Steve goes on, it occurs to me that, in a different way, Frenchman Bay Conservancy, at least the values at the heart of it all, started much earlier. He tells me about his childhood and how his family lived on Burying Island every summer when he was growing up. “Our parents turned us loose on the island and didn’t hear from us until suppertime. Then, one early spring day, for the first time, I saw the ice on the shores come out into the bay in monstrous flows, I went over to see. The water flowed out strongly, not only from above but also from underground. I began to realize that the water and the soil and all life are linked together. Suddenly, I understood watersheds. This systematized sense of nature was built into me, growing up on Burying Island.”

Another day, I am at Sheila Denny-Brown’s kitchen table in Hancock Point. She was one of five who signed the Frenchman Bay Conservancy incorporation papers. On the window sill there is a long row of dried sea urchins. Out the window, I see curious vines grow on



PHOTO DEBBIE STAHR

If I don’t row over there I can’t live with myself.” That was the beginning of the Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

Steve tells me this story twenty-five years later while we sit at the FBC office table at Tidal Falls. We are looking out at the nine knot

He continues, “So I rowed over to the man standing near the burning brush and timbers and pointed to the two eagles nests and said, ‘You are too close to the eagle’s nests to be building a road.’ After that, I read more about eagles and made a case to oppose the subdivision. I posted a meeting notice in The Ellsworth American, a call to bring people together who cared about the land and waters of Frenchman Bay. The climate of the times, this was the late 80’s, was development, development,

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President's Column

a message from our president, Lisa Heyward

This year Frenchman Bay Conservancy celebrates twenty-five years of accomplishments since its founding in 1987. Along with planning several celebratory events, we have also reminded ourselves of the work of the founders. Our lead article is based on interviews Tom had with founding board members Oliver Crosby, Sheila Denny-Brown and Steve Perrin. There is also a memorial article on my mother Jane

Heyward. What comes through in all four cases is their love of nature, inspired by childhood adventures and shared within the generations of their families. Their time in Maine especially included exploring the wonders of the beaches and forests largely on their own or with other family members. They absorbed the previous generation's love of the area and made sure to pass it on to the next generations. In acquiring

our preserves and opening them up to public use, Frenchman Bay Conservancy hopes to enhance that generational transfer of love of nature and specifically of the wonders of nature in this part of Maine. The special people mentioned in this issue set shining examples for us. Please join us in celebrating them and the work that they inspired in the work that FBC does today. ❖



A male pileated woodpecker and a blue heron.

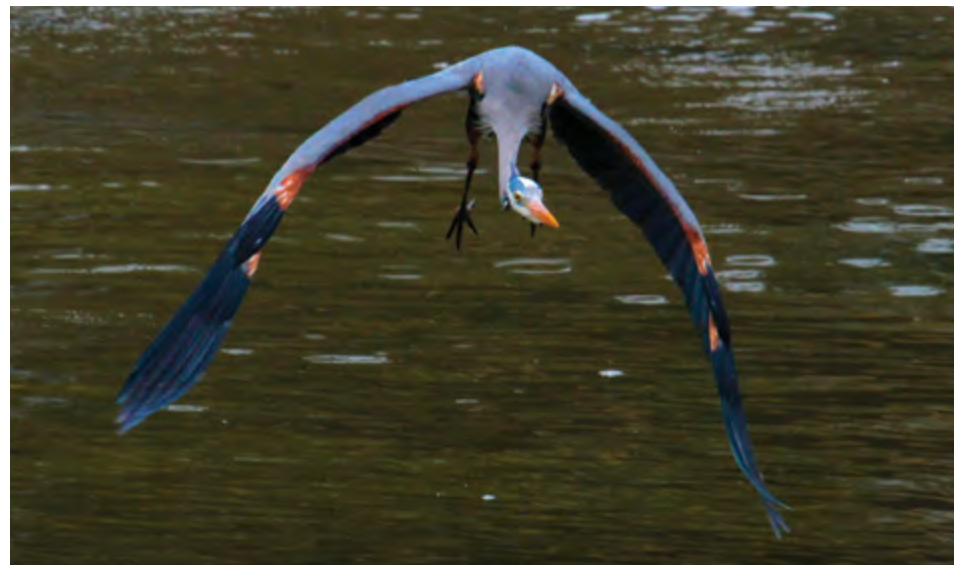


PHOTO DEBBIE STAHRE

Origins *continued from page 1*

a cedar trellis. Sheila tells me that they are kiwis. "The raccoons really like them."

She relates Steve's story of the eagle's nests and the first meeting in Hancock. As the conversation goes on, I pick up the familiar connection of children who grew up outside playing in the natural woods and waters around Frenchman Bay. "My family came to Hancock Point every summer, all summer long. My parents loaded up the woody station wagon in Ohio, three kids in the back on sleeping bags, and drove all the way to Hancock Point. We ran

around outside with the other kids all summer long until we went back to Ohio and school started. We felt that Maine was our real home. My dad loved the outdoors and he tended to buy more land than he could afford. He started this little land trust, Crabtree Neck Wildlife Sanctuary that later fell into disuse." Eventually, the properties came to FBC.

What was it like in the early days of FBC? "Everyone who came to the meetings had a passionate love of the wild places and felt strongly about the public access and vistas that were being lost in the growth

spurt of the 80's and 90's. The larger land trusts helped us a lot, particularly Jay Espy and Caroline Pryor at Maine Coast Heritage Trust. The towns were well represented. There were some heated discussions and more than one crisis, but mostly we were compatible. We took some wonderful outings. I remember us all going out to Ironbound Island with Mike Blaney, and up Tucker Mountain with Lisa Heyward. Little Tunk was our first preserve."

FBC's first newsletter, dated May 1989, tells the story of how that preserve came into conservation,



PHOTO KELLY BELLIS

Little Tunk, FBC's first preserve

from Bob and Jim Bryan to Maine Coast Heritage Trust to FBC. "That was a great project. We still use Little Tunk all the time. Our kids go there with their kids."

And Tidal Falls? "Tidal Falls changed a lot of people's minds about the professionalism of FBC. Tidal Falls convinced people. If FBC could protect Tidal Falls, we could do almost anything. It was a huge amount of money and we didn't really know if we could do it, but Oliver Crosby said that if we didn't try now, we'd never be able to do it again. Have you talked to Oliver?"

Tidal Falls project, is well known. As he talks, like a true leader, credit to others flows effusively. "Absolutely, Steve Perrin! He was the sparkplug. Weyman Billings, Shawn O'Brien, Mary McCormick, Phil Lape, Bill Munsey, Doug Coleman, Harry Cunningham, Bill Ceckler, Lisa Heyward, Hank and Peggy Sharpe, Bayard Ewing, Barb Kent, Barb Welch, Fred Stocking, Gary Friedmann...he rattles off names and tells stories.

His excitement about Little Tunk, Tidal Falls, Indian Point is evident and his respect for the people

We took some wonderful outings. I remember us all going out to Ironbound Island with Mike Blaney, and up Tucker Mountain with Lisa Heyward. Little Tunk was our first preserve.

Oliver Crosby and I are sitting in wicker chairs in his cottage. It is one of those rare, warm, clear days of early spring. We are looking out across Frenchman Bay to Cadillac and the surrounding Acadia Mountains. Pip, the little Westie, and Sam, what Oliver calls a "Serbian coarse-haired hound" are lively and jumping about.

Oliver's leadership in the early days and later, especially through the

involved is obvious and deep. "Bayard Ewing, a true gentleman... Fred Stocking, immensely helpful... Hank and Peggy Sharpe, a major force, crucial to our efforts to reach out...Bill Ceckler, gave it 100%...Phil Lape, extremely helpful in raising the money...Bill Munsey, a stalwart right hand...Ken Cline, a wonderful Union River connection."

When he relates the details of the Tidal Falls story, I learn that it

didn't always go smoothly. "It took patience and persistence and we finally prevailed. Tidal Falls was like a jet-assisted take off. Everyone was delighted."

Back at the FBC Tidal Falls office, ten harbor seals swim circles near the old lobster pound. An eagle dives at a seal and attempts to steal an alewife. As I look out on this scene, I reflect on the success of Frenchman Bay Conservancy over twenty-five years. At the start, eagles were listed as an endangered species and development without regard for clean water, natural habitat and public access was on the rise. Then, FBC and other land trusts began to protect the eagle's natural habitat and the surrounding watersheds. Now, FBC has over 5,000 acres under the protection and care of a healthy 900 member organization.



PHOTO DEBBIE STAHRE

River otter

Our organization is part of a much larger conservation movement. There are over a hundred land trusts in Maine alone.

What did it take to make the difference? Well, someone needed to see the smoke rising and ask, "Why?" Many others needed to join to make a difference for the treasured natural world that surrounds us here in Hancock County. More often than not, the imprint of a childhood spent exploring nature made all the difference. ❖

When Jim's father, Glenn, first visited us in Maine, Mom took him hiking in the Black Mountains. Glenn came home and informed me I should warn the uninitiated about my mother. Evidently she had taken him on one of her new cliff trails, the highlight of which was the place where you had to lean over the edge of a cliff, grab onto a tree and let it slowly 'glide you down to the ground', as Mom put it.

—Daughter Nin

“There's a spring back here somewhere, we need to bushwhack to find it.” And so we went, clipping along, placing ribbons as we progressed, slowly blazing a trail to the spring and to a neighboring property as Grandma identified birdcalls and pointed out various plants along the way. When we arrived at the spring, we scooped the clear water with a cut plastic milk jug, passing it between us and gulped. “Isn't this water more pure than anything you've tasted? Isn't bushwhacking more exciting than following a trail?”

—Granddaughter Suzanne



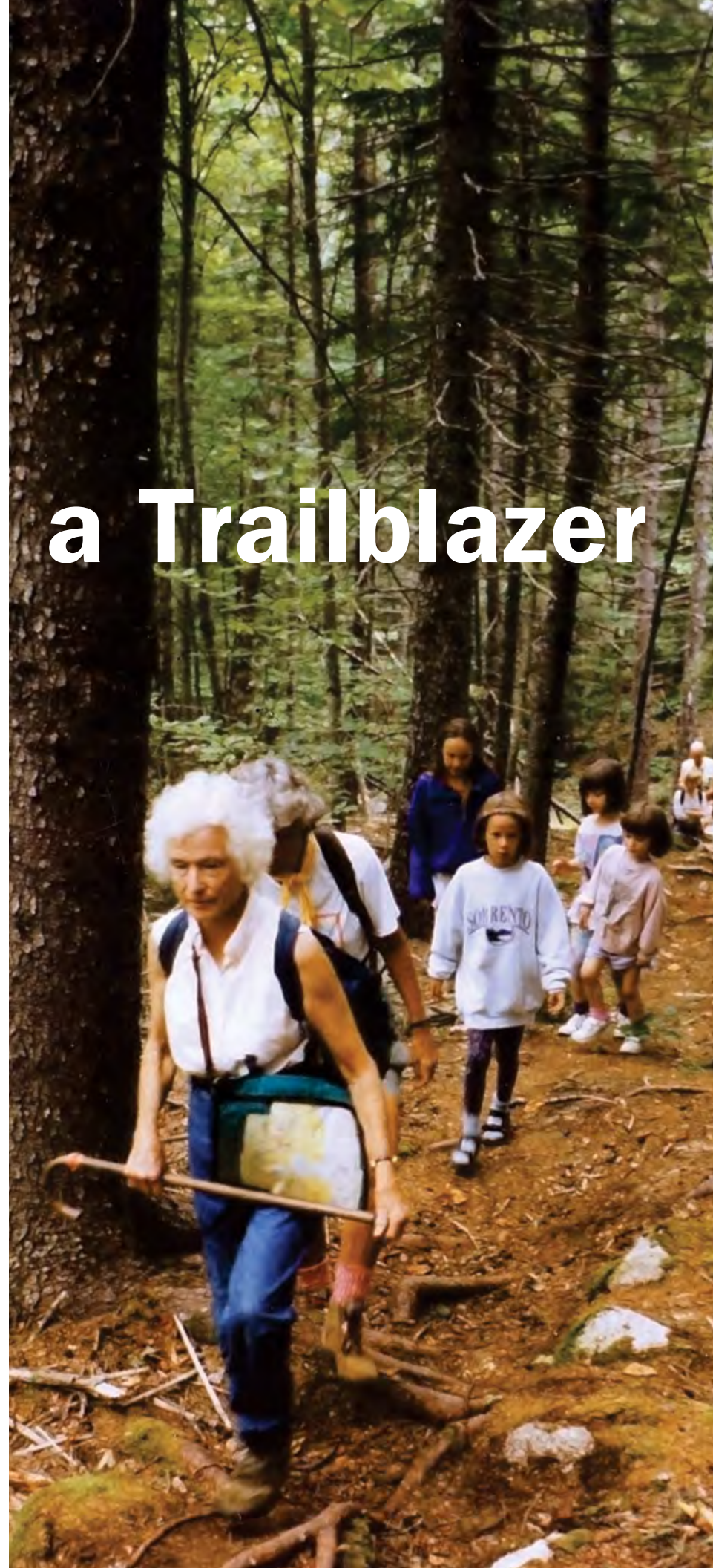
Tribute to a Trailblazer

Jane Gamble Heyward

Jane Gamble Heyward, 94, of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Sorrento, Maine, died December 12, 2011. Early in my first summer as executive director of FBC, Lisa Heyward, Jane's oldest daughter and the President of the Board, took me to see her mother at her cottage in Sorrento. “Bring maps,” was Lisa's advice. “My mother did a lot of hiking in her day.” I found Jane and the descriptions of her hikes in the Black Hills compelling, and her manner of telling, refreshingly direct.

As I learned later, Jane Heyward cut the trail from the summit of Schoodic Mountain to Schoodic Beach so that after a hike to the summit, hikers could dive into the cool clear water of Donnell Pond. As Lisa told me, “My mother was interested in cutting trails that more people could use.” What a great idea! Jane's style of hiking and trailblazing is near legend in Sorrento. Read more stories about Jane at www.janeheyward.blogspot.com.

FBC is very grateful to Jane for her bequest to the Frenchman Bay Conservancy Fund for Stewardship and Trails.



Jock and I bought some land on which my mother had made many trails about twenty-five years ago. As we have explored the land we have discovered her old ribbons over and over again. Sometimes we have been able to follow a series of them and to discern the trail that she had made. It was always near a beautiful stone wall, up to a secluded pond, and, best of all to her, to a rock outcropping with a view. She also always had multiple routes to the same point. She hated to walk up and back on the same trail, much preferring loops. When we find a new ribbon still buried in the bark of a tree it is like getting a silent hello from Mom. I share her love of the woods and of making trails. When I find a ribbon, I know that we are sharing our love.

—Daughter Lisa

She taught me that learning happens best in action, through experience, that you never forget something you learned with your heart beating in your ears and the blood rushing through your head, that the context of a walk and a friendship means that the shapes of leaves and the sounds of birds still come clear in your mind years later.

—Erin

FBC Events

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting takes place at Tidal Falls on Sunday, July 22 at 4 p.m. We'll have a lawn tent set up, rain or shine, and refreshments to celebrate FBC's 25th anniversary. There will be an information table about all 14 of FBC's preserves open to the public, and an opportunity to view and comment on potential improvements to the visitor experience through the Revitalization of the Tidal Falls Preserve Project. Please join us! Visit the FBC website or Facebook closer to the date for more information.

Photography Show

Please visit our website and Facebook page later this summer for more information about Photography of the Preserves at Hammond Hall in Winter Harbor. The show opens August 14.

Guided Nature Walks

Wildflowers in Sullivan with Tom Sidar

SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 9 A.M.

Meet at Tidal Falls Preserve at 9 a.m. and travel to Baker Hill & Long Ledges. Wear light hiking shoes, bring water and bug repellent (rain gear if necessary).

Nature Walk at Indian Point with Nancy Patterson

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 9 A.M.

Meet at the Indian Point parking lot at 9 a.m. for a 3/4 mile walk on wooded trails focusing on trees, plants and native American history. Walking sticks may be handy here. Allow an hour for a leisurely walk.

Call or e-mail Joyce to register for walks; 422-2328 or joyce@frenchmanbay.org

Summer Work Day Schedule

The Stewardship Committee will host work days on our preserves through September.

To sign up as a volunteer, please send your email address, phone number, mailing address and a brief description of your interests and experience to tom@frenchmanbay.org.

Volunteers should wear sturdy shoes (not sandals) and work clothes. Please bring:

- Work gloves
- Rake
- Drinking water
- Sunblock
- Hat/sunglasses
- Bug spray

Please go to the website to see particulars in the following schedule as we plan them.

Work Day Details TBA

Wednesday, June 13	1 p.m.
Saturday, June 16	9 a.m.
Wednesday, July 11	1 p.m.
Saturday, July 21	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug 8	1 p.m.
Saturday, Aug 18	9 a.m.
Wednesday, Sept 12	1 p.m.
Saturday, Sept 15	9 a.m.



Monday Music at Tidal Falls

Lobster rolls, hotdogs, and desserts will be available again this summer at Carl Johnson's retail food cart.

Concerts are 6:30–8 pm, except Flash!, which is 7:30–9 pm.

July 9	U-Maine Machias Ukulele Club
July 16	Audrey Ryan
July 23	Joyful Jazz
July 30	Flash! In the Pans
Aug 6	Chris Ross
Aug 13	Shades of Blue
Aug 20	Fletcher's Landing Philharmonic Orchestra

Honorary Gifts

IN MEMORIAM

Bob Bonthius
Jane Heyward
James Lovall
Henry L. Milo
David Parrot
Donald G. Parrot
Paul Sargent
Volney Stewart
Denis Vibert

IN NOMINE

Nancy Patterson
Harry & Patty Russell
Jennifer Stucker
John & Emily Templeton



Join us TODAY!

And receive a FREE static cling decal to show you're a proud member.

Your membership and donations help us protect and preserve the character of this very special place—and we welcome donations at all levels. Members receive a free decal, two editions per year of our newsletter, and the opportunity to be involved by helping out with trail maintenance, easement monitoring, or mailings.

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 Frenchman Bay Conservancy through a bequest. Remember us in your will or explore other estate planning options with your lawyer.

Our members tell us the most rewarding benefit is knowing that they've done their part to protect the land they love.

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.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 STUDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ OTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | BLUE HERON SOCIETY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | |

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

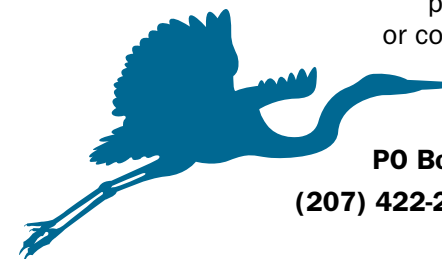
Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!

Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust founded in 1987. 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.

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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www.frenchmanbay.org

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LOBSTER at Tidal Falls Saturday, July 21, 2012 Serving 5:30-6:30 pm

Rain or Shine

Invitations with reply card will arrive by mail in June. Reserve early. Send a check to make your reservation for this fundraiser. FBC will provide tents and picnic tables. BYOB.

Lobsters by Herbie



We are grateful to our friends at Acadia Trust for helping us sponsor this event.



PHOTO NANCY PATTERSON