



Memories of Ewing Land *by Mo Ewing*

The Ewings have been coming to Sorrento since the nineteenth century, and for some of us returning each summer is almost a spiritual experience. My father, Bayard Ewing, was born in Sorrento on a kitchen table in August 1916. He was fond of saying that he never missed a summer in Sorrento in 74 years, and as far as I know, he didn't.

In the 1940s, my father moved his mother's garage to the hill on the south boundary of the conservation easement now placed under the care of Frenchman Bay Conservancy. He and my mother had it converted it into the house that it is today. One

He was fond of saying that he never missed a summer in Sorrento in 74 years, and as far as I know, he didn't.

of his best friends, Stewart "Toot" Andrews, lived next door on Doane's Point Road in the little house that sits on the east boundary of the easement, just north of the little pond at the southern tip of the easement, that in times past was used as an ice pond, cooling drinks in the summertime.

After my father's death in 1991, I went into Ellsworth to look up the deeds for the parcels now in the conservation easement. It seems that my father bought and sold many parcels of land in Sorrento over the last 50 years of his life. Through this period he cobbled together the 182 acres,



The Ewing Easement

PHOTO GIFF EWING

many of which were owned by members of his family.

The fields at the southern end of the property were evidently a golf course in the early part of the 20th century. My memory goes back to the 1950s, but I never have been able to identify where any of the greens were. Those fields have been used for years by members of the Sorrento community. I have fond memories of the dog trials that Cliff Hale and my father ran in the 1950s and 1960s. Folks would come from all over to display the prowess of their best bird dogs. My

father always had a German short-haired pointer or two to enter the trials. The fields have also been the site of many games of "capture the flag" for generations of children growing up there.

The pond located in the center of the easement, which we call Bayard's Pond, was built by my father in the 1950s or 1960s. I remember the dam washed out every spring for the first several years. After trying several failing strategies, he finally constructed an overflow which has worked well since.

continued on page 6

President's Column

a message from our president

Greetings,

Winter is spectacular here in Downeast Maine, especially when snow blankets the land and ice piles up on the shores. Nevertheless, when the cold drives us indoors, the board and staff have the opportunity to work on strengthening the policies and operations of Frenchman Bay Conservancy so that we can better carry out our mission to conserve lands in perpetuity. This year we are focusing on recruiting you to help! One of the ways we want to improve our operations is to reach out to those of you who can to volunteer to help us with the monitoring of our easements, with the construction and the maintenance of the trails on our preserves, or with the upkeep of our buildings.

We plan to develop an organized volunteer corps whose participants will be trained for the tasks we ask of them. We have researched how other conservation organizations recruit, use and celebrate volunteers. This is an emerging trend in land trusts.

We are looking also for "friends" of our preserves to visit them frequently to be our "eyes and ears" for problems as well as ambassadors for FBC. This will be a great help to our tiny staff. Rosemary and Garry Levin have already started a Friends of Corea Heath group to build and maintain the trails in that new preserve. They constructed the first trail into the heath last summer, meeting once a week early in the morning to wander, to tag and, finally, to clip the trail. There was lots of enthusiasm and curiosity as well as hard work involved. This group now knows and appreciates that part of the heath, and the participants have come to know and appreciate each other as well.

As we take the first steps to develop a volunteer corps, we especially want to thank Oliver Crosby for his encouragement. He has long prodded us to invite more volunteer involvement at FBC. He wants FBC to gain from your volunteer work and he wants you to discover and know the wonderful places that FBC has protected!

Sincerely,



Lisa Heyward, *President*



Volunteer Spotlight *by Tom Sidar*

Volunteers comprise the heart of every Frenchman Bay Conservancy success story. The founders of Frenchman Bay Conservancy and early board members worked as volunteers to protect our first easement, Little Tunk Pond, and clean up the trail leading to the beautiful sand beach.

“There were so many volunteers who contributed ...so many stories ...”, says past FBC president Oliver Crosby, “The Little Tunk trail project had a great spirit about it . It was quite an experience sawing, clearing the brush and seeing the trail take shape. It was very sat-

isfying to see our hard work provide such a wonderful connection to nature and so many joyful experiences for the community.”

When FBC hired its first professional staff 17 years ago, we enhanced our ability to keep up with the increasing pace of administrative work, land protection and monitoring. Now, after more than 20 years, FBC owns 6 preserves and holds 24 easements. The FBC

“There were so many volunteers who contributed ...so many stories...,” says former FBC president Oliver Crosby. “The Little Tunk trail project had a great spirit about it.”

isfying to see our hard work provide such a wonderful connection to nature and so many joyful experiences for the community.”

For years, board members tested water quality in the tributary streams of Frenchman Bay and monitored all of our easements. When Bill Ceckler was FBC president, it was customary to assign two board members to monitor one easement a year. “People got out and did it.” Bill said. “It was a really good

board, committees and staff envision a vital and flourishing volunteer program as key to our successful land protection and stewardship. Our Stewardship Committee is drafting a Volunteer Policy to cover the essential components of a well-structured program including staffing, recruitment, training, recognition and data management.

FBC needs volunteers for property maintenance and trail work and we want to revitalize our volunteer ease-



PHOTO BARB WELCH

Ellsworth Rotary pitches in at Frenchman Bay Conservancy's Indian Point Preserve.

ment monitoring program. Volunteerism takes many shapes at FBC. It is a pleasure for me to see some of our seasonal rituals. For example, how do 32 picnic tables migrate on the Tidal Falls preserve? Through teamwork. Every November, 5 volunteers show up and move the tables off the lawn and stack them in the same geometric pattern inside the pavilion. Come spring, the same people return to place the tables on our lawn again.

Whether a day spent monitoring or a couple of hours raking, we need our loyal members to volunteer. We must protect the land we all love. ❖

New Logo for the Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy has a new logo. Karin Wilkes, our talented graphic artist (and owner of the Courthouse Gallery Fine Art and KMW Design in Ellsworth), transformed our standing blue heron into a silhouette in flight to reflect the new energy of the Conservancy. You will see the new design in our newsletter masthead, stationery, preserve signs, boundary trail markers and more. Decal for your car? One will be available soon for FBC members.



Conservation Notes *The Ewing Easement*

from the office of Jamie Brown



When I first came to FBC, I looked over the stack of pending project files and noticed one about a great project in Sorrento. I had just moved to that town and was curious about these neighbors. After all, the property was just down the road from me.

That summer I met Giff Ewing's family and walked the property with them. Talking to Giff and his son Blake about the Ewing family's long history with the property, I realized that the easement will protect more than a shape on a survey map. It will carry out a family's way of thinking and their love of the land and the town to which they've been long connected.

The Ewing siblings, Mo, Hasso, Giff, Gill and Linda, worked together with Conservancy on the easement. They helped document exactly what would be protected by the easement. They provided lists of plants, history about the ponds on the property and helped me to learn more about the amazing natural resources on and around this land. Blake Ewing took me out on several guided tours so that I could better understand this wonderful property. On several site visits, I ran into Bill Wise, a Sorrento resident who, over the years, has spent many

hours in these woods. Listening to him talk so passionately about the land, I knew how much this easement means to everyone who knows about this special place.

As with all easements, the Conservancy documents the natural resources on the land. Information from the State told us that the property's shorefront provides critical habitat for coastal wading birds and waterfowl, as well as shellfish and eel grass beds. Standing on the point and actually seeing the ducks and smelling the clean salt air, the words on paper come to life. I saw eagles soaring overhead. I stumbled across the beaver dams, amazed at the little critters' ingenuity and work ethic. While walking

and nourishment from saplings and other vegetation.

I find that after the completion of each project, I come away with a lasting reward unique to that landowner and property. FBC's new easement is near my home so I am often able to enjoy the Ewing property. Recently, I bundled up and took a walk along Doane's Point Road. I felt real joy to look down the road and see the Noyes land on one side and the Ewing property on the other, and know that both places are protected by FBC easements. I thought of the patience and generosity the Ewing family, and the many other landowners who have invited me to sit at their kitchen tables and talk about their love of the land

Listening to him talk so passionately about the land, I knew how much this easement means to everyone who knows about this special place.

through the acres of forests and well-kept fields, I saw many signs of deer. The property contains one of Sorrento's only documented deer yards--- where deer go during deep winter to seek running water, shelter,

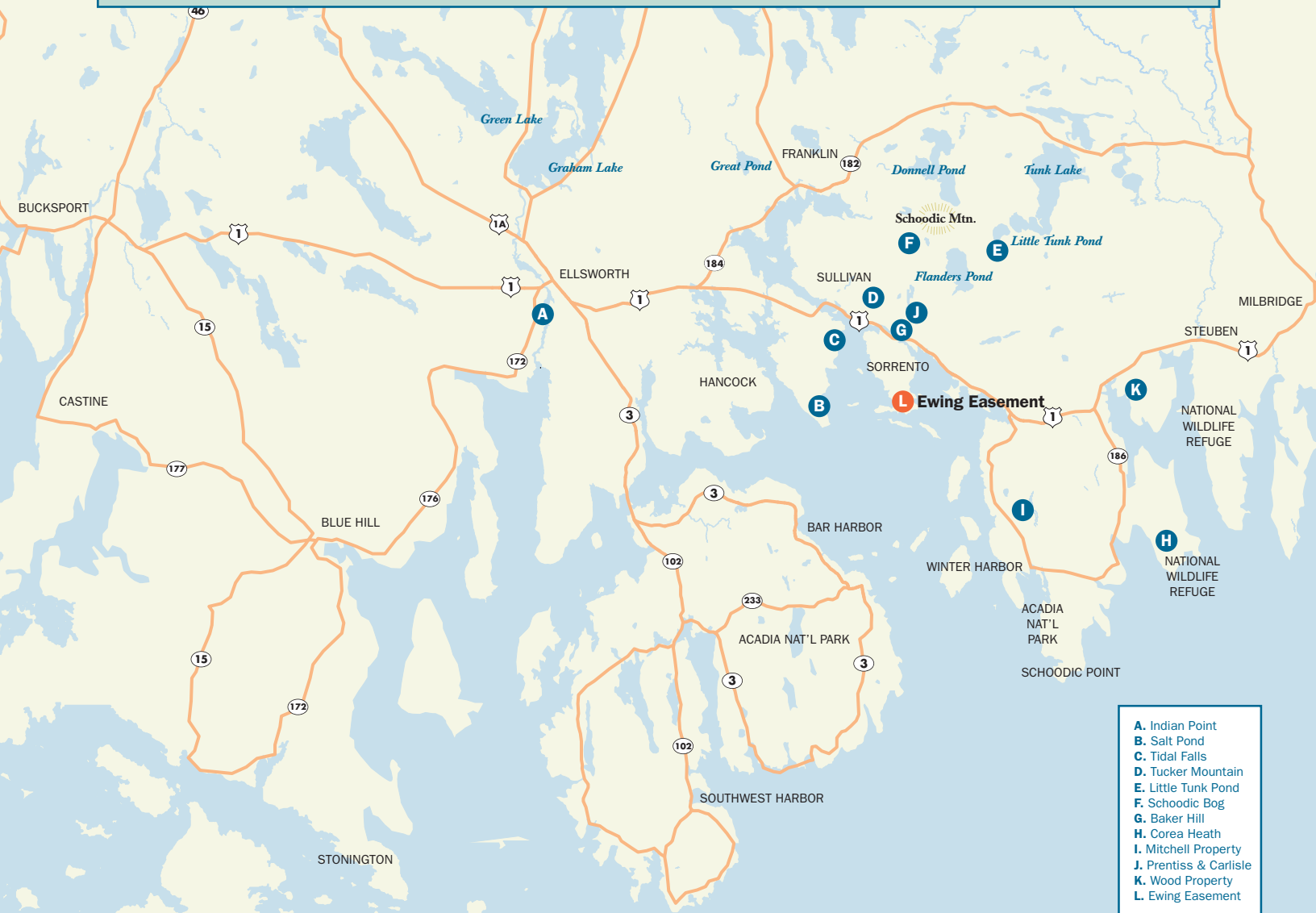
and their desire to protect it. With so many of Maine's beautiful and special places being lost, it is gratifying to see landowners protect and preserve their lands. ❖



PHOTO MO EWING

FAST FACTS The Ewing Easement

- Protects 181 acres, 2,845 feet of shorefront on East Cove (Flanders Bay)
- Home of eelgrass beds, shellfish beds, and Coastal Wading Bird and Waterfowl habitat offshore
- Eagles nests located on nearby lands and islands
- Located near Noyes Forest easement (FBC), Bean Island (conservation easement held by Acadia National Park) and Preble and Dram Islands (both owned by TNC)
- Protects 181 acres of scenic fields, mixed forest, several ponds, and numerous areas of wetlands providing habitat for flora and fauna
- Contains the only Deer Wintering Yard in the Town of Sorrento (as identified by Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife)



- A. Indian Point
- B. Salt Pond
- C. Tidal Falls
- D. Tucker Mountain
- E. Little Tunk Pond
- F. Schoodic Bog
- G. Baker Hill
- H. Corea Heath
- I. Mitchell Property
- J. Prentiss & Carlisle
- K. Wood Property
- L. Ewing Easement

About ten years ago a beaver moved in, building a modest house in the pond. If you visited the pond in the evening, you could see him swimming and slapping his tail angrily because you interrupted his solitude. He constructed a dam across the overflow, which we knew would blow

eschewing the modest residence in the pond, and they built a series of dams in the area below the pond all the way to an old road far to the south.

We have received cries of indignation from the residents of Sorrento that the beavers have killed off half the forest and should be forcibly evicted for

My mother, Harriet, threatened to have the beaver forcibly removed, but the beaver soon left. We never knew whether he left voluntarily or under the threat of Harriet's wrath.

the dam out in the next spring. My mother, Harriet, threatened to have the beaver forcibly removed, but the beaver soon left. We never knew whether he left voluntarily or under the threat of Harriet's wrath.

The pond lay beaverless for several years, but two years ago another family moved in. Unlike the previous tenants the engineers in this family must have received their training at MIT. They erected a seven-foot-tall beaver McMansion below the dam,

malfeasance. In fact, the beavers have converted only 7 acres from woodland to ponds and swamps, a symphony of biodiversity to a naturalist's eye.

The beaver ponds and swamps drain down a small stream that empties into Flanders Bay at a place called Betty's Rock. In the springtime when the stream is at full flow, it thunders over a big rock on to the clam flats. The place is called Betty's Rock because it was the spot where Betty Noyes, her husband Newbold, and their friends

the Wises, used to picnic in the middle of the winter. Beppie was a frequent contributor to this newsletter.

Besides beavers, the property has a wonderful collection of animals and birds. About 17 years ago, my niece, Sarah Ewing, at the age of four, decided to walk across the fields to see her cousin Seamus Hannan. About half way there she encountered an adult black bear. Somewhat flustered, she ran to Seamus' house and immediately told her aunt that she had seen a bear. Much to her chagrin, Aunt Hasso did not believe her. Later that evening she told her father, Giff Ewing, about it. "What did the bear do?" he asked. "He stood up, like this," she said doing a perfect imitation of a bear. The next day, Giff found blueberry-filled bear scat in the field, confirming Sarah's story. ❖

In Memoriam

We have received memorial donations in honor of Henry K. Milo.



PHOTO MO EWING

Indian Pipe

The ghostly pale Indian pipe is not a fungus, as the lack of green might suggest, but an albino wildflower related to dogwoods, heaths and rhododendrons. Botanically, it is an epiparasite and does not live directly off another plant, but rather, forms a complex relationship with it to obtain nutrients.

The combination of complete shade, moisture, and particular fungi to create the connection to the host is so unique that it's nearly impossible to transplant. Indian pipe decomposes rapidly upon handling; please leave it where you find it. The best time to find the flowers is after a heavy soaking midsummer rain.



Join us TODAY!

And receive a FREE 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, three 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 _____

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 | 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 | |

☐ 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

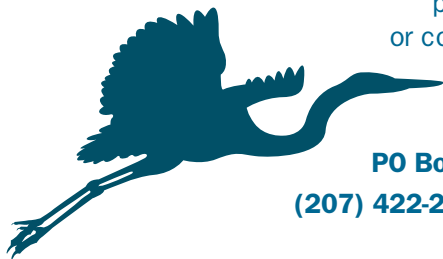
Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a nonprofit 501c(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!

Frenchman Bay Conservancy

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lisa Heyward, <i>President</i>	Dianna Emory
Audrey Tunney, <i>Vice President</i>	James Hanna
Ed Curtis, <i>Secretary</i>	Herbert Hodgkins
Peter Bryant, <i>Treasurer</i>	Nancy Patterson
Adam Bishop	Tobin Peacock
Polly Ceckler	Dyer Wadsworth
Ken Cline	Geoff Young
Frank Dorsey	

STAFF

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



PHOTO BARB WELCH

Restaurant Closes *Tidal Falls Preserve Still Open for Picnics*

On December 10, the Frenchman Bay Conservancy Board of Directors regretfully, but unanimously, voted to discontinue restaurant operations at Tidal Falls. The vote was in accordance with the recommendation of the Sullivan Falls Corporation (the entity that managed the restaurant for FBC).

The Board recognizes that the restaurant has been a treasured part of the Tidal Falls experience for decades. For this reason FBC has continued to run the restaurant for the eight years since 2000, when we acquired the property. Unfortunately, the restaurant has run at a loss for seven of its eight years of operation. The short summer season and the dependence on good weather for outdoor dining have

proven to be insurmountable hurdles.

FBC is committed to ongoing conservation education and programs that encourage members and the community at large to get out and enjoy the land and waters that we protect on your behalf. Although we will all miss the lobsters and clams prepared at the Tidal Falls Restaurant, given the importance of this mission, it is impossible to justify directing our conservation dollars to run the restaurant at a loss.

On the positive side, the Tidal Falls building and preserve hold tremendous potential for environmental education outreach and programs. Visitors of all ages from all over the country come to Tidal Falls not only to see this

wonder of nature, but also to learn about the tides of our beautiful rivers and bays and the lobsters and mussels and seals and eagles that complete the circle of nature in this unique and special place.

In a world of change, FBC's Tidal Falls Preserve remains protected forever and open for all to enjoy. We want to assure you that we will still have the picnic tables out on the lawn for you and your family and friends. And we're already planning for next season's Monday Night Music. You will still be welcome to bring a picnic basket and enjoy the day at this spectacular preserve. We look forward to seeing you here next summer. ♦



PO Box 150 Hancock, Maine 04640

Non-profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Hancock, ME
04640
Permit #1