

Broadturn Farm...continued from page 1

Robbie Alden then did extensive work replacing sills, installing new windows, repairing siding and the roof, and renovating the interior. The barn is now operational as a farm store (Flora*Bliss) and flower studio. The English barn was rehabilitated by Eider Construction and now provides a place for Broadturn Farm Camp children to get out of the rain and also gives more space for other events. Many thanks go to Larry Wagner, Eider Construction Company, Luke Lockwood (of Eider), Robbie Alden, Limington Lumber (for donation of lumber), and CD Armstrong of Deering Lumber (for lumber storage and delivery). We are pleased to have saved these iconic buildings of the farm.

For more information on BTF, log onto www.broadturnfarm.com or call the Land Trust office at 207-289-1199. There is no shortage of projects or things to do; we welcome help and ideas!

To sign up for our e-newsletters, which are sent every other month and include information about upcoming events and other short updates, send a request to info@scarboroughlandtrust.org.

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Land Trust Welcomes its First Summer Intern *by Marla Zando*

Chelsea Gribbin, a resident of Cumberland and a senior at Eckerd College in Florida, was SLT's first summer intern. Chelsea has a passion for learning and a love of the outdoors, a perfect fit for an internship with SLT. Over the course of the summer, she gained experience in many different aspects of land trust work, including property monitoring, communications and publications, trail maintenance and trail planning. Her favorite projects were the ones that took her outdoors. “Working for the Land Trust this summer, I learned so much about how land can be saved from development, but I also have learned the value of the land by doing trail maintenance with Marla on the beautiful trails.” SLT is grateful for Chelsea's assistance and wishes her well in her last year of college and beyond.



Chelsea Gribbin
Photo: Jeanne Gribbin

Looking to Volunteer?

Our efforts are organized through a series of committees, and you are invited to contact the following individuals about volunteer opportunities.

Acquisitions (land protection, conservation easements, land donations): Jeremy Wintersteen, 617-291-7730, jrwintersteen22@aol.com

Broadturn Farm (fundraising, carpentry, maintenance, invasives control, trail design/building): Paul Austin, 883-6050, nonesuch@gwi.net or Jeremy Wintersteen, 617-291-7730, jrwintersteen22@aol.com

Communications & Fundraising (newsletters, outreach, website support, appeals, special events, grant writing): Rita Breton, 885-5413, rmbreton@mailworks.org

Stewardship (trail building, trail maintenance, property monitoring): Paul Austin, 883-6050, nonesuch@gwi.net

Tracts & Trails

The Newsletter of the Scarborough Land Trust

Autumn 2011

Protecting our natural heritage for people, for wildlife, forever.

Broadturn Farm News *by Jeremy Wintersteen*

2011 was a busy year for Broadturn Farm (BTF). Approximately 150 families participated in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program. In return for prepayment in the winter, CSA share members are entitled to one food pickup per week of whatever is being harvested at the time. CSAs are a way for people to support local agriculture, and they also provide farmers with a reliable source of income to buy seeds, plants, and start the season. BTF also had a flower CSA and operated Broadturn Farm Camp, a farm education summer program for children.

The land trust bought the farm in 2004 and John Bliss and Stacy Brenner moved there in 2006 as farm tenants. The 434-acre farm is further protected by a conservation easement held by the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources. John and Stacy's five-year lease is coming due at the end of the year, and we are currently working on a long-term lease with them. We are thrilled with how John and Stacy have brought back the farm and made it into what it is today.

In addition to weddings and other events that have taken place on the farm, visitors enjoyed the Silver Brook Trail this past season. This trail was established in 2009 by Ben Acker as his Eagle Scout project and is located by the parking cul-de-sac off Hanson Road. A trail map can be found at www.scarboroughlandtrust.org.

Two barns were renovated this past year and are back in use. The square barn's foundation was repaired and reinforced by Larry Wagner and Eider Construction. *Continued on page 4*



Photo: courtesy of Broadturn Farm

Produce, cut flowers, eggs and products from other local farms are available at Flora*Bliss.



Photo: Jeremy Wintersteen



STOP! Go Back and Get your Reusable Shopping Bags!

by Rita Breton

YOU can help the Scarborough Land Trust earn a \$5,000 donation from Hannaford just by remembering to bring your reusable shopping bags with you when you shop. In early September, Hannaford Supermarket announced a program they hope will help reduce the use of disposable plastic and paper bags by 20 percent by February 28, 2012.

Farah Mannix, manager of the Scarborough Hannaford store, said, “We really hope that by sharing information about the use of disposable bags we can drive up the rate of reusable bags and make the donation to the Land Trust.” We hope so, too! So, please, help the environment, help reduce waste and help the Scarborough Land Trust earn that \$5,000 donation by using your reusable bags whenever you shop. Thanks!

The Scarborough Land Trust is a private, non-profit, community-based organization committed to being a conservation leader by providing the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to conserve land where natural resources, scenic vistas, and historical significance offer unique value to our community.

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Scarborough Land Trust
PO Box 1237
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www.ScarboroughLandTrust.org





SCARBOROUGH LAND TRUST (SLT)

MAILING ADDRESS
PO Box 1237
Scarborough, Maine
04070-1237

OFFICE ADDRESS
7 Oak Hill Terrace
Suite 8A
Scarborough, ME 04074

TELEPHONE
207-289-1199

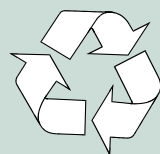
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Jack Anderson
Photo: Eric Anderson

President's Letter by Jack Anderson

Fall has arrived in Scarborough! It's a great time of year to get outdoors, and Scarborough is a great place to do it. The mission of the Scarborough Land Trust is to help keep it that way! Visit our website, download a trail map, and take a hike. It's hunting season, so good sense says wear some orange (and no white). Meanwhile, it's also time to bring everyone up to date with SLT news and kick off our annual fund raising appeal. Here's a run-down on what's up.

John Bliss and Stacy Brenner, the farmers at Broadturn Farm, continue to gain a lot of well-deserved attention for their inspired labors and for the many enterprising ways in which they nourish the community. Together with John and Stacy, SLT continues to work on the rehabilitation of the buildings at the farm, with the help of volunteers and donors who want to see farms and farming survive in Scarborough. (Read more about Broadturn Farm on page 1 and elsewhere in this issue.)

Along with the Marsh and the beaches, farming is what Scarborough has long been about. It's no accident that most of the inland open spaces in town, including the largest properties now owned by SLT, either are or recently were active farms. Preserving more of Scarborough's natural environmental heritage will inevitably mean, to a great extent, preserving more Scarborough farms, whether for their value as open recreational space and "wild" habitat, or in order to help support and maintain local farming, which benefits the community in so many ways. Thus, over the past year, it has been a pleasure to see the burgeoning activity at Frith Farm (formerly Fancy Farm), which SLT helped to protect. (Read more about Frith Farm on page 3.)

It's a familiar sight in Scarborough: where farming ceases, old farmland gradually reverts to forest, and the transitional habitat that tends to develop during that process is ideal for some species of wildlife, including the rare, endangered New England cottontail rabbit. During the past year, SLT has begun proudly participating in a major regional effort to help these little guys increase their sadly dwindling numbers. Read more about it on page 3.

Stewarding land in the present and preserving it for the future, both for people and for wildlife, are our goals – but who will take care of it? Hopefully we can count on people like Chelsea Gribbin, an Eckerd College senior from Cumberland who interned with SLT this Summer. Read about Chelsea's experience on page 4.

Are you a bag lady or bagman? Reusable, that is? It's time that we all gave up those yucky plastic bags that consume too much fossil resource and pollute environments everywhere, just to get our groceries out to the car and into the house. And here's another way to do well by doing good – read about it on page 1.

The work of the Scarborough Land Trust has been furthered and supported over the years by many gracious, generous and dedicated volunteers and donors. While we have had to say goodbye to some stalwart supporters, we are glad to welcome new ones, and pleased to announce a new addition to the SLT Board of Directors. There's more on page 3.

Whatever SLT is able to accomplish, it is thanks to the support of all of our donors and volunteers, concerned Scarborough voters, and helpful, capable Town employees. Without your commitment to land conservation and your support of SLT, this vital work simply would not be possible. Thank you for helping to preserve and improve our great outdoors – and we hope you enjoy it, too!

Frith Farm Has Successful First Year by Rita Breton

Congratulations to Frith Farm owner Daniel Mays on a very successful first year. About this time last year, Mays purchased the 13-acre farm at 61 Ash Swamp Road in Scarborough from the Fancy family, and has been working hard to make it a success ever since. The 40 different kinds of vegetables he planted in the spring and tended over the summer ensured a place for him at the Scarborough Farmers' Market and a successful first year CSA program. Members picked up fresh vegetables each week from June through September and had the opportunity to cut their own flowers and herbs. He also sold pasture-raised eggs and meat, including chicken, turkey, pork and lamb.



"This summer has called for lots of hard work (16 hour days)," said Mays, "but has rewarded us with bountiful harvests, delicious eating, and an abundance of good times and great food." Mays said he is especially grateful for the help he has received from Stacy Brenner and John Bliss of our own Broadturn Farm. "Stacy and John have been my mentors since the start," Mays said. "They've been through everything and have been an invaluable resource."

One of Mays' long term goals is to make his farm accessible to visitors of all ages. "I really want to become part of the community," said Mays. "I encourage folks to visit the farm and to come walk on the planned trail through our woods, which we hope to build soon with the help of the Scarborough Land Trust, who owns Sewell Woods, a property adjacent to our farm."

SLT Wins Grant to Create New England Cottontail Habitat by Marla Zando

In July, SLT received news that it will receive over \$11,000 for the creation of habitat for the New England cottontail at its Libby River Farm property. This native rabbit is the only mammal that is a state-endangered species in Maine. Only 300 exist throughout the state with a population center in the Cape Elizabeth - Scarborough area. Since the 1960s, the range of cottontails has diminished by 75% throughout New England, mostly due to shrinking habitat. They need thickets, a habitat type that has little economic value and



Photo: Linda Cullivan

few landowners manage for. This grant from the Natural Resources Conservation Service will help pay for the planting of native shrubs, creation of a shrubby edge near forested areas, cutting of trees for the creation of a new area of thickets and removal of invasive plants. Camp Ketcha graciously allows visitors to park off of Black Point Road near WoHeLo Lodge and walk over its land to the trails at Libby River Farm. Trail maps are available at www.scarboroughlandtrust.org.

Consider leaving a bequest to the Scarborough Land Trust in your will. This is relatively simple; your lawyer can help you with the details. For information, you or your lawyer can call Jack Anderson at 207-883-3064. For questions about making a gift of securities or other financial assets, call Alex Timpson at 207-774-5626. You can also give securely online at www.scarboroughlandtrust.org.

Mark Follansbee Joins SLT Board by Marla Zando

We want to welcome Mark Follansbee to the SLT Board of Directors. Mark has been helping the land trust with its fundraising activities for three years. He is a toxicologist, adjunct professor at USM and an expert on vermicomposting! What is vermicomposting? It's composting using worms to make rich, fertile soil from organic waste. Read more at his website, www.WormMaine.com. Earlier this year, Mark won Scarborough's "ecomaine eco-Excellence Award" for his work as a toxicologist, his promotion of vermicomposting, his volunteer service on several Scarborough committees and his commitment to the reduction of toxic chemicals in the environment. He lives in Scarborough with his wife, Bert (also a land trust volunteer) and their daughter, Kate. We are fortunate for both Mark and Bert's help, and we welcome Mark to the Board of Directors!

In Memory of Lee Macneil and Martin Whitmer

by Jeremy Wintersteen

We were sorry to hear about the loss of two members of the land trust community, Lee Macneil and Martin Whitmer. Lee was a longtime supporter of the Scarborough Land Trust (SLT). Whether it be due to her appreciation of the Scarborough Marsh, beaches, Prouts Neck Sanctuary, cliff walk, or scenic views, Lee supported SLT's efforts to conserve land in Scarborough. Martin was also a longtime supporter of the Scarborough Land Trust. He loved the outdoors and hunting and fishing. We will do all we can to keep those traditions alive in Scarborough. We thank both families for asking that memorial gifts go to SLT to support our mission.