

FBC's New Lands: Upper West Bay Pond and Vernal Pools Preserve by Tom Sidar

On August 11, the day before FBC's annual meeting, Frenchman Bay Conservancy acquired two new preserves increasing the total acreage of our conserved land to 5,545 acres. Our new 576-acre preserve at Upper West Bay Pond is partially in Gouldsboro and partially in T7SD in Maine's Unorganized Territory. Our Vernal Pools Preserve is 225 acres in Fletcher's Landing Township, north of Ellsworth, and is also part of Maine's Unorganized Territory. Bangor Hydro Electric Company's 47-mile transmission line upgrade, called the Down East Reliability Project, presented a wonderful opportunity for FBC to acquire these valuable conservation

lands. In order to reduce the loss of important wetlands that protect our water quality and provide wildlife habitat, the U.S. Clean Water Act

the new transmission corridor and identify mitigation lands with the highest conservation value at a fair and reasonable cost to BHE. The

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requires projects that disturb existing wetlands to mitigate those losses through permanent protection of even larger amounts of significant wetland. FBC, in collaboration with the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, worked with Bangor Hydro for three years to determine the best route for

quality of the negotiation process and the thoroughness of this work provide an example of organizations with different goals and purposes working together to find the best solutions for the wildlife and for public benefit.

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President's Column

a message from our president

Dear Members and Friends,

This issue of our newsletter celebrates two major new land acquisitions and the volunteers who help us steward our preserves. We are a land trust and we work to preserve and steward lands, but this year's projects were also about water. Both the lands that we acquired have water as their primary asset—the great shallow pond of Upper West Bay Pond and the multiple vernal pools on Vernal Pools Preserve. Our board members took to canoes and kayaks on Upper West Bay Pond in September to explore our newest preserve, thrilling to the wild beauty of that watery world. With these new assets we are celebrating the value of water for wildlife, while our stewardship efforts faced the challenges that water can create for trail makers.

The focus of the stewardship efforts of volunteers this summer and fall has been on building and installing bog bridges over streams and boggy areas on two of our preserves. On Long Ledges Preserve many volunteers helped to carry the cedar “boards” (half logs) up to the sites where bridging was needed, and Clint Ritchie and Marvin McIntire have created beautiful walkways snaking across the wet areas. At our Corea Heath Preserve there was a major effort to clear the brush that had grown wildly over the trail before tackling the bog bridging there. Again several volunteers helped with the brush cutting and the toting of the cedar “boards”, while Garry Levin and Dick Barton built the bog bridges. Corea Heath, true to its name, has many, many streams and wet areas that needed bridging. The team put in 25 bridges.

We hope you will be able to get to these properties, admire the handiwork of our volunteers, and enjoy the beauty of our Maine lands.

Sincerely,

Lisa Heyward
Lisa Heyward, President



PHOTO TOM SIDAR

Upper West Bay Pond

FBC Trail Building by Tom Sidar



Volunteers install bog bridges on the trails of Long Ledges and Corea Heath. Visit www.frenchmanbay.org to download trail maps.

A day on the trail, cutting, trimming, clearing, marking, laying bog walk or building bridges is a day outside, working in the fresh air with neighbors to preserve the beauty of our surroundings for everyone to enjoy.

—Garry Levin, FBC board member and trails volunteer

Yesterday evening I walked the trails of Long Ledges and this morning, Corea Heath. A crisp sunny November day is ideal for a review of the year's trail work. With the leaves off the trees, the water table is high and you can see for greater distances. FBC tries to locate and build trails with an awareness of where the water runs. Our crews work hard to prevent erosion and allow the water to follow its natural course. At the same time we want

hikers to see the streams, and bogs and rivers and lakes and bays of our watershed from the best vantage points. In trail construction, this often means bog bridges—dried, flat cedar logs perched on perpendicular bracing and placed in the low wet areas. These bridges allow hikers to access wet areas and cross small streams with minimum impact. 2011 was an ambitious year for trail improvement. Volunteers installed bog bridges, cleared, blazed

and mapped trails, worked on kiosks and trail head signs, and worked with professionals to provide trail head parking. Financial support from members helped to pay for the necessary lumber, paint and supplies. Trails receiving major attention this year include Corea Heath, Branch Lake, Indian Point, Kilkenny Cove and the Old Pond Railway Trail, Salt Pond, Tucker Mountain, and the Wood Preserve. ❖



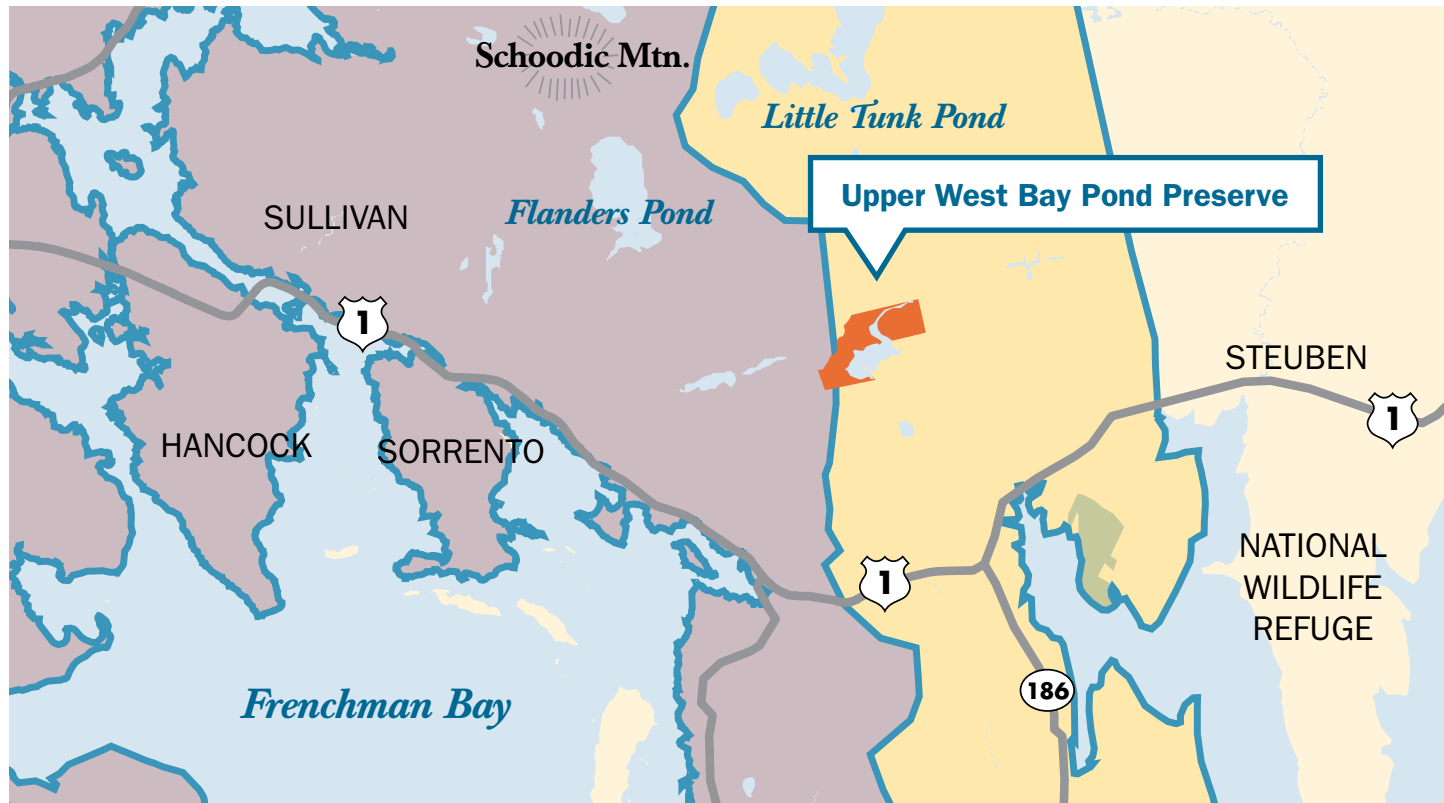
PHOTOS TOM SIDAR



Beaver lodge in Corea Heath

I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape—the loneliness of it, the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it, the whole story doesn't show.

—Andrew Wyeth



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Upper West Bay Pond

More than 20 years ago, FBC identified Upper West Bay Pond and the surrounding uplands as a conservation priority. I first experienced this tranquil waterway three years ago when Jay Horschak took a group of FBC members kayaking on the pond. Without knowing when or how, we talked about protecting this winding shallow pond and its wildlife habitat. Three years later, after exploring the land and water boundaries, legal access to the property, and completing the environmental and legal work, Upper West Bay Pond became a Frenchman Bay Conservancy preserve. In September, the FBC board took a canoe and kayak trip on the pond to celebrate. When paddling this slow-moving marshy pond surrounded by wild uplands, you can see what keeps watersheds clean and wildlife habitats rich and diverse. The pond was created many years ago by a small dam on Guzzle Stream. It is now a winding waterway that flows through purple pickerel weed, white arrowhead and yellow pond lilies. The pond's winding water course acts as a filter

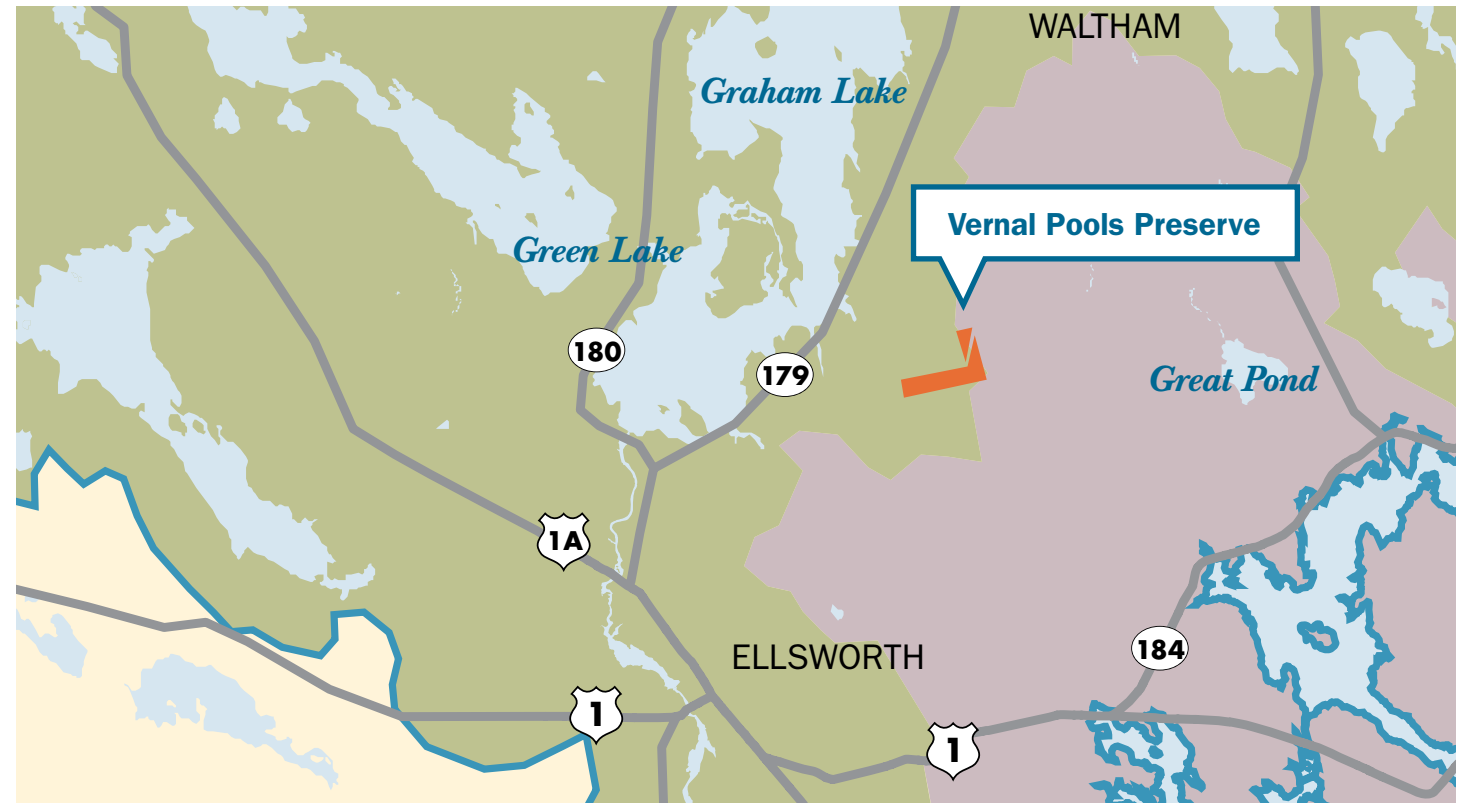
for runoff and rainwater that flows into West Gouldsboro Bay at The Guzzle. Protection of waters like these helps to keep our Downeast Coast's famous waters clean and healthy. The wildlife habitat of this preserve connects with working forests and conserved lands that form a relatively unfragmented wildlife corridor that runs from Acadia

National Park at Schoodic Point on the south; to Tunk Lake and Tunk Mountain on the east and Schoodic Bog and Schoodic Mountain on the west. This connection running from the Downeast coast to Maine's famous Northwoods forms one of the wildest, least fragmented and most impressive wildlife habitat corridors on the east coast of the United States.



PHOTO TOM SIDAR

FBC board member Frank Dorsey said, "Paddling on Upper West Bay Pond on a fall afternoon is one of the nicest canoe trips you'll ever take."



Vernal Pools Preserve

This new preserve comprises 225 acres in Fletcher's Landing Township. The FBC board and staff pursued this land conservation project in order to protect a remarkable 33 vernal pools, 14 of which are classified as "documented, significant natural vernal pools". Vernal pools are very small wetlands that fill with water in the spring and dry up by the end of the summer. They provide essential habitat for several species of salamanders and frogs. Amphibian species such as the spotted salamander and the wood frog migrate to the same pools every spring to fertilize and lay their eggs.

Vernal pools dry up in the summer and do not contain predatory fish. Therefore, frogs and salamanders that lay eggs in these pools have a high rate of breeding success. Wood frogs and spotted salamanders live most of their lives in the decomposing "dead and down" wood and leaf litter of the upland forest. In the rainy spring, when it is time to breed, the salamanders and frogs migrate to the same vernal pools where they were born and begin the process of laying and fertilizing eggs. The eggs hatch into tadpoles that transform into frogs and salamanders in the pool and then, as adults, migrate hundreds of yards back into the mossy moist

woods. Under logs and leaves, they are concealed from predators and can feed on the rich insect life of the forest floor. The size and richness of the wetland habitat on this preserve has been called extraordinary. We must manage our new Vernal Pools Preserve with the utmost sensitivity to the natural breeding and feeding cycles of the salamanders and frogs that depend on its pools and uplands. With that always in mind, we plan to make our new preserve available for appropriate vernal pool research and education trips and studies. ❖



PHOTOS TOM SIDAR

Spotted Salamander



Common Arrowhead



American Woodcock

PHOTO THOMAS BAZZOLO

Briefly Noted

Crabtree Neck Circumnavigation

The second Not-Quite-Annual Kayak Circumnavigation of Crabtree Neck, co-sponsored by FBC and the Crabtree Neck Land Trust, took place August 26. That was the day before Hurricane Irene, but the weather, the tides and the currents cooperated and the paddling went smoothly.

Monday Music

Large enthusiastic audiences and diverse musical groups made 2011 our most successful Monday Music concert series ever. Thank you to everyone who performed and attended.

Botanical Society Travels Downeast

The Josselyn Botanical Society took their annual field trip Downeast this year and selected FBC's Corea Heath Preserve as one of their sites. Nearly thirty botanists visited the preserve.

Teen Volunteers

Two dozen teen campers and the camp director from the Robin's Nest Ecology Camp in Sullivan came to Tidal Falls this summer and put in over 30 hours of community service work staining our new picnic tables. They did a great job and had a lot of fun.

Annual Meeting

Jill Weber, one of the authors of The Plants of Acadia National Park was the guest speaker at FBC's Annual Meeting. Peter Bryant was named Frenchman Bay Conservancy Volunteer of the Year, and awarded with a state-of-the-art safety helmet and a new chain saw bar and chain.



PHOTO LISA HEYWARD



PHOTOS TOM SIDAR

Honorary Gifts

IN MEMORIAM

Adina Back, Marjorie Bennett Chafee
Pam Harmon, Henry L. Milo
Katharine S. Welch

IN NOMINE

Margaret Karns & Ralph Johnston
Ann Luther, Nancy Patterson
Nina & Josef Sommer
Howard Wellman & Caroline Jacoby

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Join us TODAY!

And receive a FREE static cling decal to show you're a proud member.

Your membership and donations help us protect and preserve the character of this very special place—and we welcome donations at all levels. Members receive a free decal, two editions per year of our newsletter, and the opportunity to be involved by helping out with trail maintenance, easement monitoring, or mailings.

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 Frenchman Bay Conservancy through a bequest. Remember us in your will or explore other estate planning options with your lawyer.

Our members tell us the most rewarding benefit is knowing that they've done their part to protect the land they love.

YES! I want to join Frenchman Bay Conservancy.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

Please enroll me in the category checked below.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5 STUDENT | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ _____ OTHER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | BLUE HERON SOCIETY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
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- ☐ 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

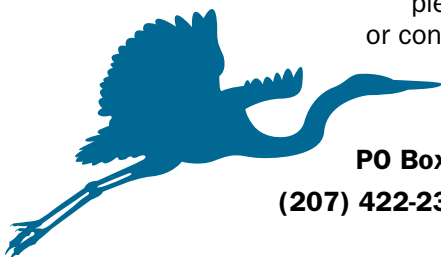
Frenchman Bay Conservancy is recognized as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Thank you!

Frenchman Bay Conservancy

Frenchman Bay Conservancy is a nonprofit land trust founded in 1987. Our mission is to build lasting relationships and commitments that conserve the distinctive landscapes and natural resources of the Frenchman Bay and Union River watersheds.

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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Living in Loon Territory

from our friends at the Maine Audubon Society

The Maine Audubon Society (www.maineaudubon.org) publishes a brochure called Living in Loon Territory that includes a loon calendar. A few facts from the calendar help us to better understand loons.

APRIL Common loons return to freshwater lakes after ice out to begin courtship.

MAY–JUNE Loons build nests right on the shoreline. Parents take turns sitting on the nest.

JULY–AUGUST After the chicks hatch (27 days) they ride on their parents' backs while parents feed them.

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER Chicks can feed themselves and fly. Parents congregate in large rafts. Later, chicks form their own rafts. Adults molt to drab winter colors that look similar to the chicks.

NOVEMBER–MARCH Loons spend winters in saltwater coves. Juveniles wait seven years before returning to the lakes to breed.



PHOTO KELLY BELLIS