

Frenchman Bay Conservancy



Tidal Falls Preserve is Re-Opening!

This spring, change is in the air. A buzz of excitement is coming from Tidal Falls Preserve, where the upcoming **Grand Re-Opening** on **July 8th** will unveil new improvements to the popular picnicking and wildlife watching destination. **continued on page 4**

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Mission

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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Kat Deely, *Land Protection Manager*

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Coordinator



President's Column

The theme of this newsletter is celebration!

- We are *celebrating* the completion of our capital campaign and work at our Tidal Falls Preserve with a **Grand Re-Opening on July 8**. Join us for lots of fun activities for the whole family.
- We are *celebrating* the conservation projects that protect important bird migration habitat in upper **Hog Bay**, one segment of the breadth of our land conservation work from the Schoodic Peninsula to the upper reaches of the Union River.
- We are *celebrating* the life and contributions of **Steve Perrin**, an early activist instrumental in creating Frenchman Bay Conservancy, and **Bill Thayer**, a farmer and dedicated member of the Gouldsboro community.
- We are *celebrating* our partners in community projects such as the **Ellsworth Green Plan** that will shape the future of that community and create more connected open spaces in the coming years.

Also in this newsletter you will find a complete event calendar of all the ways you can celebrate with us this summer and fall. We love our volunteers and there is a schedule of when and how to volunteer.

I look forward to seeing you at our events and on our trails.

Celebrate!

Lisa Heyward, President

Conservation Overview



Aaron Dority,
Executive Director

We are lucky to still have opportunities to protect landscapes that people have enjoyed for generations. For now, many of these places remain largely intact. However, a strong stock market and rebounding real estate market means more development pressure on Maine's lakes and ponds and more potential fragmentation of the landscape.

We're always looking ahead to the next opportunity to protect high-priority places. Here's a glimpse into some of the places where we're working now:

Frenchman Bay

We will strategically expand upon easements in areas of high priority importance for wildlife habitat protection and for resilience in the face of climate change. In Franklin's Hog Bay, we recently purchased the 17-acre Spring Point (*photo above*).

Union River

Two years ago, we received a 440-acre bequest from Geneva Frost in Mariaville with 2 miles of frontage on the west branch of the Union River, an area of statewide ecological significance. We're currently exploring ways to support wildlife habitat and build new trails in this wild and very scenic portion of Downeast Maine.

Schoodic to Schoodic

A few years ago, we formed a partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to protect this nationally significant corridor of intact and undeveloped land from Schoodic Point to Maine's north woods. We continue to pursue this vision in a way that complements the communities of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor by purchasing buffer areas around wetlands for wading birds and waterfowl.

Conservation Story: A Spruce Celebrity

If you hike FBC's Frances B. Wood Preserve in Gouldsboro this spring or summer, you could be lucky enough to meet a celebrity named Woody.

This Woody shares only two similarities to normal Hollywood celebrities: his name and the fans flocking to meet him. The Gouldsboro Woody is a spruce grouse, first spotted trotting through the mossy woods



a couple of years ago. Spruce grouse are chicken-sized birds more common deep in the north woods than in coastal Hancock County.

Woody was named after Frances B. Wood Preserve by former state representative Bob Duchesne, a columnist for the Bangor Daily News and founder of the Maine Birding Trail. Duchesne noted how docile the bird was as it guarded its favorite forest and attempted to attract a mate. Birders from across the country, drawn to Maine's breathtaking scenery and active wildlife, have visited Frances B. Wood Preserve to meet the friendly grouse named Woody (*photo above*).

A Green Future

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is playing an important role in the Ellsworth Green Plan citizen's initiative. Our collaboration includes developing a build-out analysis, a tool for the community to plan growth, development, and conservation.

To learn more, visit
www.greenellsworth.org and
www.frenchmanbay.org/ellsworth



continued from cover With buildings removed and amenities like seasonal restrooms and parking lot relocated away from the shoreline, visitors arriving at Tidal Falls Preserve on July 8th will notice a significant change: an unobstructed panoramic view.

Removing buildings from the view line at Tidal Falls Preserve has improved the experience beyond measure. The redesigned pavilion and restored shoreline are the two keys to this transformation. Freeing up space along the water, FBC board members designed the new pavilion to be unobtrusively tucked into the hillside. The pavilion not only serves as a shelter with large windows to view the falls, but it also features a built-in stage for Monday Music concerts and an ADA-accessible rooftop viewing platform.

While the long history of Tidal Falls makes changes hard to imagine, the reinvestment in this iconic loca-



The inside of the new pavilion during winter construction.

tion opened the view, expanded the lawn and picnic area, and built a new pavilion. Altogether, these improvements to Tidal Falls will make enjoying picnics, wildlife, and concerts at Tidal Falls even better. We hope to see you at Tidal Falls Preserve this summer!



"It still blows me away every time I drive down to Tidal Falls"

- Randy Ewins, board member and supervisor of Tidal Falls Revitalization

72 Tidal Falls Road: What's New?

New Features:

- Pavilion with ADA-accessible observation deck
- Restored shoreline
- Expanded parking lot and ADA-accessible paths
- Improved hand-carry boat ramp
- Seasonal restrooms
- Web camera live streamed online
- Exploration Center with interactive educational displays and exhibits

July 8 at 4pm at Tidal Falls Preserve

Grand Re-Opening, start of Monday Music, Family Festival, and Annual Meeting

See the events insert or visit www.frenchmanbay.org for more information.



The Crown Vics will open the Monday Music season during the Grand Re-Opening and family festival on July 8th.

A Lasting Legacy



A founding member of Frenchman Bay Conservancy, Steve Perrin passed away on February 19, 2019. Our memories are a tribute to his lasting legacy.

In the summer of 1987, Steve Perrin woke up on Burying Island in Taunton Bay and saw smoke rising from the west shore in Hancock. "That's where the eagles are nesting. This isn't going to work for the eagles. If I don't row over there I can't live with myself." That was the beginning of the Frenchman Bay Conservancy. - Tom Sidar, former executive director

He was on the board for several years, and a guiding light[with a] tireless commitment to preserve this earth in general and our part of Hancock county in particular. - Sheila Denny-Brown, founding board member



[Steve] could articulate so clearly what we should try to achieve and why. And he would always have a story to tell or something to teach us about the area.

A very fond memory I have was when he offered to take me in his funky old boat to explore Taunton and Egypt Bay for seals.

We went way up into Egypt Bay and realized the tide was going out faster than expected, deep in the bay... Off in the distance we saw seals taking shallow dives with clouds of mud streaming behind them. By the time we got to where the seals had been, we could see long troughs in the bottom, clearly they had been plowing their way along looking for worms and clams.

- Gale McCollough, former board member

"The universe never rests. Onward! is its motto. Get moving, it tells us, get out and about. Walk in love and beauty always, and cherish those who go with you, for without them you lie down alone."

- Steve Perrin, Acadia: The Soul of a National Park

In Memoriam

Steve Perrin
Joan Crothers
Mark Dietrich
Lyle & Myra Brown
Marion Richards Wise
Rick Beckjord
David Sanderson
Sally Cooper
Richard & Peggy Kinnaird
Walter & Priscilla Washburn

In Honor

Randy Ewins
Nancy Patterson
Greer Gilka & Liz Weaver
Barbara Davis
Austin Schuver
Lisa Heyward
Nancy MacKnight

Business Members

Design Group Collaborative
Architects, Ellsworth
Eagle's Nest Lodge, Ellsworth
Winter Harbor Agency, Winter Harbor
Phil Payne Massage, Gouldsboro
Furbush-Roberts Printing Co., Bangor



An Early Conservation Easement

In Memory of Bill Thayer

Sloping toward Grand Marsh Bay on the eastern side of Gouldsboro lies a farm “of rare integrity.”

In 1993, the farm owners, Bill and Cynthia Thayer, partnered with Frenchman Bay Conservancy to conserve their property. The Thayers donated a conservation easement to FBC to protect their working organic farm, the rural and scenic values of a portion of Gouldsboro’s West Bay, and wildlife habitat in the fields, woods, and shoreline on their property.

While owning and operating Darthia Farm with his wife, Bill was grounded in tradition and looking to the future. The Thayers started Darthia Farm in 1976 and it was certified by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association two years later. Bill began Darthia Farm’s continuing practice of using draft horses in place of tractors or other motorized machines.

Bill was ahead of his time, anticipating the growing

DARTHIA FARM
1993 Holiday Catalogue



Photo by Harry Cunningham

Clippings from Darthia Farm’s holiday catalogue in 1993—the year the farm was permanently protected by conservation easement.

importance of land conservation in Maine. In 1993, Darthia Farm was only the fourth conservation easement and the sixth property conserved by Frenchman Bay Conservancy at a time when the concept of a land trust or a conservation easement was not very well known. Before Darthia Farm, the fledgling

Frenchman Bay Conservancy had protected less than 350 acres. Today, FBC protects over 8,000 acres.

A result of the Thayers’ thoughtful character, the main goal for the Conservation Plan for Darthia Farm is to “foster as much as possible the Thayers’ philosophy of self-sustaining and symbiotic farm management.” This goal lives on today, ensuring that farm practices always follow their philosophy. But the easement also gave the Thayers the ability to expand and advance their business by growing

their farm stand and renting out a cottage as a bed and breakfast. These principles are a testament to both the Thayers’ forward-thinking nature and the flexibility of conservation easements.

With his wife, Bill saw the value in tradition and the need to plan for a prosperous future. With his

caring approach ingrained in the farm’s conservation easement, Bill’s philosophy will live on the land forever and his care for Darthia Farm will never be lost.

Connect

www.frenchmanbay.org

 Frenchman Bay Conservancy

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How to GET INVOLVED

Everyone can support community land conservation in their own way. Below are a just few options—contact us or visit our website to find more.

Sharing Your Love of Place with Family



The Bryant Family, including children and grandchildren (Courtesy: Peter Bryant)

Q&A with Peter Bryant

A Hancock resident, Peter served on Frenchman Bay Conservancy's board of directors from 2004 to 2011 and currently serves on the finance committee.

Q. How did you get involved with Frenchman Bay Conservancy?

A. I first became involved when Oliver Crosby and FBC were raising funds to purchase Tidal Falls.

Q. What does this area mean to your family?

A. Ever since and even before we moved here, we visited Tidal

Falls and enjoyed the grounds and ate at the lobster take-out. My kids and grandkids grew up visiting Tidal Falls and attending events like Monday Music.

Our whole family has a strong sense of place for the entire Hancock region. Two kids live in Maine, one in New Hampshire, one in Colorado, but they all descend on us in the summer and make our home seem small! But it is always a lot of fun when they come to visit.

Q. Why did you give your children gift memberships?

A. I gave my kids gift memberships to get them involved and to keep them informed through the various publications [like this newsletter!]. For all of them, this is a very important place. And they love this area as much as my wife and I do. So the thought occurred to us and we decided to do it.

You can send a gift membership by visiting www.frenchmanbay.org, choosing the "Support Our Work" menu and clicking on "Donate Now." Be sure to enter the name and mailing address of the friend or loved one who will receive your gift.



Grants & Giving

FBC is now developing the Tidal Falls Exploration Center into an engaging local destination thanks to combined gifts of over \$60,000 from C.F. Adams Charitable Trust, the Onion Foundation, and Bar Harbor Bank and Trust. These funders' generosity allows FBC to create a tech-savvy space to serve as a launching pad for exploring the natural world around us.

How can you help? Nonprofits like FBC are more likely to secure grant funding when they have already raised money from individuals to support projects like the Exploration Center. Therefore, your gifts of cash, appreciated securities, conservation easements, and land often allow FBC to double or even triple the value of your donation so that we can be even more effective at conserving land and supporting community programs on our preserves. *Thank you for all that you do to support conservation.*

Volunteer

To volunteer with FBC, no experience or long-term obligations are required! Over 75 people of all ages, both residents and visitors, volunteered with FBC last year.

Check our calendar for scheduled volunteer events. Contact us if you are a group or business or would like more information about volunteering.



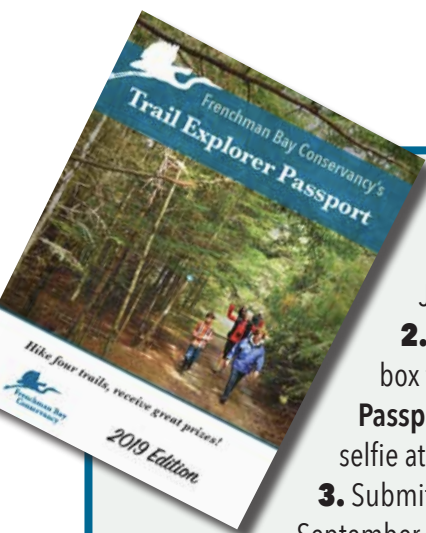
Example Role	Time of Year	Volunteering Details
Trail Steward	Spring-Fall	Start with a work day near you!
Community Docent	Year-round	Talk to neighbors and new friends at events!
Easement Assistant	Late Summer-Fall	Walk property boundaries with our monitor.
Hike Docent	Summer	Lead fun and easy preserve walks.
Citizen Scientist	Spring-Fall	Collect plant and/or midden data, lead walks.
Preserve Advocate	Year-round	Keep an eye on a preserve near you!
Garden Steward	Year-round	Help start gardens in Ellsworth & Hancock!



Frenchman Bay Conservancy

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Ready? Explore!

- 1.** Hike four trails between June 1 and September 1.
- 2.** Along each trail, use the stamp box to mark your **Trail Explorer Passport** or record your hikes with a selfie at each trailhead.
- 3.** Submit proof of visits to FBC by September 15 to claim your prizes to redeem at local businesses!

Get the passport with your new trail guide or print out your own at www.frenchmanbay.org

New Designs

You may have noticed, FBC's newsletter got a makeover! But that's not all—the beloved short hikes map is also being upgraded and will be mailed to members in May. We're happy to unveil these new publications. Please send us your feedback so we can make the next round even better.

Going Paperless?

Love our newsletters, but don't need paper copies? We're building a digital newsletter and annual report email list and would love to send you electronic copies in the future.

Interested? Please email info@frenchmanbay.org

Frenchman Bay Camp

Tuesday-Thursday, July 16-18: 9am-12pm or
Monday-Wednesday, August 5-7: 9am-12pm

What can we discover on Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) land? Wildlife? Mystery? Adventure? Youth aged 12-15 will make friends and work together as a team to explore the unique ecology of FBC preserves through games, journaling, art, music, and other activities.

Led by **Maine Outdoor School**, this camp is a natural extension to the camp provided by Friends of Taunton Bay for ages 5-11. The first day of each camp session will take place at Tidal Falls Preserve and subsequent days will take place at other local preserves. Each week is limited to 15 students. To register or learn more, visit www.frenchmanbay.org/camp or call (207) 422-2328.

