



Tidings of the Turtle



Captain Sandy's mark from the collections of the Maine Historical Society

Francis Small Heritage Trust Newsletter – December 2007

Chadbourne-Hanscom Farm in Waterboro Protected

The old Chadbourne-Hanscom Farm in North Waterboro is now protected from encroaching suburban sprawl so that it will always be available for its traditional use as productive cropland, field and forest, and will forever evoke the rural ambience of traditional Maine farmland. Thanks to conservation easements granted by Linda M. Hanscom on the Chadbourne-Hanscom Farm (66.8 acres) and by Alfred and Edithanne Hutchinson on the Chadbourne-Hutchinson Overlook (8.5 acres), which was part of the original farm, over 75 acres in North Waterboro are under easement to the Trust. This farm came into the Chadbourne family in 1821, when it was bought by John Chadbourne, Linda Hanscom's third great-grandfather. A small parcel including a house, historic barn, and icehouse is excluded from the Chadbourne-Hanscom easement. However, buildings are included in the protected property on the Chadbourne-Hutchinson Overlook. Much of the land on these properties is wooded, with streams and some wetlands. Open fields, used as pasture, offer a view of the historic buildings and the wooded ridge.

Under a conservation easement, the property still belongs to the original owner (the Grantor). An organization such as the Trust is the Holder of the easement to protect it forever from



*Open fields, used as pasture, offer a view of the historic barn and the wooded ridge.
Photo by Dylan Alden*

development. The protective easement will continue even if the property is sold. These owners also donated generous stewardship funds to the Trust to ensure that protection. Discussing the shared goals that underlie an easement takes time, in this case, at least several years.

Because the grantors of these two easements live on the properties or adjacent

to them, public access is only allowed by permission. But the scenic road frontage, views of the ridge, and the preservation of land for use as farmland and for woods and wildlife make these generous donations of easements valuable benefits to the public.



Poulin's to donate property on the Saco River

Robert and Margaret Poulin are generously donating a \$69,000 riverfront lot on the Saco River in Cornish to the Trust. We would love to hear from the public on how you would like to see this land used. It could be left in its natural undeveloped state, or minimal improvements such as picnic tables could be added. Please let us know your thoughts! The parcel is located on the old county road east of the Route 5 bridge.

Pictured are Margaret Poulin, Trust Director Sherwood Libby, Robert Poulin, and Robert's brother Paul Poulin.

Bonny Eagle students to explore Sawyer Mountain

“Hiking is about making decisions. There are hundreds of them; what trail to take, how to get there, what to wear, eat, drink, when to take breaks, when to turn around, even where to place your feet as you move up and down the mountain.” Loren Johnston, Director of the Voyageur Hiking Program at the Bonny Eagle Middle School tells why hiking experiences are valuable to students.

A group of students from the Bonny Eagle Middle School will be exploring Sawyer Mountain as part of the Voyageur Hiking Program. Some students from Bonny Eagle High School are also involved, and the program is expanding to elementary students in SAD 6, starting with some fifth graders. Through the program, students develop communication, cooperation, problem solving, positive self-image, and critical thinking skills. And they move toward values such as selflessness and the acceptance of personal responsibility.

Loren Johnston describes how the program works: By having the group move and work together as a group, which helps the group get to the top, the individual hiker can experience improvement in a number of areas including team work, commitment, organization, and problem solving. If one student is struggling, the group is faced with developing strategies and working together to help that student.

Orienteering, using GPS as well as map and compass, is part of the program, and so is community service, such as clearing trails (using no power tools) and picking up trash. The Trust will cooperate with the Voyageur Hiking Program staff to help provide students with the kinds of experiences that develop the skills and values that the program has as its goals.

Providing educational experiences is among the major goals of the Trust. We are pleased to have this opportunity to share Sawyer Mountain with students. The mountain has been used for years by elementary school groups, scouts, hiking groups, and even the library for educational programs.



Lorraine and Sherwood Libby receive congratulations from speaker of the House, Glenn Cummings.

Maine State Legislature recognizes two Trust Directors

The Maine State Legislature honored Sherwood and Lorraine Libby of Limington in a Legislative Sentiment ceremony on April 26, 2007. Speaker of the House Glenn Cummings sponsored the sentiment. Senator Jon Courtney of York, Representative Philip Cressey of Cornish, and Senator Bill Diamond of Cumberland cosponsored the following action:

Recognizing: Sherwood and J. Lorraine Libby, of Limington, for their more than 40 years of tireless work to protect Maine's environment and preserve our natural heritage. Mr. and Mrs. Libby have worked as a team to make major contributions to conservation in Maine. In 1966, they helped secure passage of the legislation that protects the Allagash Waterway. In 1971, they labored to secure passage of the legislation creating the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission, known as LURC. They also worked for the establishment of the Saco River Corridor Commission. In 1990, Mr. and Mrs. Libby became founding directors of the Francis Small Heritage Land Trust, which owns and preserves 1,400 pristine

acres in the Sawyer Mountain Highlands for public use and enjoyment. Mr. Libby has served as commissioner for LURC, has been chair of the Shoreland Zoning Task Force, served on the Saco River Corridor Commission and has been an affiliated director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine. Mrs. Libby has served on the Limington Planning Board and the Limington Comprehensive Planning Committee. We acknowledge their dedicated service to their community and to the State of Maine, and we send them our appreciation for their good works;

In addition, Governor John Baldacci proclaimed April 26, 2007 as “Sherwood and J. Lorraine Libby Day.” A copy of the Governor’s Proclamation is shown on the right.





Please accept my donation of _____ to help protect the Sawyer Mountain Highlands as well as aid in other conservation activities of the Trust.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Contributions & memberships are tax-deductible under IRS code 501 (C)(3).
Francis Small Heritage Trust, Inc. PO Box 414 Limerick, ME 04048
(207) 637-3510 www.FSHT.org

What the Trust does:

- * Owns 1,400 acres on Sawyer Mountain in Limington and Limerick.
- * Protects the 20-acre Jagolinzer Preserve on the Saco River.
- * Owns the 19-acre Poulin Preserve in Limerick.
- * Holds protective easements on the 110-acre Piper Pomeroy Farm in Parsonsfield, the 60-acre Charles E. Cole Farm in Hiram, and the 75-acre Chadbourne-Hanscom Farm in Waterboro.

Please send me a free hiking map.

Bear sense

As our black bears start to batten down the hatches for their winter slumber, it's a great time to reflect on some safety precautions to take next spring, summer, and fall while roaming through New England's woodlands. This year, it seemed there was more chatter concerning increased bear encounters in both back and front country settings. In places in the White Mountains where rangers have never heard of bear-people interactions taking place, they were alerted to stolen food, torn up water bottles, and even bears on top of cars – behavior more like the bears of Yosemite National Park, not New England.



While normally you're more likely to see their tail ends running away from you than their snouts pursuing, it is a good idea to know what to do if you come into contact with a curious bear, and to know of ways to avoid getting into that uncomfortable situation.

Always be aware of your food waste. While overnight camping is not allowed on the Francis Small Heritage Trust lands, there are popular rest stops where more than a handful of gorp has passed from hand to mouth. Make sure you pack out (or eat) everything you bring

into the woods. Wrappers, peels, shells, or a stray peanut may eventually attract these wild animals to an area, and once the bear realizes that it is YOU who are the source of the yummy treats, the problem has just begun.

If you see a bear in the distance, make a wide detour or leave the area. Usually bears will leave the area before you even see them.

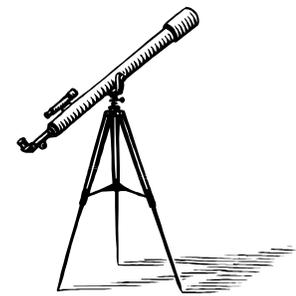
If a bear approaches you:

U Pick up small children (this makes you look bigger as well as appearing to be a nice adult), and slowly back away from the bear.

V Keeping the bear in sight, face it, but don't look directly into its eyes, as this can be taken as a threat.

W If it continues to approach, yell at it, make yourself look bigger by waving your arms, and throw things, but **DON'T RUN AWAY!**

Remember, you can't outrun a black bear. They are extremely fast on the ground or climbing a tree. Warning signs of an attack include: a steady glare; ears laid back; smacking of the jaws; stomping of the front feet. Contrary to popular lore, playing dead isn't a good idea. In the highly unlikely event that a bear attacks, fight back with anything available. Act aggressively. Throwing rocks or hitting a bear with large sticks has been effective in some cases.



A star party at Apple Acres

To share the fine night sky visible from Apple Acres Farm high on Durgintown Road in South Hiram, the Trust, Apple Acres Farm, and local astronomer Joan Chamberlin held a star party for anyone who wanted to join us. Publicizing the event was tricky, because forecasts of cloudy skies caused us to change the date several times, but people arrived, including some who brought their own telescopes. Apple Acres Farm provided delicious cider, and the Trust provided red cellophane for people to put over their flashlights to preserve their night vision.

Joan began the evening by orienting us to the sky, one star at a time, starting with the evening star – actually the planet Jupiter. Observers were excited to see the moons of Jupiter through the telescopes. Joan also showed us a globular cluster, a number of constellations, bright stars, and other astronomical phenomena. That night was the peak of the Perseid meteor showers, enjoyed especially by those who stayed late.



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Opportunities to volunteer

In order to meet our stewardship obligations, we need your help!

- ◆ Monitoring
- ◆ Data Collection
- ◆ Site Work/Trail Work
- ◆ Education/Outreach
- ◆ GPS/GIS work

The Francis Small Heritage Trust will soon be starting a Volunteer Opportunity Notification List and contacting potential volunteers via email or regular mail. Several times a year we will have opportunities for you to join us on a fun day of taking care of the land. Most of these opportunities will involve being outside, but there are certainly options for those

folks more comfortable with being inside.

If you are interested in being contacted periodically for volunteer opportunities, please contact us through our website (www.fsht.org) or by telephone (637-3510). Please leave a message including some of your volunteer interests and expertise and contact information so we can be in touch.

One Example: Headstone Rescue

Using ropes, slings, chains, and a come-along, volunteers carefully removed a tree that had fallen on one of the headstones in the Estes Cemetery on Sawyer Mountain. The tree was hung up

in branches and was creating a safety hazard for visitors, and potentially could have damaged both the headstone and the cemetery's antique fence. After obtaining permission from Estes family

members, the Trust volunteers first gently lifted the tree from the headstone and sectioned the trunk with a chain saw. Then individual branches were cut and lowered so that the fence would not be damaged.



Bald Ledge

There's a beautiful spot in the Porter Hills called Bald Ledge. The Maine Natural Areas Program has found that the geology and land forms of the Porter Hills create conditions that support many rare plants, making this area an important one to preserve.

The Trust is working with the National Audubon Society and the Forest Society of Maine to protect Bald Ledge forever. As the Giovanella family originally gave Bald Ledge to Audubon, members of that family have discussed with these three organizations the conservation values of

this land and the goals all share for its future. In the next few months the groups expect to complete plans to have this land deeded to the Trust by Audubon, and to have the Forest Society of Maine hold a conservation easement to ensure its protection. Among the goals will be to maintain it forever in its present natural state as a preserve for indigenous flora and fauna and for aesthetic purposes, and to have public access for quiet recreational pursuits.

Annual Meeting

At the 16th Annual Meeting of the Trust on October 28 at the Porter Town Hall, Vin Lawrence, Retired Professor of

Biology and nature columnist for the *Citizen*, spoke on "Local Fauna and a Sense of Place." Vin showed slides and brought to our attention many small creatures, such as insects and frogs, that abound all around us. If we stop to look, they can connect us to the place where we live.

Hikes, hikes, hikes

The Trust guided three hikes this year on Sawyer Mountain, and people of all ages and abilities participated. The hikes ranged from easy to a more intense wilderness hike. Look for ads for some birding hikes made possible by a grant from York County Audubon.