

Community Conservation by Eileen Hall

Seizing a Critical Moment for Ellsworth's Future

Picture a balmy, summer Friday evening. You stroll down Main Street following an evening out with friends, and as you come to the bridge over the Union River you gaze upriver to watch groups of people talking, laughing, and walking along the newly created river walk. The light of the street lamps dances along ripples

to listen in on a Healthy Acadia program for kids about growing your own food. They are planting vegetables in a new community garden, and the produce will be distributed to the food programs of Hancock County schools in the fall. Then, you decide to head into town and grab a bite to eat at a new lunch

since the City has vastly improved cross-walks, bike lanes, and paths, people have really started to take advantage of running errands without using a car.

With some focus and persistence over the next several years, we can make this vision become reality. Ellsworth is at a critical juncture in



PHOTO EILEEN HALL

The Ellsworth Green Plan steering committee touring Ellsworth by bike with Hannah Quimby of the Quimby Family Foundation.

in the water. The Union River has become a focal point and attraction for Ellsworth. As you head home, you start thinking about your plans for the next day with your visiting friends. You're planning to take them on a hike through the new Jordan Homestead Preserve.

On Saturday, as you finish your hike, you and your guests stop

spot, one of many new businesses popping up around downtown—a result of downtown revitalization efforts.

As you're heading home, your friend comments on the amount of foot and bike traffic around the City, "I don't remember seeing so many people walking around town before" she says. You respond that

time. Ellsworth has been the fastest growing City in Maine. It is a major service hub for many surrounding communities throughout Hancock County as well as Washington and Penobscot Counties. It sits at a strategic location, with tremendous economic potential, as millions of visitors head through Ellsworth each summer on their way to Acadia

President's Column

December 1 marks three years with Aaron Dority as the Executive Director of FBC. They have been three intensively busy and productive years! Under his leadership and with the support of an engaged board of directors the land trust has so many accomplishments to celebrate: an ambitious new five year strategic plan, purchase and renovation of the Red House as new office space and Education Center, as well as four new preserves.



PHOTO JEFF DIBELLA

Tidal Falls, Hancock

Our Strategic Plan sets FBC on a path to grow our resources and staff to accommodate the extensive conservation work that is coming our way. Some of that work, especially in the Schoodic and Union River regions, involves the purchase of fee interest or of conservation easements for land of much larger acreage than we have had the capacity to manage to date.

In a new approach for FBC we are beginning to engage in community conservation that is work with the members of a community to use the skills of our land trust to help them improve their community in ways they choose. Our first engagement is with Ellsworth as its residents consider questions of how to make their city more healthy, sustainable and appealing. FBC can offer its skills in land deals to help the city to develop connecting parks and foot and bike paths.

We are also well along in our capital campaign to raise the funds to revitalize our Tidal Falls Preserve. Now that the office has been moved up to the Red House, the focus is on the removal of the dilapidated old buildings and the disintegrating sea wall and the rediscovery of the old shoreline. After that we will rearrange the road and parking and add a new pavilion.

These are some of the highlights of FBC's work, both completed and ongoing, that we are excited to share and celebrate. Thank you all for helping to make this great work possible. Happy holidays!

— Lisa Heyward
President, FBC

The Love of Place

by Alan Hershey

In 1954, my father had reason to be walking through Rockefeller Center in midtown Manhattan. On a whim, he went into the Maine Tourist Bureau office, and spotted a little 3x5 card offering for rent a “camp” (we didn’t know then what that really meant) on a lake in Hancock County. We went there, and I was enthralled by the quiet, the cool breezes, the fishing, the moose head over the stone fireplace, the dazzling stars at night. We went again just about every summer—for the ten more years leading to my high school graduation—and then my parents continued their stays on Abrams Pond for the rest of their lives, until they died in 1995 and 2002. In 1983 they bought some land and built a log camp, and my two brothers, Steve and Ron, and

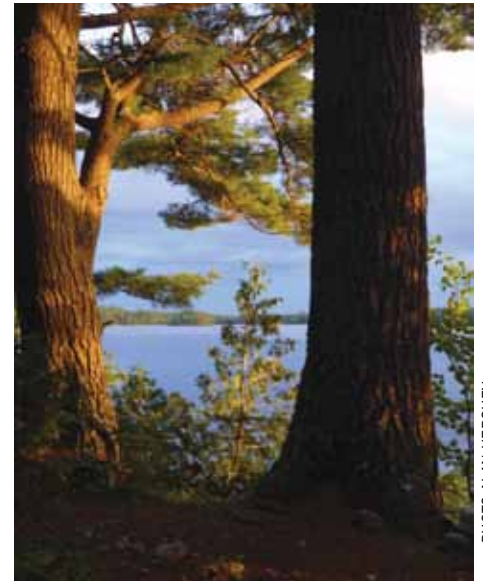


PHOTO ALAN HERSHEY

Looking out across Abrams Pond from the east shore.

I have continued to cherish that place, the sounds and smells of the lake, the people we know there, and Downeast in general.

Over those decades, we also became attached to Tidal Falls. For most of my memory, we visited

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A New Chapter for Tidal Falls Preserve by Aaron Dority

Frenchman Bay Conservancy reached a major milestone this past summer when we surpassed the two-thirds fundraising threshold, raising \$1.5 million toward our \$2.25 million goal for our Revitalize! capital campaign. We're not only revitalizing our flagship preserve on the reversing falls in Hancock, we're also revitalizing the organization, timed to coincide with FBC's 30th anniversary. Money that we raise today will support future stewardship, land acquisition, and a stronger organization.

We launched our public campaign this summer at our 30th anniversary celebration, accompanied by live music from the jazz trio Night and Day. Kids scoured the tide pools, looking for marine treasures while adults viewed plans and concept designs for our renovated preserve. The event was also a home-coming of sorts, with the two prior executive directors and numerous past board members in attendance. Each of them carried their share of responsibility to protect this magical place, whether that involved securing a contract and fundraising seventeen years ago when FBC first acquired Tidal Falls Preserve, expanding the conserved acreage since then, or working with the sellers to acquire the "red house" and plan the renovations necessary to build FBC's future home.



PHOTO JIM FERMAN

We're not only revitalizing our flagship preserve on the reversing falls in Hancock, we're also revitalizing the organization.

Fast forward to October 4. With the building renovations now complete, we have formally moved out of the old cinder block building on the shore to the newly expanded red house. We added space for staff workstations and meeting space. But,

what we're most excited about in the new space is our education room. For the first time in our history, we'll have a place to invite all of you indoors at Tidal Falls to learn about the natural wonders that Downeast Maine has to offer—and then, of course, you'll have to go see those natural wonders in-person!

The final stage of our work involves the removal of the dilapidated buildings on the shore, restoration of the shoreline, and construction of a new pavilion. So many of you have shared your positive reactions to our new design. We're now looking forward to sharing the final product with you, with work beginning in the spring of 2018. The timing of this next phase is contingent upon funding. So, please make your contribution today, and help us cross the finish line with our Revitalize! campaign. ❖



PHOTO EILEEN HALL

The reversing falls viewed from Tidal Falls Preserve at low tide.



Hannah Quimby of the Quimby Family Foundation hears about the Ellsworth Green Plan.

Conservation *continued from page 1*

National Park.

Jackson laboratory and an emerging export economy are creating more jobs and encouraging growth. However, there remains a desperate housing shortage. While Ellsworth is an attractive place to live, there is so much potential for improvement and growth. But, it is critical to grow the City without creating

committee to create the Green Plan, holding monthly meetings since the spring with representatives from the Ellsworth City Council and Planning Office, Ellsworth Garden Club, the Historic Preservation Commission, Healthy Acadia, Heart of Ellsworth, Downeast Salmon Federation, as well as individual community members.

The plan will include public

The Ellsworth Green Plan will remain a living document, truly reflecting the community members' interests in the future.

new sprawl. Now is the time to plan and begin implementing projects to support Ellsworth in realizing its potential.

At the beginning of January 2017, the Ellsworth Garden Club initiated a public forum, in partnership with the City of Ellsworth, to gather feedback on a proposed green plan for Ellsworth. About fifty people participated in this first meeting, sharing ideas for what a green plan would cover and specific projects that could improve the quality of life in Ellsworth. The Garden Club has put together past plans, one in the 1950s and the other in the 1980s, but the current plan is larger and more ambitious, aiming to transform Ellsworth into a model, livable, green community.

FBC joined a 12-person steering

parks, recycling and waste management, Union River waterfront planning, accessible walkways and corridors, local food programming, wildlife conservation, and more. Its development dovetails with multiple Frenchman Bay Conservancy priorities including the Union River watershed and community conservation within Ellsworth. We've partnered with the City of Ellsworth to manage trails at Branch Lake and to clean up the banks of Card Brook. The Green Plan provides a path to define future work and affect positive change on an even larger scale.

The Ellsworth Green Plan will remain a living document, truly reflecting the community members' interests in the future. If we do this right, this work will also be a model for other communities to develop

plans to meet their own local needs.

Thank you to Maine Community Foundation's Hancock County Fund, Elmina B. Sewall Foundation, and the Quimby Family Foundation for supporting community conservation in Ellsworth with grants to the Garden Club and to Frenchman Bay Conservancy. ❖

If you would like to learn more about the Ellsworth Green Plan or find out how to get involved, please send Eileen Hall an email at eileen@frenchmanbay.org

Honorary Gifts

IN MEMORIAM

Oliver Crosby
Geneva Frost
F.D. Allen

In Honor of Garry Levin's Birthday

Gifts made by:

Ken Bahm
Frank Chudnow
Jeff DiBella
Paul DiMaggio & Carol Mason
Sherrie Downing
Rob Hilbrink
Mazouz Hussein
Margo Klass
Rosemary Levin
Annetje L. Meyer
Ellin Miller
Ray Monahan
Beth Petersen
Jackie Rickard
Fran Renaud
Shelly Shapiro
Barbara Stewart
Richard & Barbara Sturgeon
Mary Vauthy
Norma Rodham Vela
Sarah Relles Vogel

Conserving an Ellsworth landmark by Aaron Dority

With your support, Frenchman Bay Conservancy will protect one of the largest undeveloped properties on the river south of Graham Lake.

A big “Thank you” to all of you who joined us on a beautiful, sunny, fall October day in Ellsworth to celebrate the opportunity to conserve a piece of the City’s heritage. Frenchman Bay Conservancy is making significant progress toward our goal of raising \$230,000 to conserve the Jordan Homestead and build new trails. We enjoyed the opportunity to talk with you all about this property and its significant place in local history. And, of course—what delicious cider and doughnuts!

Conserving the Jordan Homestead is significant for its history as well. College of the Atlantic professor and neighbor Todd Little-Siebold told us at our fall event that this property was in the heart of Ellsworth’s ship building and commercial shipping history, with 200 ships having been built in Ellsworth between 1760 and 1920. These ships serviced wharves up and down the Union River on the shores surrounding the current Jordan Homestead property.



PHOTO ELEANOR FAIRBANKS

Event attendees trying out the apple cider press.

The Jordan Homestead will allow FBC to expand Ellsworth’s trail network, including a future connection to Birdsacre, known also as the Stanwood Wildlife Sanctuary, which has recently purchased a small parcel just across the street from the Jordan Homestead, as shown on the map below.

Over the last fifteen years, Ellsworth residents and visitors have asked for

protection of open space, access to the Union River and for more trails. In fact, a 2015 survey commissioned by the City showed that 83 percent of respondents wanted to see improved and connected trail systems. The respondents also preferred conservation of riverfront close to downtown.

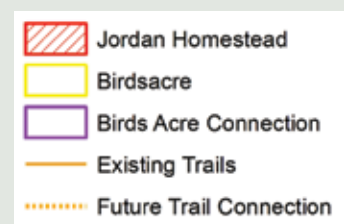
With your support, FBC will protect this land—one of the largest undeveloped properties on the river south of Graham Lake. ❖

If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact Aaron Dority, FBC’s Executive Director for more information.

Thank you to Patti-Cakes for providing six dozen fresh-baked doughnuts for our October gathering, and special thanks also to Todd Little-Siebold for graciously sharing his time with us to discuss the rich cultural history of this part of Ellsworth.



The Jordan Homestead will allow Frenchman Bay Conservancy to expand Ellsworth’s trail network.



there for lobster when it was served by Christiane Hodgkins. Her French origins were of particular importance to my older brother Steve and me in 1962 as we prepared for an independent six-week bicycle trip to France.

between Abrams Pond and the State's Lyle Frost Wildlife Management Area. I could not have done this without the interest and love of the land that the Dickens family shared with me, feelings that made it possible for them to sell the land for preservation. I have donated a



PHOTO AARON DORITY

Looking out across from Abrams Pond from the east shore.

These strong attachments to two places—Abrams Pond and Tidal Falls—have inspired me to help preserve their beauty and make them meaningful to future generations

We had studied French for years, but had had little chance to put it to use, so we tried our accents with Christiane, who declared us fit and ready to roam the French country side. So it feels in some ways that Tidal Falls launched us into the wider world, while keeping its hold on us.

These strong attachments to two places—Abrams Pond and Tidal Falls—have inspired me to help preserve their beauty and make them meaningful to future generations. They have moved me to make two gifts to Frenchman Bay Conservancy. First, I purchased 135 acres of undeveloped land on the east side of Abrams Pond—a magical forest of mature trees, massive boulders, hollows filled with moss and ferns, sparkling views of the lake—a link

conservation easement on all this land to FBC, and will later donate the title. FBC has begun to design a trail network so the public can enjoy this new preserve, which I hope will be called Abraham's Woods, in recognition of the early settler Abraham Donnell, who in the late 18th century, according to old family records, "discovered" and named both Abrams Pond and nearby Donnell Pond.

Second, I have made a donation to FBC to support the revitalization of its Tidal Falls home, including shoreline restoration and the organization's facilities. I anticipate with great pleasure dedicating a plaque at the new picnic grove, in memory of my parents Irving and Mildred Hershey, and in thanks for the love of place they instilled in me. ❖

5th Annual Downeast Double Trouble Trail Race Series

Congratulations to all the runners who ran in the Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust's Wildlands Trail Run on October 29 and Frenchman Bay Conservancy's Autumn Trail Race on November 5!

The weather held out for the consecutive weekends making up the Downeast Double Trouble Trail Race Series. The races attracted



PHOTO HANS KRICHELS

runners from all over the Downeast region and beyond—from Baileyville to Augusta, as well as runners of all ages from 8 to 69 years old! A huge "Thank you" goes out to all of the volunteers who execute the layers upon layers of details that go into making these races safe, challenging, and fun!

Check out FBC's website and Facebook page for details of the Autumn Trail Race's results and photographs. ❖

"Like" us on Facebook.



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

facebook.com/frenchmanbay



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.

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.

☐ \$5 STUDENT

☐ \$250

☐ \$25

☐ \$500

☐ \$50

☐ \$750

☐ \$100

☐ \$ _____

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
PO Box 150, Hancock, Maine 04640

To pay by credit card, visit our website www.frenchmanbay.org

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a not-for-profit 501(c)(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's mission is to conserve distinctive ecosystems and landscapes for the benefit of all, from the Union River and Frenchman Bay watersheds east to the Hancock County line.

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For more information on the Conservancy, please visit our office at Tidal Falls, or contact us by mail, phone, or e-mail:

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Success! One step closer to protecting Marlboro Beach.

Back in early spring, the residents of the Town of Lamoine had just voted to appropriate \$10,000 toward this project when I received the kind of call that every land conservation organization wants to receive. "I see that you're working to conserve Marlboro Beach," said the caller. "I want to match all remaining contributions for this project dollar for dollar until you reach your goal." Of course, we at FBC were thrilled! Now, the challenge was on, and we needed to make sure to get this great news out to as many people as possible to take advantage of the gift, and to secure the property for the Town of Lamoine.

"I see that you're working to conserve Marlboro Beach," said the caller. "I want to match all remaining contributions for this project dollar for dollar until you reach your goal."

Today, we have received contributions ranging from \$25 to well over \$1,000 from people with strong connections to this place. Local residents, members



Jim Norris and Terry Towne standing by the expansive clam flats at Marlboro Beach.

PHOTO AARON DORITY

of the Marlboro Beach Yacht Club, and seasonal visitors have all contributed to protect this land for future generations.

The sellers, the Norris family, invited me, and Terry Towne, a local resident and Maine Coast Heritage Trust steward who brought this project to FBC's attention, to a family gathering at the Lucerne Inn in July. Norris family members had come from as far away as Florida to reunite and to celebrate fulfilling Eleanor Norris' wish to give this property to the residents of Lamoine for all to enjoy, forever. The family

was willing to sell the land at \$40,000 below its fair market value—another incredible display of generosity.

We're proud to report today that we have met our fundraising goal! Our next step is to transfer the money to the Town, and they will purchase the land with a deed restriction ensuring future public access. A big thanks to the Norris family, Terry Towne, residents of Lamoine, members of the Town's Select Board, and to all of you who helped to make this project happen! ❖