

FBC's New Protected Lands

Connecting People with Nature by Tom Sidar

As different as they are, Frenchman Bay Conservancy's latest four land projects have two things in common—natural beauty and access for people. On the same day in December 2009, FBC acquired the 438-acre Frances B. Wood Preserve in Gouldsboro and the 160-acre Hardwood Hill Island Preserve on Graham Lake in Mariaville. A month later, with FBC support, the Town of Sullivan purchased the historic Gordon's Wharf property in Sullivan. On April 1, the City of Ellsworth and FBC signed a conservation easement for 447 acres on Branch Lake that the city purchased with help from Land for Maine's Future funds. All together these new preserves add over one thousand acres for the public enjoyment of nature.

Frances B. Wood Preserve

The Frances B. Wood Preserve in Gouldsboro project began when Ben

Emory, an FBC member, learned that the 438-acre property sitting above the Williams Point National Wildlife Refuge was for sale. The US Fish & Wildlife Service considered the protection of this property a very high priority, but didn't have the funds to purchase it. That's when FBC took on the project. In September 2008, Beth Goettel, Manager of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge and I walked FBC's Wood Project property and the existing Williams Point National Wildlife Refuge. We were impressed with how the natural uplands and small streams of the Wood property combine with the tidal flats and estuarial flows of Williams Point. Here was the textbook lesson in natural watershed hydrology. Over the next year and a half, private donors and foundations contributed generously to complete FBC's purchase of this property. Now



PHOTO TOM SIDAR

Frances B. Wood Preserve

with FBC ownership in place, plans are under way to construct a parking lot and build FBC trails to link with trails on the National Wildlife Refuge.

Hardwood Hill Island

Last October, Neil Butler called FBC and asked me if we would be interested in buying his Hardwood Hill Island property on Graham Lake in Mariaville at a very attractive price. I said we were definitely interested.

continued on page 4



Hardwood Hill Island PHOTO TOM SIDAR

President's Column

a message from our president

Dear Members and Friends,

As you read this newsletter, you'll see that Frenchman Bay Conservancy has much new land protection to celebrate. In the first twenty years of our history, FBC protected 2,130 acres through conservation easements and acquisitions. In the last two years FBC has protected 2,458 acres!

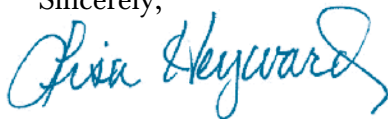
We are thrilled and proud to be able to protect all this important conservation land here in Hancock County. We have our donors, members and staff to thank for this achievement.

We are just as thrilled by a new trend in how these lands were protected. FBC has always stressed the principle that we work with the communities to protect and conserve the natural lands that they care about most. We often hear from our communities that they want to protect the clean water and scenic beauty of their natural lands and preserve wildlife habitat. We also hear that public access to these lands is just as important to the communities as the protection of the land itself. Recently, we completed several projects that the communities brought to us. Long Ledges Preserve in Sullivan was suggested and assisted by its neighbors. The Branch Lake easement came at the invitation of the City of Ellsworth and involved many years of negotiating closely with them. And Gordon's Wharf, which allows public access to Taunton Bay in Sullivan, involved cooperative work between the town and FBC staff. We hope to see many more projects generated in the neighborhoods, planning committees and select boards of the towns in our mission area.

Now that these special places are protected, we want people to see and enjoy them. That's why we're putting so much energy into planning and building hiking trails for public use. This is our way to connect the communities to FBC preserves.

This summer we expect to have crews working to create new trails and improve our old trails. If you enjoy this kind of outdoor work, please let us know. We will be looking for help! If you love hiking and want to see our trails, contact the office to get the latest version of our "Short Hikes" map. It's due out later this spring. Also check our website for bird and flora walks that we are organizing. We hope that you will help us celebrate and enjoy these wonderful places.

Sincerely,



Lisa Heyward, *President*

PHOTO KELLY BELLIS

Trout Lilies and Trout by Tom Sidar

When fisherman see trout lilies prospering under the alders and the alder leaves are as big as a mouse's ears, it's time to tie on a fly and head for the brooks and ponds.



The appearance of Trout Lilies pushing up through winter's decaying leaf litter is cause for joy. This graceful wildflower, *Erythronium americanum*, is a spring ephemeral. When the ground temperature reaches the forties and pushes toward the fifties, the trout lily's leaves unfurl to capture the sunlight they need to complete their reproductive cycle. When the leaves come up double, the lily will flower. If there is only one leaf, there will be no flower. The colony can spread by its seeds, but more often by its roots. A mature colony forms a ground cover of mottled green and brown leaves, dappled with yellow and bronze flowers. The graceful flowers open to face the sun and nod and close when the sun goes down. When the leaves of the hardwood trees above form a dense canopy, the trout lily goes into senescence, leaving no sign above the ground. In the moist, acidic soil below, the corm of the lily sends out runners

to form new corms and expand the colony. Scientists say it takes seven years for a trout lily to flower.

Why are they called Trout Lilies? Like Brook Trout in the water, Trout Lilies in the ground favor spring temperatures near 54 degrees. When fisherman see trout lilies prospering under the alders and the alder leaves are as big as a mouse's ears, it's time to tie on a fly and head for the brooks and ponds. And just to make sure that the reminder bell rings, the trout lily's mottled green and brown leaves show a remarkable resemblance to the famously vermiculated green and brown back of the brook trout. ❖

I'm going fishing. Cheers.



PHOTOS TOM SIDAR



Gordon's Wharf, Sullivan

Protected Lands *continued from page 1*

When Neil asked how seriously we were interested, I replied with a question "How about if I tie my canoe on the Jeep and meet you there tomorrow morning?" The next morning Neil and I paddled around the island, pulled the canoe up on the south shore and relaxed, taking in the island's quiet natural beauty. Deer tracks lined the shore, wild cranberries, abundant, but not yet ripe, formed dense colonies near the water's edge. Not far out, a floating bog held the promise of interesting wild orchids in season. Neil spoke of how he and his wife Brenda had enjoyed the peaceful beauty of this place for many years. He talked about what a great spot this is for canoeists and how people from Mariaville have been hunting and fishing here for years. He summed up his priority for this land in two words: public access. Thanks, Neil, for this opportunity!

Gordon's Wharf

The big, bright "For Sale" sign on the Gordon's Wharf property to the north of the Hancock-Sullivan Bridge was a constant reminder of the continuing threat of losing public water access to private developers. The Gordon's Wharf project began with conversations between FBC

president Lisa Heyward and Frank Dedmon, a Sullivan Town Selectman. Frank and Lisa agreed that the site had historic importance from the Sullivan granite quarry days. It is just as important to the community now because it provides the only public access to Taunton Bay for recreation and fishing. A \$100,000 contribution from FBC, \$215,740 from Land for Maine's Future, Sullivan's town reserve money and funds from a generous "matching donor" put this exceptional waterfront under Town of Sullivan ownership on December 30, 2009.

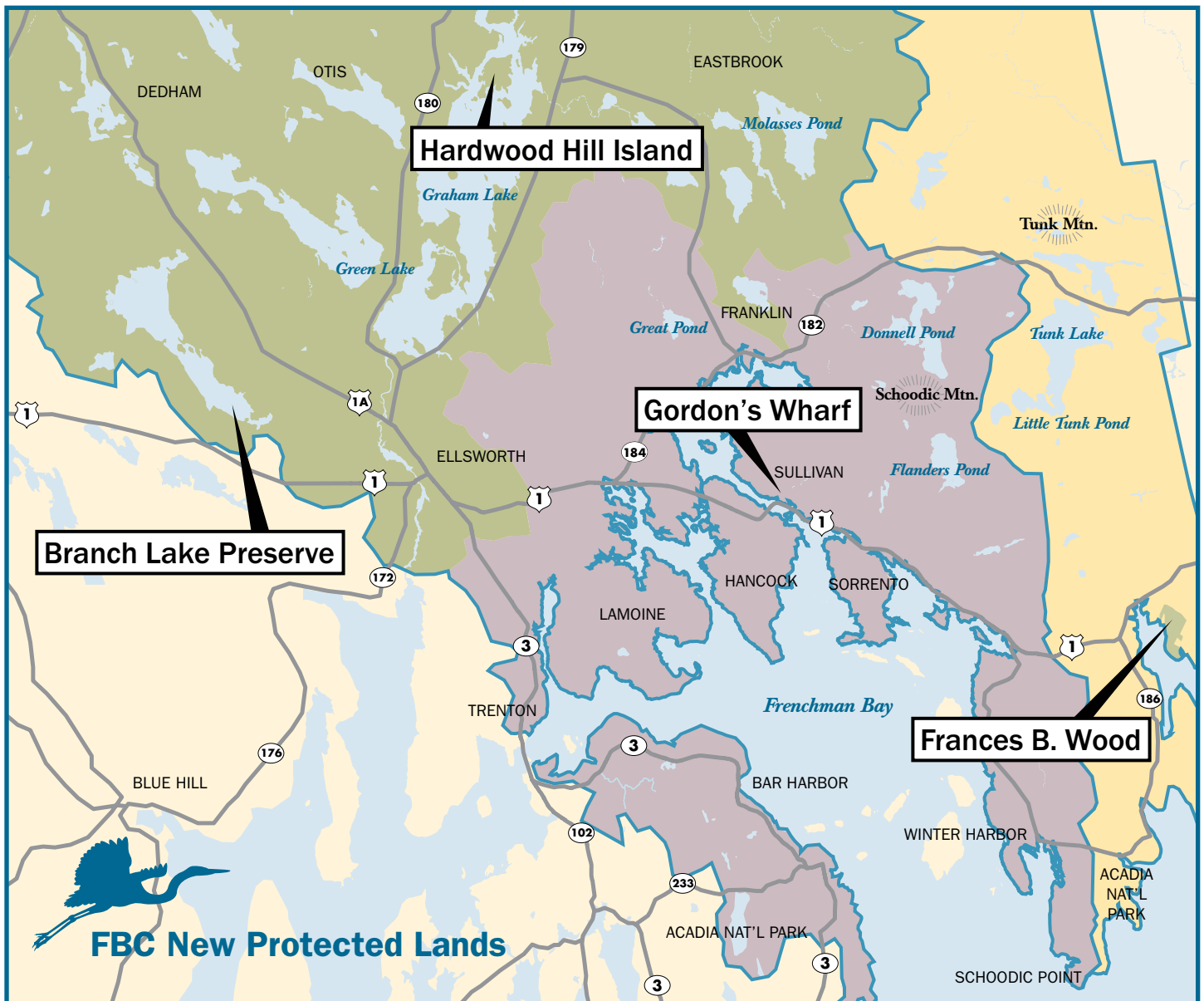
Branch Lake Preserve

For years FBC worked with the City of Ellsworth, the Trust for Public Land, the Forest Society of Maine and Land for Maine's Future to help bring almost 1,200 acres of private land on Branch Lake

under conservation ownership and also provide public access. FBC's easement will protect 447 acres on Branch Lake that serves the double purpose of protecting the City's water supply and allowing low impact public access to the shoreline and surrounding woodlands of Branch Lake. FBC and the City of Ellsworth are now meeting to determine the best location for parking and trails. Ellsworth Councilor Gary Fortier summed it up this way for the *Bangor Daily News*, "This will open up 400 plus acres for us to create trails where people can walk, snowshoe, ski, and even ride horses on approved trails. This gives us the opportunity to focus on some quality-of-life issues. Ellsworth is on the move." FBC is proud to join in and help. ❖



Branch Lake Preserve, Ellsworth



We've refreshed our website—take a look!



With help from our friends at KMW Design, we have dramatically updated our website. Now you can see spectacular new images of wildlife and scenic views photographed on FBC Preserves. Try the new interactive map.

PLEASE VISIT US AT
www.frenchmanbay.org

Briefly Noted

SUMMER SOLSTICE CONCERT

PLACE **Tidal Falls**

DATE **June 21, 7:30pm**

Flash! In the Pans, a steel drum band from the greater Blue Hill area, will herald the Summer Solstice with a special concert at Tidal Falls, Monday night, June 21, 7:30-9 p.m. Arrive early for parking and carpool if you can.

MONDAY MUSIC BEGINS JULY 16

PLACE **Tidal Falls**

DATE **Mondays 6:30-8pm**

Our popular Monday Music series begins July 16 with the University of Maine Machias Ukulele Band and concludes on August 16 with Fletcher's Landing Philharmonic Orchestra. Other old favorites and some new configurations of familiar musicians will entertain us. Please check our website regularly where we will post performing groups as we book them.



PLEIN AIR ART FESTIVAL

Our Plein Air art event runs from mid-June through the end of August this year. We invite you to paint/draw/sketch a landmark or view from one of FBC's preserves. We will exhibit finished works at Hammond Hall in Winter Harbor, September 1-15, with a concurrent silent auction.

Information packets and registration forms will be available online at www.frenchmanbay.org, or in the FBC office in Hancock after June 14. FBC is grateful, once again, to Schoodic Arts for All in helping plan and develop this event.

ANNUAL MEETING

PLACE **Moore Auditorium**

DATE **Sunday, August 1, 7pm**

At Moore Auditorium, Schoodic Education and Research Center in Gouldsboro (directions on our website). Guest lecturer is Dr. Harold Borns, Research Professor and Professor Emeritus, Department of Geological Sciences and Climate Change Institute, University of Maine. His topic will be "Maine in the Current Ice Age."

VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers this summer to:

- Monitor easements (requires training session in June)
- Work on trails

Contact Joyce at the FBC office, call (207) 422-2328, or email joyce@frenchmanbay.org.

LOBSTER DINNER

PLACE **Tidal Falls**

DATE **July 24, 5:30-7:00pm**

Invitations with reply card will arrive by mail in early June, limit 168 seats, reserve early. Send a check to make your reservation for this fundraiser. Tents and picnic tables will be provided, BYOB.

NEW FBC WEBSITE

We thank FBC's Joyce Cornwell and Jeff Dreher, designer at KMW Design, Ellsworth, for building and launching our new website.

In Memoriam

We have received memorial gifts in honor of Joan Bossi, Helen Broholm and Adina Gaal.

Anonymity Preference

FBC plans to publish a list of donors in the July 2010 Annual Report. Many of you have already indicated that you would like to remain anonymous, but others may not have had an opportunity. If you prefer anonymity, please notify Joyce in the office at joyce@frenchmanbay.org, and we will honor your request.



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, planting flowers, or getting out a mailing.

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"/> \$5000 |
| <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

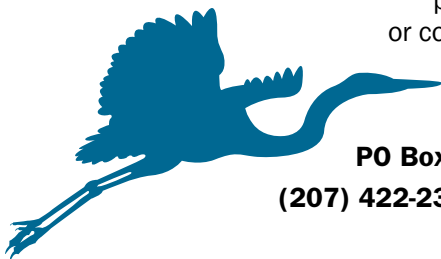
Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a nonprofit 501c(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!

Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust founded in 1987. 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
(207) 422-2328 tom@frenchmanbay.org
www.frenchmanbay.org

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PHOTO TOM SIDAR

LOBSTER at Tidal Falls

Save the Date!

July 24, 5:30-7:00pm
rain or shine

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Lobsters by Herbie.