

Maine Heritage

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAINE COAST HERITAGE TRUST

DOWNEAST EDITION

FALL 2017

I Dream of Alewives

MCHT Helps Restore Fish Passage in the Bagaduce River Watershed

ALEWIVES HAVE SPAWNED IN PIERCE POND IN THE UPPER REACHES OF THE BAGADUCE RIVER WATERSHED FOR COUNTLESS GENERATIONS.

“What’s your dream?” That’s the question Maine Coast Heritage Trust’s Senior Project Manager Ciona Ulbrich put to Bailey Bowden, head of the Penobscot Alewife Committee, the first time they met in March of 2015. Bailey arrived at the Penobscot Town Hall with a detailed plan for improving fish passage in the Bagaduce River watershed and, he readily admits, his fair share of skepticism. “I was not a big land trust proponent three years ago,” he says looking back. But Ciona wanted to listen, and he had a lot to say.

Bailey grew up playing in and around the Bagaduce River. “Any free minute we had we were fishing or hunting or clamming—that was just what you did,” says Bailey. He was the chair of the Penobscot

Shellfish Committee in 2012 when green crabs invaded, wiping out clams, mussels, and periwinkles, and eroding the banks of salt marshes filtering bacteria. “For the first time, that got me seeing all the small components that make up the big picture.” One of those components were alewives, known in Maine as “the fish that feeds us all.” Their numbers had been dwindling for years, and the local ecosystem was suffering for it.

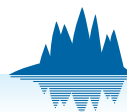
Bailey’s dream was to install fishways to connect the upper reaches of the Bagaduce watershed with the ocean, allowing alewives to complete their annual migration to spawn upriver and return to sea. But he didn’t just want to bring the fish—and the local alewife fishery—back.

He wanted to bring people to the water to see the ecosystem thriving. He also shared with Ciona his dream of a parking lot big enough for a bus to turn around in, a handicapped-accessible trail to the water, and signage to educate visitors about the importance of sea-run fish.

MCHT got on board to help Bailey and the town of Penobscot. The Bagaduce watershed has long been a conservation focus for Maine Coast Heritage Trust. As Director of Land Protection Betsy Ham says, “When protecting land, you can’t ignore the connection between land and water habitat. What’s good for one is good for the other.”

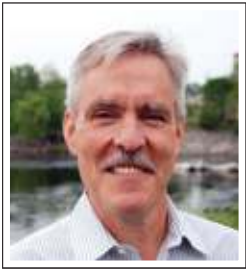
Ciona helped secure financial support from the National Oceanic and

continued on page 3



Maine Coast Heritage Trust

A Statewide Land Conservation Organization



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *by Tim Glidden*

A Different Time Scale

In forestry school, I learned a different time scale. I learned to consider what a tree would need to survive 50, 100, or 200 years from now. It was a new and rewarding exercise to invest in the welfare of living organisms that could outlive me—and certainly one that's proven valuable in my work as a land conservationist.

We often refer to land conservation as the “long game.” When we conserve land, it's forever. We have the duty and privilege to consider the implications of conserving a place today, but also what its conservation might mean decades and centuries from now. We implore people to consider what an increasingly built-up and inaccessible Maine coast will mean for their quality of life, and their kids' and their grand kids' lives and beyond. Over and over again I ask myself and others, what kind of Maine do you want to live in now? What kind of Maine do you want to leave behind for future generations?

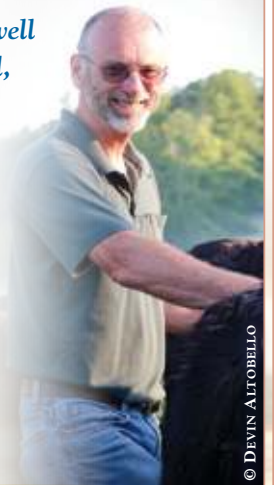
This summer, my elder daughter Emma gave birth to my first grandchild. Having James in the world has made these theoretical questions all the more personal to me. Now when they're posed I see his face, his smile, his eyes that I hope will look upon a wild Maine coast long after I'm gone.

My grandson motivates me to work even harder, to keep at it day after day. To save the next island, to create more access to the shore, to grow the next generation of conservationists. Because in the same way unplanned development slowly unravels the

tapestry of the coast, Maine Coast Heritage Trust's string of steady conservation successes add up over time, reweaving that gorgeous tapestry. This reweaving is in evidence throughout the newsletter you hold in your hands, in stories about restoring the alewife population in the Bagaduce River watershed (cover) and saving one of the last significant wildlife corridors on the East Coast (page 4).

I may not have the 300-year lifespan of a white pine, but this forestry-trained conservationist and new grandfather is already seeing the lasting difference your generosity and hard work have made over the decades, and I thank you. I have faith that together we will seize what opportunities we have left to save Maine's spectacular undeveloped lands today, tomorrow, and in the decades to come—for all the generations to come.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust bids farewell and wishes all the best to Ron Howard, who served as General Manager of Aldermere Farm for the past 17 years. In ways large and small, Ron's legacy has informed MCHT's work from Lubec to Kittery, as Aldermere has been a testbed for our efforts to engage people and communities with the land. Thank you for your remarkable and immeasurable service, Ron. You will be missed.



© DEVIN ALTABELLO

I Dream of Alewives

continued from page one



THANKS TO NEWLY INSTALLED NATURE-LIKE FISHWAYS, ACCESS TO PIERCE POND FOR ALEWIVES WILL BE GREATLY IMPROVED.

© KEN WOISARD

Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy, as well as generous private donors excited about this work, Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, and Maine Sea Grant.

After years of planning, in August, engineers, conservationists, and local representatives gathered to break ground on the first of two nature-like fishways in the Bagaduce watershed.

“Without Ciona and MCHT’s support, none of this would have

happened,” says Bailey. “People are looking at this and saying, ‘Wow.’ It’s had a big community impact, which is only going to get bigger as the project continues and people see the final product. We’re riding a wave.”

MDI Community Keeps its Access to Seal Cove Pond

A small piece of land can make a big difference to a community. For years, Virginia Libhart and her family allowed locals to access Seal Cove Pond from their waterfront property. People launched kayaks, canoes, and small boats and enjoyed exploring the 280-acre pond abutting Acadia National Park land—but that access wasn’t guaranteed. Now, it is.

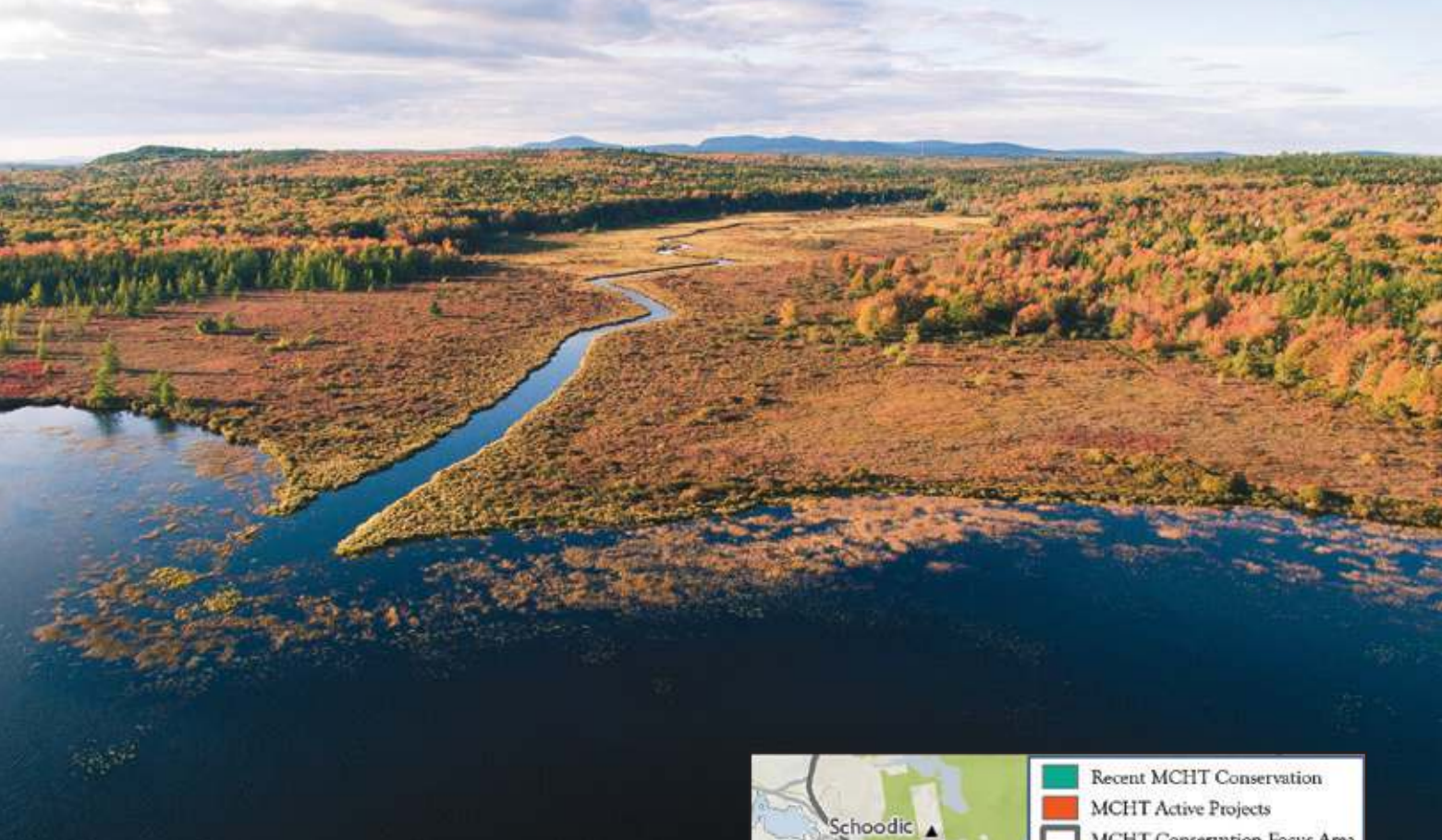
Earlier this fall, the Libharts generously donated this access site to Maine Coast Heritage Trust. MCHT is extremely grateful to the Libharts and happy to help ensure residents of Tremont and visitors

will enjoy continued access to the pond. “This place kept coming up when I asked MDI residents about important places to protect,” says Misha Mytar, MCHT’s Mount Desert Island Project Manager. The access point serves practical and well as recreational purposes, and will continue to be used by the Tremont Fire Department as their primary cold water and rescue boat training site. MCHT is developing a long-range management plan for this new preserve to encourage smart, respectful use of the property and to keep the natural integrity of this special place intact.



PATRICIA TURNER

The Wild, Wild East



LOOKING NORTH FROM FORBES POND, PICTURED HERE ARE HUNDREDS OF ACRES OF NEWLY CONSERVED LAND. BY 2017, MCHT HOPES TO HAVE CONSERVED NEARLY THE ENTIRE CIRCUMFERENCE OF FORBES POND, WHICH PROVIDES CRITICAL HABITAT FOR MAMMALS, WADING BIRDS, AND WATERFOWL.

© KEN WOISARD

Today there are few places left on the East Coast where wildlife can safely roam between inland woods and the sea. One of them is a stretch of land between Schoodic Mountain and the Schoodic peninsula, where Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Frenchman Bay Conservancy, in partnership with state and federal agencies, have been working for more than 15 years to conserve key stepping stones of land for migrating animals and birds.

Conserving land surrounding Forbes Pond in Gouldsboro—in the middle of this focus area—has long been a priority, but over the last couple of years, thanks to generous landowners and donors, we've made a lot of headway. In 2016, MCHT protected 430 acres on the eastern side of Forbes Pond. MCHT will have conserved two more pieces of land to the north and west, totaling 487 acres, by the end of

continued on page five



Devon Funt



RUM ET UR SUM FUGIAE.

For the past two summers, MCHT has provided five college students aspiring to work in conservation with paid internships, matching them with local land trusts throughout Maine. The program provides young conservationists with experience in the field, while land trusts benefit from the extra hands on deck during Maine's busiest season. This summer, Devon was paired with Blue Hill Heritage Trust.

"I thought my biggest lesson of the summer would be related to building trails or learning how to operate tools I hadn't used before. I had no idea that my appreciation

for land trusts would grow significantly—not only from learning about the stewardship aspect, but the community aspect as well. The one big thing I learned that I wasn't anticipating was how much community involvement it takes to keep a land trust running. From volunteers to donations to even just visiting the trails—the surrounding community plays a large role in how Blue Hill Heritage Trust functions. As someone who hopes to have a career in conservation, seeing what can come from the dedication of a few determined people and a supportive, close-knit community is inspiring."

The Wild, Wild East continued from page four

this year, and we are currently negotiating a conservation agreement on 220 acres abutting the southern shore.

With nearly two miles of shore-front and big blocks of undeveloped wild land permanently protected, mammals, wading birds, and waterfowl will forever find refuge

here—and people, too. Maine Coast Heritage Trust is in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to steward acquired lands and open them to the public.

Dave Seward, who has owned land on the western side of Forbes Pond since 1990, describes fishing

in the fall while flocks of migrating ducks blackened the sky. He wants people to enjoy this place for years to come, which is why he's happy to see it conserved. "There are few places in the world where you can still have an experience like this," says Dave. MCHT is working hard to make sure this special stretch of land from "Schoodic to Schoodic" is always one of them.

Maine Coast Heritage Trust is dedicated to protecting land that is essential to the character of Maine and to the health of coastal communities. Since 1970, more than 150,000 acres have been permanently protected, including more than 300 entire coastal islands. MCHT provides conservation advisory services free of charge to landowners, local land trusts and state and community officials. A membership organization, MCHT welcomes your support and involvement.


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 Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled stock
Design: ethos

WHAT'S INSIDE

- ▶ I Dream of Alewives (p. 1)
- ▶ A Different Time Scale (p. 2)
- ▶ Access to Seal Cove Pond (p. 3)
- ▶ The Wild, Wild East (p. 4)
- ▶ In My Words: Devon Funt (p. 5)

Learn more at mcht.org

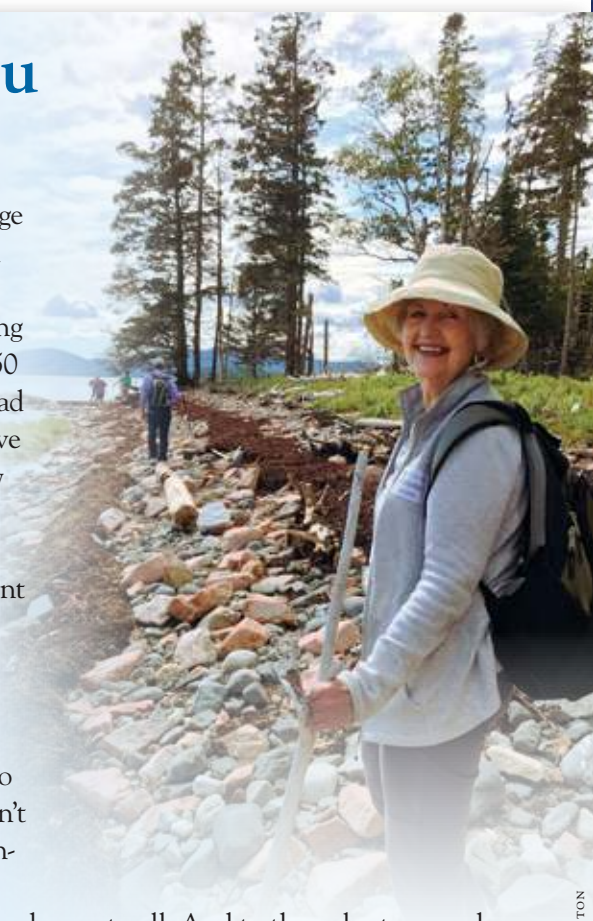
- MCHT Preserve Listings
- Notices of Field Trips and Events
- Staff News
- Job Postings
- Project Updates and More...

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Connecting You to the Coast

This summer Maine Coast Heritage Trust hosted Open House events on the Goslings islands in Casco Bay, Stave Island in Gouldsboro, and Long Point in Machiasport. More than 250 people joined us—many of whom had never been out to an MCHT preserve before. “My family had an absolutely amazing day exploring the Goslings during MCHT’s open house,” said Michelle Lohutko. “From the moment the staff greeted us, to the moment we were returned to the parking lot was pure bliss.” While her daughter squealed with delight holding a starfish, Michelle said, “We are so rich to live in Maine.” We at MCHT couldn’t agree more. Thanks to all of you generous MCHT donors who help keep the Maine coast healthy, beautiful, and open to all. And to the volunteers and sponsors, including Sabre Yachts, Cadillac Mountain Sports, and Coastal Kayaking, who helped make these special events possible!



TYLER BRENTON