



# Frenchman Bay CONSERVANCY

*protecting the land you love*

## FBC Community Calendar

### Saturday, June 14

**Bird Walk**, 8AM meet at Tidal Falls, led by Paul Haertel, former Acadia Park Superintendent

### Saturday, June 28

**Orchid Walk**, 9AM meet at Tidal Falls, or, for those who know the way, 9:45AM at the parking area opposite Paul Bunyan Road in Corea. Led by botanist Brenda Les  
*Rain Date Sunday, June 29*

### Sunday, July 27

**Annual Meeting** at Tidal Falls (details TBA)

### Saturday, August 16

**Circumnavigation of Crabtree Neck Canoe/Kayak Tour**, in conjunction with the Crabtree Neck Land Trust; 9:30AM Meet at Tidal Falls.

*Please check our website regularly for updates, additions, details and corrections at [www.frenchmanbay.org](http://www.frenchmanbay.org).*



PHOTO RICHARD BARTON

A view inside Corea Heath.

## Corea Heath Preserves a Wildlife and Rare Plant Habitat

by **Jamie Brown**

On March 20, Frenchman Bay Conservancy closed on the purchase of a 600-acre parcel of land located in the heart of the Corea Peninsula. Referred to as the Corea Heath, this land is adjacent to 400 acres protected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Wildlife Refuge, now creating a 1,000-acre block of permanently protected land for wildlife habitat.

Prior to purchasing the property, Jamie Brown, FBC's Conservation Director, had a chance to walk the property extensively with Maine Coast Heritage Trust staff, Bob DeForrest and Terry Towne. "We started at the bog area in the northern

part of the property, hiking carefully among the numerous pitcher plants and wetland vegetation. As we moved south, we encountered unique rock formations and ledges. The scenery changed as we entered a mixed wood forest. Throughout the property we could see an amazing transformation as we moved through each distinct ecosystem. We ended in the Jack Pine stand at the high part of the property, where we took in the salt air and heard the horn from the Petit Manan lighthouse off in the distance. Throughout our hike, we were accompanied by the calls of songbirds and watched our step among the 'calling cards' of the abundant resident



PHOTO ARIEH TAL

Dragon's Mouth Orchid

*continued on page 4*

# President's Column

## *A message from our president*

Greetings,

At this time of renewal with the trees budding and leafing out, the grass showing green, and the winds blowing warm, it is singularly appropriate that Frenchman Bay Conservancy is announcing a change in leadership. Tom Sidar (see next page) has taken up the duties of the executive director as of May 1 and Barb Welch has launched a new consulting business. New starts for both of them and a chance for FBC to renew its dedication and energies for its mission of land conservation.

Tom takes up the reins at FBC as our land trust reaches for opportunities to achieve landscape scale land conservation and faces the challenges of financing those opportunities. We will need to work closely with landowners, but also those in the communities who could be affected by the impact of larger conservation projects. It is a complex and exciting time for all of us! Luckily for us, Tom has great enthusiasm for land conservation and fund raising.

On a lighter note, we have arranged some fun summer activities for you. We are continuing with our Monday Music tradition, holding several nature walks and, co-hosting with the Crabtree Neck Land Trust, a Circumnavigation of Crabtree Neck. Please join us as often as you can. This year we have scheduled our Annual Meeting in July. Please join us on July 27 as we formally thank and send off Barb and welcome Tom aboard.

Any time please come by the office to meet our new executive director. Tom will be happy to share his enthusiasm for the tasks of FBC and the interesting challenges we face.

Sincerely,



Lisa Heyward, *President*



PHOTO RICHARD BARTON

# Frenchman Bay Conservancy Welcomes a New Executive Director



On May 1st Frenchman Bay Conservancy will welcome its new executive director, Thomas W. Sidar. Tom comes to FBC after a long career in environmentally progressive business, and a long, parallel “volunteer career” in conservation. He spent nearly 30 years at L.L. Bean, where he served as Chief Merchandising Officer until 2004. Most recently, he served in executive positions at the National Wildlife Federation and at National Wildlife Direct, Inc. Board President Lisa Heyward expresses some of the Board’s excitement, “Our small land trust is very honored to have attracted a new executive director with Tom’s background, skills and experience. As well, he brings to the job a great enthusiasm for and understanding of land conservation.”

A lifelong outdoorsman, Tom has been a leader in conservation at the national level and in Maine. While at L.L. Bean, Tom worked with business and environmental leaders in Maine’s paper industry to improve environmental practices in the

industry and to raise awareness of the importance of sustainable forestry. He served for six years on Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, collaborating with park leadership, government agencies, and local communities on plans for trails, water resources, and commercial services. A nine-year member of the board of directors of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Tom was instrumental in launching AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative, a 37,000-acre purchase near Moosehead Lake, and in setting a policy of balanced use for the land, including public access, recreational use, and sustainable working forestry.

Motivated by his deep personal commitment to conservation and his sense of urgency about preservation and sustainability amid Maine’s swiftly changing land-use patterns, Tom is eager to get to work in local and regional conservation efforts as the executive director of FBC. “Land conservation is a vital community effort, to preserve the natural beauty and biodiversity of the land and watershed for the community and for future generations,” he says. “There is also a need to balance this with economic needs, and take into account the social and cultural values of a community. At the local level this intersection is very clear. It’s very per-

sonal for community leaders, and this work can really only be done at the local level.”

An experienced fundraiser, Tom successfully led the Appalachian Mountain Club’s largest-ever capital campaign, raising more than \$34 million. He is looking forward to deploying his business and fundraising acumen in service of FBC. “I hope to bring to the table some business skills around how to generate revenue, and also how to get the maximum leverage out of every dollar we can raise through donations, fundraising and grants,” he says.

Tom and his family share a love for Maine’s unspoiled beauty, and also for the state’s vibrant communities. “My wife and I went to Colby, and it was then I fell in love with Maine. Our roots are here, as well as the values we share,” he says. “Maine is not a really rich state, but it is a hard-working state, a state with a great work ethic,” he continues. “People have to work pretty hard to raise a family in Maine and that has to be respected. It’s also a state with a great appreciation of nature. That’s a social value that is widespread in Maine, and that’s not true in many other parts of the country.”

Praising the hard work and dedication of the entire FBC community in their extraordinary accomplishments of the past two decades, Tom is quick to express his gratitude for the opportunity to lead FBC in new growth and challenges. “I thank all of you for the great work you’ve done so far, and I ask for your continued support going forward.”

Tom and his wife Ellen are looking forward to settling in the Frenchman Bay area, to getting out on the trails, and to dinner with new FBC friends at Tidal Falls as our much-anticipated summer arrives. He also looks forward to digging in to the important work that awaits FBC in the coming months. Please come by the office or attend Monday Music or any of our summer events to meet Tom and welcome him into our community. ❖



PHOTO BOB DEFORREST

Tom Sidar with President Lisa Heyward (left) and departing Executive Director Barb Welch.



**Corea Heath** *continued from page 1*

moose and deer populations. We even came across an antler that had been shed by a good-sized moose. The hike provided a great snapshot of the diversity of flora and fauna that call this property home.”

Corea Heath is especially rich botanically in rare and endangered species including the Dragon’s Mouth Orchid (rare), Pickering’s Reed Bent-grass (endangered) and Screwstem (endangered). FBC’s Campaign Committee organized bog walks to help educate people on these plant communities. Board President, Lisa Heyward remarked, “We plan to offer bog walks again in June so that people may experience the beauty of the rare plant life first hand. Last summer, Jay and Nancy Horschak, Garry and Rosemary Levin, Richard Barton and I were lucky enough to go on a couple of walks. It really is a spectacular place, so quiet and serene.”

Ms. Heyward added, “This newest acquisition is really exciting for FBC. It is great to know that we are helping to protect the integrity of the local landscape. We plan to put in a discreet network of walking trails so that people may enjoy the ecological preserve. We hope that members of the surrounding community will also be interested in assisting us as stewards of the land.” Traditional public access opportunities such as hiking, bird watching, cross-country skiing and hunting will continue to be allowed in a manner that does not negatively impact the wildlife habitat.

Support for the campaign has been widespread. FBC is grateful for the generous cost reduction on the purchase price by the previous owner, Lowell and Associates, the grants that have been received from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the \$25,000 challenge grant from

***The hike provided a great snapshot of the diversity of flora and fauna that call this property home.***

an anonymous donor through The Maine Community Foundation. FBC would also like to thank the hundreds of individual donors who have contributed to the campaign.

With \$78,000 left to reach the \$475,000 goal, Frenchman Bay Conservancy invites you to take part in this extraordinary opportunity. ❖



One of the many wonderful vistas now accessible at Corea Heath.

# New Easements Donated to the Conservancy

*Alfred's Place and Wray Easements* by Jamie Brown

PHOTOS MARION BRITTS



## Alfred's Place: Easement Preserves Wildlife Habitat

Marion Britts generously donated a conservation easement on her Hancock land to FBC. This easement will forever protect 106 acres of forested wildlife habitat. The conserved land is adjacent to the State of Maine's Spring Brook Wildlife Management Area. FBC's newest easement, together with the State land creates a habitat block of over 400 acres.

Marion loves the land and all of the wildlife that she shares it with. On any given day, she receives a visit from bobcat, fox, turkeys, moose, coyotes, 'King' the buck, 'Suzy' the black bear and her cub, and other native Maine residents. Marion and her little Corgi, Tammy, walk the land often, enjoying the quiet beauty. With large tracts of land becoming divided and sold into house lots, this large undeveloped block provides an oasis for wildlife.

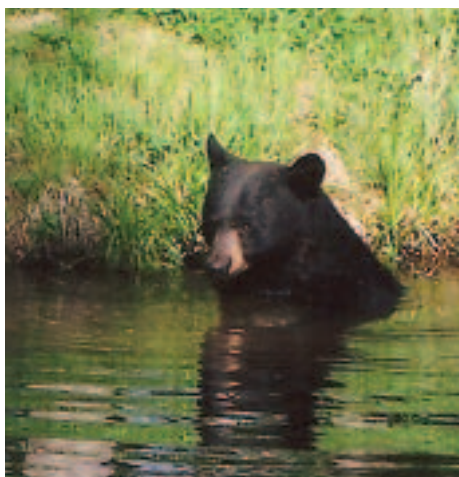


PHOTO MARION BRITTS

She and her late husband, Alfred, shared the love of the land. Over several meetings at Marion's place, during which time her giant and friendly red cat, Ollie insisted on participating in the discussion, she explained why she donated the easement. "Alfred and I just loved this land and all of the animals that are here. Alfred would have wanted this land to be conserved." To honor Alfred, Marion decided to name the easement 'Alfred's Place.' "I think he would have liked that," she says.

## New Wray Easement

In December the Frenchman Bay Conservancy accepted a conservation easement in Hancock from Kurt and Torj Wray. The easement protects a 23-acre portion of the Gull Rock property, which starts at the top of Grant's Hill on Eastside Road and extends down to the shores of Frenchman Bay. The easement protects acres of mixed forest, bold ledges and deep ravines and abounds with wildlife. Views from the shorefront extend from Sullivan Harbor and Schoodic Mountain to the north, Back Bay and Sorrento peninsula to the east and Mount Dessert Island to the south. The easement will protect nearly 600 feet of shorefront on Sullivan Harbor and habitat for coastal wading birds and waterfowl.

"The name 'Gull Rock' was how our property was identified in the deed," recall Kurt and Torj. "When we first saw the land back in 1980, there was a black iron gull sign hanging at the top of the driveway.



We fell in love with the place the moment that we saw it. We feel that the wonderful natural features of this property and the wildlife that abounds here should be protected for posterity."

The existing property was assembled into one parcel by Captain Edward Mercer of Portland, Maine, in the early 1900's. He used the property as a place to

***The wonderful natural features of this property and the wildlife that abounds here should be protected for posterity.***

'get away.' Additionally, the remains of the old railroad bed which ran from Bangor to Ferry Point, off of Eastside Road, cuts across the property.

The Wrays welcome walkers, cross-country skiers, bicyclists, horseback riders and anyone else who wants to enjoy the natural beauty and serenity of the property without the use of motorized equipment. ❖

## Good Luck Barb!

### Long-Time Director Passes Reins

After fourteen years with Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Barbara Welch has resigned to pursue opportunities in non-profit consulting. During her tenure Barb has overseen the acquisition of fifteen conservation easements and three preserves. She has spearheaded three capital campaigns, and is winding up a fourth, to acquire significant conservation properties for FBC: Tidal Falls, Indian Point, Schoodic Bog and Corea Heath.

Over the years Barbara developed a sophisticated understanding of local, regional, and national level land trust issues and worked regionally and at the state level to integrate and enhance conservation efforts. During her tenure at FBC, she served on the Steering Committees of the statewide Maine Land Trust Network and the Maine Coast Protection Initiative, and locally on the Union River Watershed Coalition and the MDI Water Quality Coalition.

When Barbara assumed the executive director position she was the Conservancy's sole employee, working part time. She is leaving the organization with a staff of three prepared to accomplish greater land conservation projects. The FBC Board is most grateful for her leadership in developing the organization. In addition her leadership has established FBC as a land trust well respected both for the land conservation it has achieved and for its leadership in developing regional conservation approaches. The FBC Board extends its appreciation for all Barb has done for us and we extend our best wishes for her success in her new endeavor. Barb can be reached at [barb@barbwelch.com](mailto:barb@barbwelch.com) ❖

## In Memoriam

The Conservancy has received memorial donations in honor of Earle Goodwin, Henry Milo, Beppie Noyes, Fred Fehrle, Richard Weiskittel, and Anne Geier.

## Proposed Resort Raises Many Questions

by Ben Emory

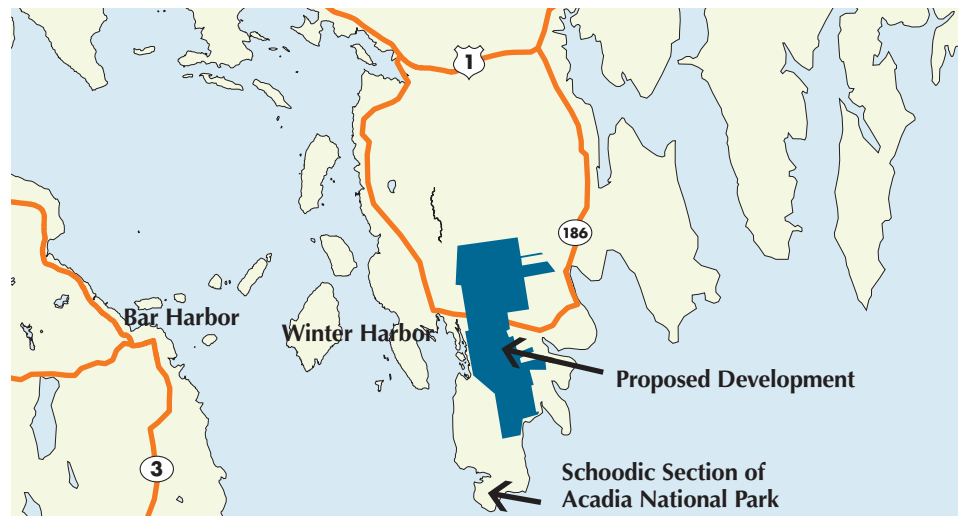
Luxury resort developers from Italy have released concept plans for a large-scale hotel and villa complex immediately adjacent to Acadia National Park's Schoodic Section. The Modena family of

For several years FBC has participated in discussions with local residents, the National Park Service, State of Maine officials, and other conservation organizations as concern has mounted about

### *The concept plan raises questions about such a development's long-term effect on the unique character and traditions of the communities of eastern Hancock County.*

Milan owns approximately 3,300 acres, primarily in Winter Harbor but also part in Gouldsboro. Considered the single biggest threat to Acadia National Park by Park officials, the proposed resort could also directly impact FBC's Schoodic to

possible large-scale development. The concept plan raises questions about such a development's long-term effect on the unique character and traditions of the communities of eastern Hancock County, the area's ecological and scenic integrity,



Schoodic Initiative, which seeks to protect blocks of high value animal and plant habitat between Schoodic Point and Schoodic Mountain.

Promoted as an "eco-community" by the owners and their planning consultants, concept maps show a hotel, private homes, a golf course, roads, trails and electric cart networks, nature education facilities, a kayaking center, and housing for resort employees. Much of the most intensive development is planned for very close to the access roads into and out of the Park and to the Park boundary line, but the overall concept spans virtually the entirety of the Modena ownership. This large landholding is divided about equally by Route 186, which connects the village of Winter Harbor to Birch Harbor.

and the experience of visitors to one of America's greatest National Park treasures. We expect there will be much discussion in the coming months as state and local regulatory bodies, conservation groups and the residents of the affected towns grapple with those questions.

FBC will remain an active participant in on-going efforts to try to minimize negative impacts of development in the Schoodic area. FBC encourages its members to keep abreast of the situation too and to participate actively in the expanding discussion about the future of this critical part of the Frenchman Bay region. ❖

# 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.



ILLUSTRATION BEPIE NOYES

**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:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 STUDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ OTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25        | <b>BLUE HERON SOCIETY</b>               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500       |   |

- 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 tom@frenchmanbay.org**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Lisa Heyward, <i>President</i>    | Frank Dorsey     |
| Linda King, <i>Vice President</i> | James Hanna      |
| Ed Curtis, <i>Secretary</i>       | Herbert Hodgkins |
| Peter Bryant, <i>Treasurer</i>    | Bill Munsey      |
| Adam Bishop                       | Nancy Patterson  |
| Bill Ceckler                      | Tobin Peacock    |
| Ken Cline                         | Audrey Tunney    |
| Oliver Crosby                     | Dyer Wadsworth   |

## STAFF

- Thomas W. Sidar, *Executive Director*  
Jamie K. Brown, *Conservation Director*  
Joyce B. Cornwell, *Office Manager*



# Monday Music

## 2008 Performance Schedule at Tidal Falls



PHOTOS BARB WELCH

- July 21** Numbasahake AFRICAN DRUMS
- July 28** Shush FIDDLE & GUITAR DUO
- Aug 4** Clam City Ramblers SWING & BLUES
- Aug 11** Darthia Farm Porch Band JAZZ & SWING
- Aug 18** Fletcher's Landing Philharmonic Orchestra
- Aug 25** Flash! In the Pan STEEL DRUMS

**All shows are 6:30 PM-8 PM, except August 25 Show 7:30 PM-9 PM**  
 at the end of the Tidal Falls Road, Hancock. Call 422-2328 for more information.



*Frenchman Bay*  
**CONSERVANCY**

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