

## This Season's Stewardship

We hope this year's stewardship work will have a positive impact on the communities in which you all live! Much like every year, we've kept busy this season, not only emphasizing the upkeep of our existing trails, but also forging ahead with planning and clearing of new trails.

First, an update on the maintenance of our established preserves and trails. On our ever expanding map of 17 preserves that currently

have trails, we've given attention to the visitor experience and cleared brush and downed trees. We started some bigger maintenance projects as well, such as introducing water bars into the trail at our Little Tunk Preserve to prevent further soil erosion. The water bars are just the beginning of this project that will eventually provide a more sustainable trail connecting you to a gem of Sullivan.



**CHARLES  
SCHAMLE**



**LEE  
FAIRBANKS**

With the hard work of our wonderful volunteers, we also made great progress on four new trails! FBC's Weekly Trail Workdays on Wednesday mornings from June through September provided an outlet for stewardship volunteers to use their trail-building skills and produce remarkable results. We can't thank them enough for making these projects possible:

- A new trail system cleared at the Jordan Homestead property in Ellsworth.
- A new loop trail completed at Schoodic Bog Preserve in Sullivan.
- Planning for a trail at the new Day Ridges Preserve in Gouldsboro.
- And we're excited to announce that a new trail system is being

**Stewardship** *continued from page 4*



PHOTO: AUSTIN SCHUVER

Everyone stopped to gaze at Schoodic Mountain while building the new trail at Schoodic Bog Preserve.

## Tidal Falls Preserve Revitalization Update

Groundbreaking began in August on a major restoration project at Tidal Falls Preserve in Hancock. As the excavator began demolition, the old buildings and failing seawall soon gave way to a panoramic view. Today, set back from the shore, a new pavilion and observation deck take shape.

**Stay tuned for the Grand Re-Opening of Tidal Falls Preserve in the summer of 2019.**

*Lower Tidal Falls Preserve will remain closed until construction work is completed. FBC's offices and Exploration Center will remain open year-round.*

PHOTO LEFT Demolition of old buildings at Tidal Falls began on August 20, 2018.



PHOTO: AUSTIN SCHUVER

# President's Column

At our Annual Meeting this summer, Jim Levitt of the Harvard Forest Program spoke about the power of a small, enthusiastic, and determined group of people. His prime example was the small group who accumulated the lands that eventually became Acadia National Park. They had a vision that the mountains and lakes of Mount Desert Island were uniquely beautiful and should be preserved for the enjoyment of the nation. They persuaded landowners to sell or donate the lands, and then persuaded the federal government to take them as the Lafayette National Monument, later to become Acadia National Park.

Frenchman Bay Conservancy was likewise started by a small group who felt that the lands on the north side of Frenchman Bay were also unique and worthy of preservation.

We do not aspire to having a national park on this side of the bay, but we do now manage over 8,000 acres of land and some 28 miles



President Lisa Heyward (far right) led Preserve Walks each Monday this summer.

of trails. We are still a relatively small group with grand aspirations for protecting the unique qualities of this region.

One way a small group can be successful is by inspiring and inviting others to join in its work. FBC's volunteer program helps with stewardship projects and events. In this newsletter, our 2018 Maine Conservation Corps Steward and our chair of our Stewardship Committee tell a story about working with volunteers to create our newest trails. In addition, our Volunteer of the Year, Indra Guertler, writes about what draws her to volunteering for FBC.

One of our very special preserves is our Tidal Falls Preserve that allows shorefront access to the remarkable reversing falls at the mouth of Taunton Bay. Thanks to the contributions of so many of you, we are progressing with the revitalization of this preserve. Look for photos of that progress in this issue of our newsletter. At our office building on the preserve, come visit the new Exploration Center, another way we invite others to be involved in the exciting work of land conservation in our area.

More power to small, enthusiastic, and persistent groups! Please join us with your support, your enthusiasm, and your volunteer work!

— Lisa Heyward  
*President, FBC*

## FBC to Apply for Accreditation Renewal

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. Frenchman Bay Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for renewal of accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs. Frenchman Bay Conservancy is proud to apply for renewal, a mark of excellence for land trusts that must abide by strict standards and practices in land conservation to achieve accreditation.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how Frenchman Bay Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards, see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit [www.landtrustaccreditation.org](http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org), or email your comment to [info@landtrustaccreditation.org](mailto:info@landtrustaccreditation.org). Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on Frenchman Bay Conservancy's application will be most useful by December 14, 2018.

Thank you.

Aaron Dority  
*Executive Director*

# Volunteer of the Year



INDRA  
GUERTLER

I'm in the back of the audience for the outdoor Annual Meeting at Jordan Homestead, my husband's good camera ready to capture the surprise on a lucky person's face as Executive Director Aaron Dority announces the "Volunteer of the Year" Award. I'm hearing only about half of what he says in the kind review of this yet-to-be-named person because I don't want to miss the camera shot, but it starts to sound somewhat familiar. When my name is called there is a moment of shock, then mild embarrassment, and then warm joy. I am so grateful to be part of Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC), and to have them appreciate the small things that I do to help.

My husband and I bought a rough property in Sullivan in 1981, hoping to live Down East year-round. Years later, our whole family began to walk our Bernese Mountain Dogs at Baker Hill and Long Ledges Preserves, excited to have found public trails near our home. The trails were beautiful in the summer, and the parking lots well-plowed in the winter. What more can you ask? With so many trails to choose from, the dogs and I were never bored. Clint and Eleanor Ritchie would stop to say hello, which started the connection to FBC. We also knew Jeremy Strater, and learned how he wanted FBC to have some of his land for posterity. I knew him well enough to know that his high standards had fully vetted FBC.

So when I had some extra time, I decided to volunteer for the organization that had given so much to us.

In summer of 2017 it was so easy to join FBC. I was welcomed immediately and given fun tasks. Everyone was so friendly and trusting. I first worked Lobster Dinner,

serving butter for dipping and then scooping the ice cream sundaes. As a perpetual foodie this was very satisfying work. I also could make small talk with the dinner guests. Scooping ice cream became my FBC reputation, and I reveled in the role. As my first summer ended, I was sad as always to return south for work, but now I was even more disappointed to leave all my new acquaintances at FBC.

the many interesting events made me proud to be a member of FBC. I loved talking to visitors about the renovations-in-progress and all our future plans.

Being a volunteer at FBC is like having a second home where I get to welcome guests and sing the praises of all that we do. I now have new people in my life that I care about, and I look forward to getting to know people more as time passes.



Indra, Lisa Heyward, and Aaron Dority after the presentation of the Volunteer of the Year award.

PHOTO RANDY EWINS

## Being a volunteer at FBC is like having a second home where I get to welcome guests and sing the praises of all that we do.

In the summer of 2018, since I was slightly more experienced I was given the opportunity to be on a committee, thanks to Iris Simon. They even listened to some of my ideas! There were new people to meet and new tasks to work on. I started to feel more connected to the trails, and began walking the dogs on more distant, less traveled trails. As we walked I cleaned the trails and reported to the Trail Steward, Charles Schamle, any jobs too big for me to handle alone. Volunteering at the headquarters at Tidal Falls with Austin Schuver for some of

I hope that in reading about my experiences that you too will consider volunteering for FBC. We have lots of things to do and volunteers get to choose projects that they enjoy. We are very friendly and welcoming to all. You can be part of this amazing group that works so hard to protect and share nature so near where we live. Please look for me and my dogs on the trails—we are always happy to have another hiking buddy. ❖

# How a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world



JIM LEVITT

The history of land conservation in Downeast Maine over the past century offers living testimony to the idea that small groups of dedicated individuals can

achieve significant and lasting change. As Margaret Mead, the celebrated anthropologist, is reported to have said in the late 1970s: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

How so?

Consider the following chain of initiatives, undertaken by small groups of citizens associated with the academic, private, civic (non-profit) and public sectors in south-east Hancock and southwest Washington Counties in Maine.

- In the early 1880s, Charles Eliot—son of the president of Harvard University Charles W. Eliot—brought small groups of undergraduates by boat, over the course of several summers, to Mount Desert Island. While camped out there, the young scholars collected natural history artifacts and knowledge as members of what they named the “Champlain Society.” In the course of these explorations, Eliot in 1883 wrote in his personal diary that “[t]he scenery of Mount Desert is so beautiful and remarkable that no pains should be spared to save it from injury—to

the end that many generations may receive all possible benefit and enjoyment from the sight of it.”<sup>1</sup>

- In the subsequent four decades, a group that included George Dorr, Charles W. Eliot and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. led the charge to protect nearly five thousand acres of Mount Desert. The organization they formed to hold that land, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, was one of the earliest land trusts established in the United States. The acres protected were eventually donated to the federal

and growth of the national Land Trust Alliance, which today serves some 1,100 land trusts across the nation.

- Thinking that it was “simply the right thing to do,” Hazel Bryan Tracy and her husband Ernie in 1976 donated to the State of Maine an easement on a modestly-sized forested property they owned on the shore of Tunk Lake in Sullivan. The Tracys’ small act of kindness, followed up with a decades-long effort spearheaded by Hazel’s brothers James and Robert Bryan

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government and became the core of the first National Park east of the Mississippi. Acadia National Park now stands as a deeply loved national treasure.

- Around the turn of the twentieth century, John G. Moore, a native Mainer, made a fortune on Wall Street and purchased a large tract of land on Schoodic Point for possible summer cottage development. After Moore passed away, his wife and daughter donated that land to create the Schoodic District of Acadia, establishing the mainland section of Acadia National Park.

- In 1970, Peggy Rockefeller and Tom Cabot founded the Maine Coast Heritage Trust to protect the islands and seashores of the state. MCHT helped to establish the legal precedent for the tax deductibility of donated conservation easements, an innovation which led to the rapid growth of the land trust movement in the United States. MCHT has also instrumental in the establishment

and the rest of the Bryan family, has resulted in the protection of tens of thousands of acres in the vicinity of Schoodic Mountain, Schoodic Bog, Donnell Pond, Little Tunk Pond, Tunk Lake, Spring River Lake and the headwaters of the Narraguagus River.

- In 1987, a small, committed group of conservationists that included Steve Perrin, Sheila Denny-Brown, Oliver Crosby, Mary McCormick, Bayard Ewing, and Weyman Billings formed and helped shape the early history of the Frenchman Bay Conservancy. Since their first project, which involved the protection of the beach at Little Tunk, FBC has become a key land protection catalyst in the region, protecting some 8,000 acres across 12 towns and townships in the Union River and Frenchman Bay watersheds.

- Today, Frenchman Bay Conservancy and Maine Coast Heritage Trust are working together to protect a corridor of open land that reaches from Schoodic Point to Schoodic

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Mountain and beyond. In recent years, the Schoodic-to-Schoodic project has made significant progress towards its goal of protecting landscape corridor that will stretch, largely uninterrupted, from the salt water to the inland mountains and forests.

All of these efforts illustrate the growth of a culture of conservation in the Acadia region that extends over a surprisingly large range of space and time—space marked by the increasingly dense patchwork quilt of protected lands from Mount Desert to the West Branch of the Narraguagus, and time marked by six or seven generations of “small groups of thoughtful, committed citizens” striving to change the world for the better.

It is of course up to those of us blessed to enjoy Downeast Maine today to keep the faith and earn trust, passing it along to our children, grand-children, and their descendants, as well as our families, friends and fellows citizens, for many generations to come. ❖

*During the summer, Jim and Jane Levitt and their three children are residents on the shore of Tunk Pond in Sullivan, Maine, and work over the Internet. During the rest of the year, Levitt serves as the Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest, Harvard University and leads the Land Conservation Programs at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, Massachusetts. When not in Maine, Jim and Jane Levitt live in Belmont, Massachusetts.*

1. <https://friendsofacadia.org/the-champlain-society-transcriptions/>



PHOTO AUSTIN SCHUVER

Eleanor Fairbanks ties a trail marker to a tree while building the new trail at Schoodic Bog Preserve in Sullivan.

## **One of the highlights of this season is the new loop trail on Bayside Road’s Jordan Homestead Preserve, which provides folks with views of the beautiful Union River, old growth pine trees, and the babbling of Whitaker Brook.**

**Stewardship** *continued from page 4*

created at Tidal Falls, our flagship preserve, as part of the Revitalize Tidal Falls project.

One of the highlights of this season is the new loop trail on Bayside Road’s Jordan Homestead Preserve which provides folks with views of the beautiful Union River, old growth pine trees, and the babbling of Whitaker Brook. The whole trail is approximately a mile long and took five trail work days to reach its present state. The volunteer crew installed bridges in the rain and cleared blowdowns and debris in the summer heat. Hard work and passionate hands have given you this new opportunity to enjoy more of the Union River. Expect a grand opening in summer 2019.

For over a decade, our Schoodic Bog Preserve has given hikers access to a splendid section of the Downeast Sunrise Trail as well as the Schoodic Mountain Trail and all the views that accompany them. The new loop

trail only enhances this experience. Although not a short or easy trail to undertake, the new 1.5-mile extension of the trail system takes you through shimmering birch groves, passes over several mossy rock nubbles and around wild blueberry patches, and sports the occasional but beautiful view of Schoodic Mountain. This trail took four weekly trail workdays, 16 volunteers, and nearly a month to clear. It now provides a continuous 3.6-miles of trail around the bog to explore. Expect a grand opening of this trail in spring 2019. ❖

*If you’d like to be a part of trail work, you don’t need prior experience, just a desire to volunteer and have fun! Contact FBC’s Community Engagement Coordinator, Austin Schuver, to get involved. For more information about existing trails and additional trail updates, visit our website at [www.frenchmanbay.org](http://www.frenchmanbay.org) and be sure to sign up for email updates.*

# Conservation Stories



KAT DEELY

They say every adult with a passion for conservation can tie their ethic to formative childhood experiences in their own backyard. I've heard conservationists' stories of urban life with sidewalk ant colonies inspiring a sense of wonder. I, too, fall into this categorical truth myself.

My story takes place in an undeveloped tract of a few hundred acres neighboring my suburban childhood home. A short scramble over a stonewall and the sounds of the forest hushed the cacophony of life in a family of five kids. White-tail deer came close enough to rustle my hair with their breath as I sat like a stone piled into the wall. If I was patient enough, shy wood ducks would come out to feed in the open water of the vernal pool.

This land belonged to Miss Marshall—a family homestead since pre-Revolutionary War times, she welcomed neighbors to visit the land and explore. Miss Marshall shared with us her greatest desire to have her land turned into a wildlife preserve. She was a steward of this land—she appreciated the intrinsic value of the land for non-human residents as well as for future human stewards. Sadly, at the time of her death, there were no legal documents in place to require this action by her heirs. Within a year, they subdivided her land at maximum density and put it on the market.

It was a crushing blow to my brother, myself, and all the young neighborhood naturalists. Frustrations grew when the subdivision survey stakes continually relocated themselves during the night, until one day the steady thumping of a fence post-pounder thwarted our explorations and denied our access permanently.

The work of land trusts is daunting at times and stupendously rewarding at other times. I worked with an elderly landowner in Massachusetts who reminded me of time spent with Miss Marshall. She appreciated the inherent value of the land she owned and loved relaying stories of the critters that lived there. She also had family that she had to provide for. She thought our goals were at odds with each other the first time we met. Through conversation, a plate of cookies, and three grant cycles, we found common ground and a conservation outcome that



Hog Bay in Franklin (town boundary shown in red).

**One landowner came to FBC with the idea to conserve, and from there the project has grown to multiple landowners and multiple successful grant awards.**

satisfied everyone's goals. I am so thankful for having the legal mechanisms in existence that allowed that outcome to happen and for the opportunity to work for a land trust and catalyze conservation outcomes.

Now in Maine, I am pleased to work with landowners around FBC's service area who are ready to take action to protect the intrinsic value of their land. Currently, we are in conversation with a neighborhood of landowners around Hog Bay in Franklin. One landowner came to FBC with the idea to conserve, and from there the project has grown to multiple landowners and multiple successful grant awards. Not all land should be considered for a conservation outcome, but in coastal Maine's unique ecosystems where threatened and endangered species take refuge, there doesn't seem to be a lack of need. The growing threat of development and the high property values of coastal land makes conservation outcomes challenging. But that's the whole purpose of a catalyst—it makes the reaction happen, it gets the deal done. I look forward to acting as a catalyst for conservation in this landscape and someday hearing your story of becoming a conservationist. ❖

## Honorary Gifts

### IN MEMORIAM

Martha K. Dagg  
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### IN HONOR

Polly Ceckler  
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Benita McMullen  
Lee & Eleanor Fairbanks  
Phil Reville  
Deborah Kooperstein & Jacqui LoFaro

# New Staff at FBC



AARON DORITY

I'm excited to announce the newest addition to FBC's talented team—Kat Deely! Kat is our Land Protection Manager, and she joined us in early September, having worked most recently with Westchester Land Trust in New York, and Kestrel Land Trust in Massachusetts before that. We're thrilled that she has joined us at FBC. In her prior positions, Kat focused on land acquisitions intended for public use, managing complex projects from strategic identification through acquisition and into the development of public access. Kat also worked for the Student Conservation Association managing their field leader and national crew programs, traveling around the United States leading and training trail building teams in places like Mt. Rainier National Park, Washington; Joshua Tree National Park, California; Hawaii Volcano National Park, Hawaii; and George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Virginia. With her depth of stewardship, land acquisition, and community conservation experience, Kat is a great fit with Frenchman Bay Conservancy!

This position is made possible through your generous support, and we couldn't do this vital work without you. This addition of Kat's position to our staff is a direct result of our successful Revitalize Tidal Falls Preserve capital campaign, and an operating endowment that is now over \$1 million. We can begin to draw a conservative return from this endowment, providing much-needed annual operating support so that we can conserve and steward more land.

Since early September, Kat has taken the lead on our land acquisition projects on Hog Bay in Franklin, where we are protecting high value

tidal waterfowl and wading bird habitat through donated conservation easements and a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She is also working on a new trail on our recently acquired Abraham's Woods Preserve, generously donated by Alan Hershey in Eastbrook and Franklin, and on preparing the Jordan Homestead in Ellsworth for a grand opening in 2019. ❖



PHOTO KAT DEELY

Kat Deely, FBC's new Land Protection Manager.

Please join me in welcoming Kat Deely to Frenchman Bay Conservancy!

*Eileen Bader Hall was FBC's Land Protection Manager until spring of this year. Having worked with FBC for over three years, Eileen took a position with The Nature Conservancy in Maine, where she is now their Watershed Restoration Specialist, helping to protect vital habitat for species including wild Atlantic salmon.*



Frenchman Bay Conservancy's mission is to conserve distinctive ecosystems, lands, and waters for the benefit of all, from the Union River and Frenchman Bay watersheds east to the Hancock County line.

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## STAFF

Aaron Dority, *Executive Director*  
Kat Deely, *Land Protection Manager*  
Austin Schuver, *Community Engagement Coordinator*  
Thomasina DiBiase, *Office Manager and Development Assistant*

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

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FBC has a monthly e-newsletter, which includes updates on recent and upcoming news, events, and activities. It is easy to subscribe via the sign-up box in the footer of our website, or email Austin Schuver at [austin@frenchmanbay.org](mailto:austin@frenchmanbay.org).

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Please consider joining the Blue Heron Society with a gift of \$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. Contact Aaron Dority for more information.