

## “Stumping the Trail” Maine Conservation Corps make Schoodic Connector Trail a reality by Aaron Dority

For the past eight weeks, a hard-working, spirited crew of seven young people in their twenties has done a superb job cutting trail, “stumping,” building bog bridges, and crafting top-quality stone staircases on our Schoodic Trail Connector property purchased last spring. Frenchman Bay Conservancy hired the Maine Conservation Corps (MCC) to construct the new through-trail over rough terrain in a remote section of woods in Sullivan. The crew has exceeded our expectations, and I’m confident that all of you who have donated generously to our Schoodic Trail Connector capital campaign will be pleased as well.

Crew leader Ryan MacGlashing, a sturdy young man with a scraggly red beard, met with me at Tidal Falls in early August, several weeks before he would be assigned his crew members. MacGlashing works trail crew in the summer and fall, and is a snowboard instructor in the winter. In the warmer months, he marshals a fresh batch each season of people who hail from throughout the northeast and beyond to construct trails on public and privately conserved lands. The work is often hard, surely grueling at times, and crew members generally make camp in the woods,



MCC crew members from left to right: James Barnard, Emma Winske, Ryan MacGlashing, Emily Bruckner, Irene Syphers, and Tim Cromwell. Right top and bottom, trail building tools.



PHOTOS AARON DORITY

adjusting all of their daily routines to a dramatically simplified life stripped of all the unnecessary luxuries—such as flush toilets and showers.

I took Ryan to the house where his crew would be staying. We bounced along the dirt Pitman Road in my VW wagon, rounded the bend and his new accommodations came into view. FBC purchased this 1,900-square foot house with 236 acres from Erik Tjebbes earlier this year as part of our Schoodic Trail Connector. The pine board paneling and floors exposed stone chimney

and cathedral ceiling with a view over Long Pond south over Frenchman Bay offered unexpected comforts for a group used to “roughing it.” “Wow!” he exclaimed, “I’m not even going to tell the crew about this place yet. I’ll tell them that we’ll be setting up camp in the woods and let this be a nice surprise.” MacGlashing’s amazement continued, “Everyone is going to have a bed!” Not to mention a shared fridge, running water and hot showers at the end of a long day—you know, a few luxuries.

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Stay in touch with the latest FBC news, or post photos of your friends and family enjoying one of the FBC Preserves or events.

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*continued on page 3*



# President's Column

*a message from our president*

There is very positive feeling of excitement, optimism and accomplishment at Frenchman Bay Conservancy! 2015 has been a remarkable year. Getting off to an early start last December, Aaron Dority was announced as FBC's new Executive Director. FBC has been very fortunate to have an exceptional track record of Executive Directors, bringing with them unique ideas and skills. Aaron is continuing that legacy of excellence with his own style, ideas and compassion for Maine land preservation.

At mid-year, FBC welcomed two new Board members, Judy Adelman and Mark Berry. Judy is a founding member and President of the Crabtree Neck Land Trust (CNLT). She is a trustee for the Falmouth Land Trust and served on the board of the Maine Land Trust Network (MLTN). Judy brings with her a wealth of knowledge in land trust and conservation, and strengthens the existing relationship with FBC's neighbor, CNLT.

Mark is President and CEO of Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park. Prior to coming to Schoodic in 2014, Mark was the Executive Director of Down East Lakes Land Trust. He has conducted research for The Nature Conservancy and the New Mexico Natural Heritage Program, and served as a naturalist on Antarctic expedition cruises. Mark has developed and taught field classes for schools and camp groups on a wide variety of natural science topics.

Welcome Judy and Mark!

After a very successful capital campaign earlier this year, FBC is currently completing the Schoodic Connector trail that will connect FBC's existing trails at Baker Hill and Long Ledges, up through Schoodic Bog, all the way to the top of Schoodic and Tunk Mountains. This trail work, being performed by Maine Conservation Corps, is a result of your generous support through the Schoodic Connector Capital Campaign, and will be ready to hike next spring. And moving a little to the west, the Mariaville Falls Preserve grand opening was held in October, with the dedication of the new Edgecomb trail. Please see the articles in this newsletter for more information on both of these projects.

This summer season's Monday Music at Tidal Falls series saw record attendance at all performances. Thank you for attending! We are already planning for next year and look forward to seeing all of you once again at Tidal Falls.

Thank you FBC members for your generous and sustained support!

— Randy Ewins  
*President, FBC*

PHOTO AARON DORITY



Trail through an aspen grove north of Long Pond.



Later, we walked the path some FBC volunteers had helped to flag a couple weeks earlier, a northerly route over land that we purchased from Phil Dunbar of Sullivan as an earlier link in the chain from Long Ledges and Baker Hill to Schoodic Bog. The blue plastic markers tied to tree branches as reminders guided us along the new trail as we meandered by vernal pools, along a forested ridge, and down toward Johnny's Brook where the trail would cross, past active beaver ponds, winding north and east to join both the Schoodic Bog parking area as well as the Tamarack Trail farther to the north. Ryan offered constructive guidance and planned to make a second trip with his MCC supervisor to identify where stone steps may be necessary and where the trail may be better routed in line with the landscape contour, rather than climb and dip unnecessarily.

It wasn't until over a month later that I was available to get back out on the trail again. The transformation was remarkable. This time, I started at the house, dropping steeply toward Long Pond and then cutting to the northeast around forested bluffs. The crew came into view as they constructed a twelve-foot long series of stone steps that in my view rivaled the quality of trail construction seen in Acadia National Park. Each crew member covered in hunter's orange and wearing appropriate safety gear, they offered a warm hello as I joked that they consider moving a nearby car-sized glacial erratic a few feet to the right. That request seemed less outlandish with their masonry magic on display in front of me.

Later, in early November, the MCC crew was in their final nine-day stretch before they officially finished their eight-week stint with FBC. They were cutting a beautiful stretch of trail on the Schoodic Bog parcel, with excellent views of Schoodic Mountain to the northeast. FBC board member Lisa Heyward, and FBC supporters Garry and Rosemary Levin



FBC board member Lisa Heyward, and FBC supporters Garry and Rosemary (not shown) Levin and I through-hiked on November 5th to see the recent progress.

and I through-hiked on November 5th to see the recent progress. Ninety percent of the trail has been cut and stumped—the process of literally pulling out stumps with a come-along and cutting the roots with hand tools. This was done to make the trail easier

**Like artwork taking shape from the artists' hands, this trail has become not just a useful way to get from one junction to another, but truly something beautiful that offers public access through a wide variety of forest types and rewards hikers with expansive views of Schoodic Mountain at its northern terminus.**

to walk on because stumps that are simply cut to ground level become the perfect height to trip hikers as the soil around them gets packed down with foot traffic.

We finished the morning hike along a side trail that ended at FBC's Schoodic Bog parking area and marveled at how diverse the landscape was—how many times the soil acidity level, slope, available water and other factors varied just enough from one forest stand to the next to support a spruce/fir forest on one side of a hill and an open, exposed stand of Jack Pine on another.

When Lisa asked Ryan about the process of planning the trail, and

how this experience compared to others that he had worked on, he answered that sometimes they have only a narrow corridor, maybe thirty feet, when they have no choice where to put the trail because it is already completely proscribed for them. With our trail construction, the MCC crew had a combination of flagged prospective trail on one long stretch, and then also looser directions, including “start here, and end there.” Like artwork taking shape from the artists' hands, this trail has become not just a useful way to get from one junction to another, but truly something beautiful that offers public access through a wide variety of forest types and rewards hikers with expansive views of Schoodic Mountain at its northern terminus.

Stay tuned for our official trail opening celebration in the spring, when we will have new signs and a new trail name to announce. We'll include details in our spring newsletter,

on Facebook, in our e-newsletter and through the local press. This project was funded in part by the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, in which proceeds from the sale of Gopher Gold, a dedicated instant lottery ticket, are used to support outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation.❖

*For more information about MOHF, go to [www.maine.gov/ifw/MOHF.html](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/MOHF.html)*



# Mariaville Falls by Eileen Bader

More than fifty enthusiastic hikers joined us in celebration of the Grand Opening of FBC's Mariaville Falls Preserve on Saturday, October 3. It was a beautiful crisp and cool fall morning and as a result of the rain earlier in the week, the dramatic stair-step falls were roaring with high, fast-moving water. As I greeted hikers while waiting for the introduction to begin, I heard stories from some who remembered coming to the falls as

children. Others, even those local to the area, had never even known the falls, or now the preserve, existed. Mariaville Falls is a scenic, off-the-beaten-path place to enjoy a hike or simply to sit along the banks of the West Branch of the Union River and enjoy the wild, undeveloped river as it flows by.

In the early 1800's, William Bingham of Philadelphia established a thriving village at Mariaville Falls. Amazingly,

there is no longer any trace of the dam, the two timber mills, the tannery or the boardinghouse and homes that once comprised a village of fifty families.

Staff and board members of FBC are pleased that this special place will continue to be an accessible resource to the community—for those returning with children or grandchildren and newcomers alike!

It's astounding to think about the amount of consideration, time, and manual labor that have gone towards getting the preserve ready for its grand opening. First, the purchase of properties was negotiated with the landowners, both the heirs of Roland Edgecomb and Linda Coleman, who made the decision to conserve their family land and share this beautiful place with the community.

Then, trails were planned, bush-whacked, and blazed. Volunteers spent countless hours cutting trees and trimming brush. Bridges were built to provide hikers with safe and dry passage across babbling brooks. A sign was erected along Route 181, Mariaville Road, clearly marking the easy-to-miss entry to the preserve.

The access road into the preserve was graded and improved so that



PHOTO GERRY MONTEUX

West branch of the Union River at Mariaville Falls.

## Give a FBC Membership this Holiday!

*More members will enable more and greater accomplishments and a stronger organization that will maintain trails and truly protect our existing conserved lands.*

With the holidays approaching, consider giving a gift to friends and loved ones that lasts for ever, one that protects clean water, critical wildlife habitat and public access hiking trails across some of coastal Maine's most beautiful landscapes. Yes, I'm talking about protecting the lands that we all love! Please consider giving a gift of membership to Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

With the generous support of our dedicated members, we have achieved incredible accomplishments over the

past twenty-eight years. For example, what began as an opportunity to conserve isolated parcels in Sullivan has grown into 1,100 acres of contiguously conserved land and a nine-mile hiking trail from route one to Schoodic Mountain in the Donnell Pond State Reserved land. To the north and west, a bold vision shared by conservation-minded landowners and supportive FBC staff and board members ultimately resulted in 141 acres protected on both sides of Mariaville Falls, and a beautiful hike along





even vehicles with low clearance can now easily drive to the trail head. A map of the trails at Mariaville Falls was created, now available for hikers at the “hiker box”—a mailbox at the start of the Edgecomb Trail along with a place for hikers to log their visit. Often, there are a few trusty walking sticks found leaning up against the hiker box, left behind by hikers for those who come along next.

Mariaville Falls Preserve, and all preserves like it, would not be possible without the vision, dedication, and persistence of all involved, including landowners, volunteers, board members, and staff. The board and staff

of FBC thank all those who played a role in making this preserve a reality!

The Edgecomb family as well as FBC’s former executive directors, Tom Sidar and Barb Welch, and many FBC board members who originally envisioned the preserve were in attendance on October 3 to celebrate the new beginning of this public entry point into Downeast’s wild woods and clean waters, a place of importance for centuries, finally rediscovered.

If you have been to the Mariaville Falls Preserve, I encourage you to visit before winter arrives. The preserve is located about twenty miles north of Ellsworth, directions can be found

on FBC’s website. The preserve includes approximately 1.6 miles of hiking trails through the woods and along the West Branch of the Union River. Bangor Daily News reporter Aislinn Sarnacki featured the preserve in her One Minute Hike series on September 29, and characterized the difficulty of the trail as moderate, due to a few steep and rocky slopes and hills. Authorized uses for the preserve include canoeing, kayaking, fishing, hunting, hiking, and nature observation. ❖



Kingfisher at Tidal Falls, FBC stewardship crew at Indian Point, Lady slipper, and FBC members paddling the Union River.

the west branch of the Union River. We now conserve 6,600 acres across 53 properties. The contributions from our members make this work possible.

Looking forward, more members will enable more and greater accomplishments and a stronger organization that will maintain trails and truly protect our existing conserved lands.

Whether you’ve been with FBC since the beginning, or whether you just joined this year, consider sharing with others the feeling that you get from helping protect the lands you love. You can complete the membership form in this newsletter, sign up friends and loved ones online, or give us a call. Thank you for your continued support, and enjoy the holidays! ❖

# Autumn Trail Race

by Aaron Dority

The overcast sky and mid-fifties temps offered good running conditions compared with the snow storm that postponed last year's race. Fifty-five runners from age seven to seventy were ready for the race. Now in its fourth year, Frenchman Bay Conservancy's trail race is the second event in the Downeast Double Trouble Challenge, following Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust's Wildlands Trail Run held one week earlier. Avid runners competing in both events received t-shirts and gift certificates. Both events have always been family friendly, with many children and teens competing alongside their parents.



PHOTO HANS KRICHELS

FBC Autumn Trail Race runners approaching the finish line.

Following the race, participants enjoyed hot chili and ice cream while cheering on the first and second place finishers in all of the age groups. Jennifer VanDongen and Andy Goupee won the Sullivan Trail Race and are the Double Trouble Challenge overall winners. All winners selected a wildlife photograph from Gerry Monteux of Monteux Gallery located at the Maine Grind in Ellsworth.

We welcome all event registrants as Frenchman Bay Conservancy members. They will receive our twice-annual newsletter. Once again we are grateful for the generous support of our sponsors: Peacock Builders, Ellsworth Builders Supply and Evergreen Home & Heath. Thank you to all involved for another great event!



PHOTO HANS KRICHELS

FBC Autumn Trail Race runners climbing Baker Hill.



PHOTO ROSEMARY LEVIN

Spruce and huckleberry bushes near the Tamarack Trail, Schoodic Bog.

## Thank You!

On behalf of all of us at Frenchman Bay Conservancy, we'd like to sincerely thank recently retired board members, including Richard Barton, Paul Haertel, Michelle Beal, Tobin Peacock, and Dyer Wadsworth—all of whom continue their support our organization through membership and volunteering. Dyer was FBC's longest continuously serving board member, having served since 1997. **Thank you for your service!**

## Honorary Gifts

### IN MEMORIAM

Francis Ballard  
Rick Beckjord  
Oliver Crosby  
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Roger Eckhardt  
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### IN NOMINE

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## 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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☐ \$100

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### BLUE HERON SOCIETY

☐ \$1000

☐ \$2500

☐ \$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  
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To pay by credit card, visit our website [www.frenchmanbay.org](http://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!

Graphic Design: Marshall Wilkes, Ellsworth. Printed on recycled paper.



## 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

Randy Ewins, *President*  
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### STAFF

Aaron Dority, *Executive Director*  
Eileen Bader, *Community Outreach Coordinator*  
Joyce B. Cornwell, *Office Manager*

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## From the Director

*a message from Aaron Dority*

Last month, I had the great experience of being able to share with and learn from 1,800 other people from land trusts across the county at the Land Trust Alliance Rally in Sacramento. The long weekend was filled with trainings and lectures—sharing information that is critical for land conservation. I learned a lot about how to ensure that we build and maintain a strong organization, about working with landowners and communities to protect special places, and about how to fund conservation. The experience also reaffirmed for me that Frenchman Bay Conservancy is doing really great work!

Our board and staff are committed to conservation growth while maintaining a high standard of quality in all that we do. We also work hard to make sure our members and the visitors to our preserves enjoy the access that we provide.

I'm also excited to share some recent staff and organizational developments. Eileen Bader, our Community Outreach

Coordinator whom many of you have met, has just moved from a half-time to a full-time position. Having more of Eileen's time will allow FBC to better connect with FBC supporters and area partners, helping us steward our properties and conserve more land. We're

**We and our partners, including Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Conservation Fund, are securing contracts for the purchase of critical stepping stones in this nationally significant wilderness.**

working with Maine nonprofit professionals Gary Stern and Deb Burwell to develop a new strategic plan to help our organization grow and achieve new successes.

I also wanted to follow up with you, our members, on the topic that we discussed at our annual meeting this summer, conserving the corridor between the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park and the Tunk/Donnell State Reserved lands. We and our partners, including Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Conservation Fund, are securing contracts for the purchase of critical stepping stones in this nationally significant wilderness. We expect to hear next month from the Fish and Wildlife Service whether our partnership proposal for \$1 million will be funded to protect more land in this region. We'll keep you posted!

New developments occur weekly as we talk with area landowners about conservation possibilities. Meeting with colleagues from across the country was insightful and encouraging. It also renewed my energy and enthusiasm for the work we do right here in eastern Maine. I'm thankful that you all are a part of this exciting work with us! ❖