



Frenchman Bay CONSERVANCY

protecting the land you love

PHOTO JAMIE BROWN



Bill and Cindy Thayer

The People on the Land

by Barb Welch

In all our talk about biodiversity, wildlife habitat and water quality, it's sometimes easy to lose sight of the fact that conservation easements are about the intersection of land and the people who use it. The easements held by FBC were all donated by landowners who love their land and want to see it taken care of. Working with these people as they work through the decision to make this extraordinary gift to their community is one of the chief pleasures of working for a land trust. I'd like to introduce you to a few of the easement donors who have protected their bit of the land we all love.

Bill and Cindy Thayer: Darthia Farm

Bill and Cindy Thayer bought their 33-acre farm with its graceful old farmhouse in 1976 and set to work clearing fields, improving the soils and raising organically grown produce. What with

caring for the many animals on the farm, raising the crops, training apprentices, spinning and weaving the wool from their own sheep and putting up food for the cold time, you'd think they'd have no time for anything else. But Bill and

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Cindy have always been active participants in the life of the community. Bill is a Selectman in Gouldsboro and is active in the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. Cindy has a special interest in the place of art in community life, teaching creative writing courses and serving on the

Summer Events for Our Members

Birthday Party & Annual Meeting

Date: August 19

Place: Tidal Falls in Hancock

Annual Meeting: 4 PM

Dennis Damon will share stories of Downeast Maine after the business meeting.

Reception: 5 - 7 PM

Celebrating 20 years of protecting land. Meet current and former Board members and easement donors.

Catered by Mano's Market

Open Trails Days

Our members (and guests) are invited to see some of the properties you've helped protect over the years. Most of these places are not generally open to the public so this is an opportunity to meet the generous people who have donated easements and see the land they love. Contact FBC at 422-2328 for more information.

Date: July 14, 10 - 12 PM

Place: Three Pines B&B
274 Eastside Road, Hancock

Meet Ed and Karen Curtis and walk past their small farm and down to the shore of Sullivan Harbor. If you're looking for a very short walk, there will be limited parking near the road on the property. If you're up for a bit more, you can park in the field at Tidal Falls and walk along the old rail bed less than a mile to the farm.

President's Column

A message from our president: Lisa Heyword

Greetings,

Spring is finally spreading a mantle of warmth and green over downeast Maine. Who would ever have thought that our first sign of spring would have been the appearance of the roadwork crews on Route 1? The April snowstorms that dumped feet of snow on us set all other spring harbingers behind the usual pattern. We are just now, in the first weeks of May, seeing grass showing green, maples budding red and meeting the earliest pioneer mosquitoes and black flies.

It may have been a slow spring, but we are planning for a very busy, celebratory summer. We have arranged a variety of activities to celebrate Frenchman Bay Conservancy's Twentieth Anniversary. We look forward to seeing you at many of them.

For those of you who most love getting out and walking the land, we have arranged tours of four different properties that are conserved with Frenchman Bay Conservancy. Two of the tours are in July and two in August in the hopes that everyone who so wishes can attend at least one of the walks. Three of the properties are not open to the public and the fourth is a recently conserved property which includes trails to which the landowner wishes to welcome the public.

Our Monday Music at Tidal Falls series that was such a success when introduced last year will continue this year with events every Monday evening from July 23 to August 20. We hope that you will come to enjoy the music and dancing and a lobster dinner at the Tidal Falls Restaurant.

Finally our formal celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary is set for Sunday, August 19. The party will follow our Annual Meeting and will include downeast tales told by renowned raconteur and politician Senator Dennis Damon as well as special treats catered by Mano's Market.

I look forward to seeing you at as many of these events as you and I can attend!

Sincerely,



Lisa Heyword, *President*





Small pale butterflies flutter insanely in the winds,
as if their pilot had sipped too much honey wine.

I don't believe in using cars except to
buy groceries and other essential supplies,
like bug spray.

Across the smoking bay the mountains rest, sleeping
wooly mammoths, their backs rimed with ice and snow.

the Best of Beppie

The winter sunsets were breathtaking—oranges, pinks, yellows and reds. Beautiful, as if the sun goddess was apologizing for the shortness of her days.

As I watched the storm from the safety of the house, our big spruce by the pond gave up and fell over with hardly a sound. One minute it was standing dark and invulnerable, guarding garden and pond, the next it was down, leaving an empty place in the garden and in my heart.

I shook my mittened fists at the heavens and fired the Goddess of Spring.

Memories are called up by the oddest things—a snatch of song, a whiff of some forgotten scent, a sea gull's cry, a perfect day.

Over the ridge we raced the sun, down the blue-shadowed afternoon. The beach was empty. We walked the white sands where the waves were fast erasing footprints. That was our gift day. I still hold it safe.

...swinging on its fragile stem, dancing and trembling high on our oak. The last leaf. All alone against the wind and weather it danced, rejoicing in the sunlight, doing its own version of triple lutz and toe loops.

I was going to describe a walk in the woods along
Frenchman Bay on a January day. Lord knows I tried.
But the snows got in my way.

We all live on verges one way or another. The past
is just a step behind and what's to come just ahead.



Woodbine, every shade of red, drapes wantonly over the
roadside roses and garden walls and climbs the nearest
spruce as if designing an early Christmas display.

Spiders spread their webs across lawns and bushes,
catching the dewdrops like jewels on a shining string.

There comes a day, a clear, crystal, frisky-breeze day...
sun hot, but shadows cool... a day for remembering
times past, with love.



Celebrating 20 Years of Protection



Polly & Bill Ceckler



Water Sampling with Anne Geier and Forrest Dillon



Steve Coffin at Salt Pond



Oliver Crosby at Tidal Falls



Linda King, Barb Welch, & Audie Tunney



Frenchman Bay
Conservancy formed.

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is protecting more land than e

Protecting the Land You Love



Shippen Swift & Bill Ceckler at Little Tunk



Barbara Reeve, Barbara Kent and



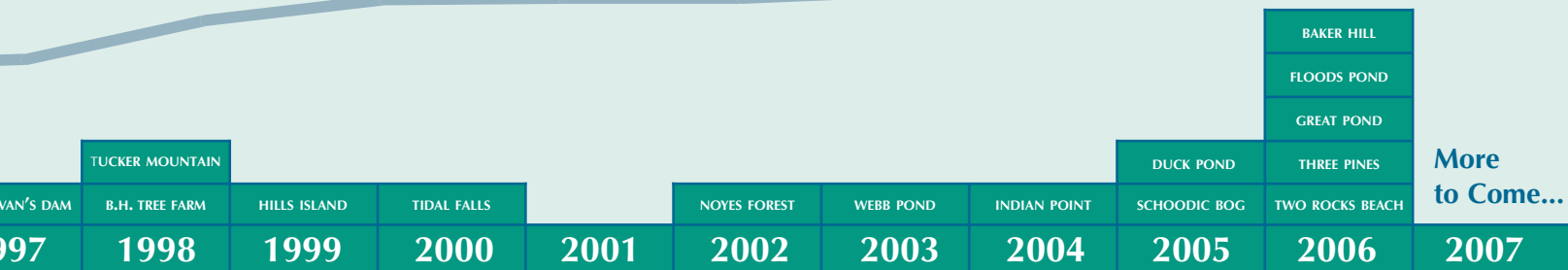
The Colemans and Mike Blaney



Harry Cunningham at Lower West Bay Pond

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ACCUMULATED ACREAGE



ever before.



Frenchman Bay
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Board of Schoodic Arts for All. At the age of 54, she published her first novel, *Strong for Potatoes*, and has gone on to write two more. A few years ago Cindy's weaving group produced a calendar to raise money for charity in which the women of the group posed in various stages of tasteful undress. Bill, who took the photos, was described in his bio on the back as "the happiest farmer in Maine."

My favorite story about Darthia Farm is Bill's answer when a reporter asked him where the name Darthia comes from. He admitted that he sometimes tells people it's the Greek word for manure, but the truth is it's a contraction of Darling Cynthia—an altogether better answer to my romantic heart.

Doug and Bev Coleman: Mixed Woods

Doug Coleman once told me, "I used to think conservation easements were just a scam for rich people to avoid their

the highest-value trees for sale and is an approach that produces immediate cash without much regard for the future productivity of the forest. In the years since, Doug has been doing the precise opposite—removing the least healthy specimens and nurturing the

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garden catalogues.*

best quality trees for seed stock. This approach has gradually improved the overall health and productivity of the forest. Last year he donated the woodlot to the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine and they use it (as



PHOTO JOYCE CRONWELL

Doug and Bev Coleman

taxes. Then I found myself with 100 acres of shoreline property and a lot of taxes and I started to see the point." But he maligned himself in that statement. He knew that the tax incentive for donating a conservation easement is almost never the real reason people do it. He protected his land because he loved it.

When he retired from Jackson Labs, he promptly started a whole new career in forest management. Not long before he bought it, his woodlot had been harvested by a method called high-grading. It involves removing only

we have) to demonstrate the meaning of good stewardship.

If the woodlot is Doug's preserve, the rest of the property is Bev's. She's one of those gardeners who can toss off the Latin names of every plant on her property. Native wildflowers are her specialty. She searched out all the native species already growing there and introduced others when the opportunity arose. The charms of native wildflowers can seem pretty subtle to an eye schooled by the giant, showy blooms found in garden catalogues. It's an education to

Date: July 21, 10 - 12 PM

Place: Hills Island 82 Old Route 1, Hancock

Meet Gale McCullough and Stu Gillam and walk through their forest down to the shore of Youngs Cove. We won't be taking people out to the island because there are likely to be eagle fledglings in the nest there. Carpool if you can so we don't overwhelm the available parking.

Date: July 21, 10 - 12 PM

Place: Moise / Blasi, 53 Point Road, Hancock

Antonio Blasi and Renata Moise are currently finalizing an easement that will be the first land protection project of the Crabtree Neck Land Trust. This is an opportunity to walk down to the shore of Old Pond—across from Hills Island—and to find out more about CNLT. Contact Steve Crabtree at 422-6435 for more information.

Date: August 4, 10 - 12 PM

Place: Baker Hill, Punkinville Road, Sullivan

Meet Rick Beckjord and hike to the ledges of Baker Hill for a panoramic view of MDI and Frenchman Bay. This property is open to the public for hiking—come and see what all the excitement is about.

Date: August 11, 10 - 12 PM

Place: Mixed Woods, Seal Point Road, Lamoine

Meet Doug and Bev Coleman and walk the trails on the shore parcel where Bev has nurtured native wildflowers and ferns in the forest and fields. The woodlot across the road has been donated to the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine, which uses it to demonstrate sustainable forestry. Ken Smith of SWOAM will be on hand to lead tours through the forest so beautifully managed by Doug for many years. ♦

In Memoriam

We have received gifts in honor of Frank Howd. We thank his friends and family members for helping us protect the land he loved.

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 501c(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 promote conservation of the distinctive landscapes and natural resources of the Frenchman Bay and Union River watersheds for the benefit of wildlife and people.



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 barb@frenchmanbay.org

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trail after Bev as she sets off into the woods to share her excitement at finding a scruffy little plant that she knows will produce a delicate little flower in a month or two—another treasure to be guarded.

Gale McCullough and Stu Gillam: Hills Island

As you drive down the hill through the woods to Gale and Stu's house, it's important to go slowly enough to look around. You'll glimpse little sculptures made of found objects perched on stumps or nestled among the trees. Stu's sense of whimsy is clearly a major theme in the life of this family. They live in a hand-built, solar-powered house completely off the grid. They are the center of a circle of musical friends who perform on African-style drums that Stu makes in his shop. They perform under

If you want to talk to Gale in the summer, you need to check the tides because she's likely to be down on the shore watching seals.

the name Numbasahake, which looks like it could be an African word. Actually it's numb as a hake—an old fisherman's term for someone who is particularly thick-headed.

Stu is the artist—Gale the scientist. If you need to know something about seals she's your gal. If you want to talk to Gale in the summer, you need to check the tides because she's likely to be down on the shore watching seals. Ever since she's lived on this land, she has been conducting an anthropological-style field study of the seals that use the ledges in Youngs Cove. She has identified individual seals that return year after year, and by watching how they interact on the ledges has mapped family relationships. It's a pioneering study of how these animals behave in the wild. When you listen to Gale talk about her seals, it's as if she's describing a bunch of eccentric aunts and cousins. After all, who doesn't have a few family members who like nothing better than spending the day hanging out on a sunny ledge? ♦

PHOTO JAMIE BROWN



Gale McCullough and Stu Gillam

Monday Music



2007 Monday Music Schedule at Tidal Falls

June 23 Michael Crosby BAGPIPES

July 30 Darithia Farm Porch Band JAZZ & SWING

Aug 6 Numbasahake AFRICAN DRUMS

Aug 13 Shush FIDDLE & GUITAR DUO

Aug 20 Flash in the Pans STEEL DRUMS

Presented By



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CONSERVANCY



6:30 PM-8 PM, except August 20 Show 7:30 PM-9 PM
at the end of the Tidal Falls Road, Hancock. Call 422-2328 for more information.