

Boothbay Region Land Trust

NEW INITIATIVE FOCUSES ON DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

by Christine Selman, *Communications & Outreach Manager*

Clean water is perhaps our most precious natural resource. It is fundamental to the vitality of our region, for everything from community health, to economic development, recreation, and overall sustainability. Adams Pond and Knickerbocker Lake serve as the sole sources of public drinking water in our region, serving the towns of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor and Southport. As such, the long-term protection of these water supplies and the watersheds that they are dependent upon is essential. This is why, when the Boothbay Region Water District (BRWD) approached Boothbay Region Land Trust (BRLT) to discuss working together to protect the land in the watershed, BRLT committed to joining the effort.

Over the past year, BRLT has worked with the water district to engage a broad base of community leaders in watershed protection. What has emerged is a collaboration called the Boothbay Region Clean Drinking Water Initiative. Participants include Boothbay Region Water District, Boothbay Region Land Trust, Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences, Boothbay Region YMCA, Coastal Maine Botanical

Gardens, the towns of Boothbay, Boothbay Harbor and Southport, as well as the Knickerbocker Lake Association. The goal is to forever safeguard the region's sources of public drinking water.

The health of Adams Pond and Knickerbocker Lake are inseparably linked to their watersheds. A watershed is simply all the land that drains, both surface and groundwater, to a particular waterbody. This surrounding land plays *the major* role in ensuring that the region's water supply remains healthy and clean. Precipitation ideally filters through natural vegetation before entering the water supply. BRWD Natural Resources Manager Sue Mello explains, "When it comes to water quality protection, the best thing for any water body is to have natural native vegetation around it because it acts as a filter. Forests capture stormwater, filtering out contaminants and recharging the aquifer."

(Continued on page 5)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board Officers

John H. Welsh
President

Rob Wheeler
Vice President

Kathleen Kennedy
Secretary

Valerie Young
Treasurer

Board Members

Stewart Bither

Cindy Casey

Richard M. Elder

Isabel Lescure

Jeffrey Long

Penny Pollard

Margaret Reiser

Marianne Reynolds

Lauren Stockwell

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Louise Bowditch

Nanette Davison

Carl R. Griffin, III

Michael F. Harrison

Dawn E. Kidd

Charles E. Koch

Mary Miller

Chip Newell

Bruce B. Tindal

Jeffrey Wells

STAFF

Nicholas J. Ullo
Executive Director

V. Skye Wood
Development Director

Christine Selman
*Communications &
Outreach Manager*

Tracey Hall
Environmental Educator

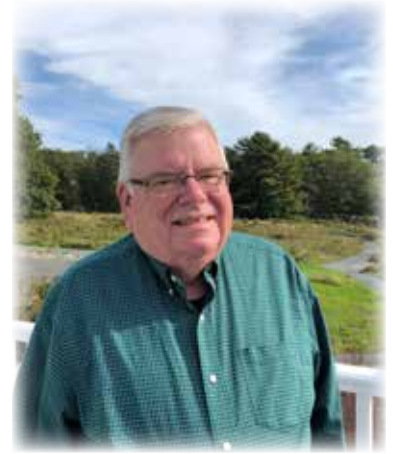
Brad Weigel
Lands Manager

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

John H. Welsh

Boothbay Region Land Trust has always

been close to my family's heart, as the Ovens Mouth West Preserve was once family land. It was originally part of the family farm that I still live on as a fourth-generation family member. I have many fond memories of walking with my father, born on the farm, on preserve trails, Porter and Ovens Mouth being his favorites. Walking the many trails in the Boothbay region was instrumental in keeping him going to the age of 101. Becky and I are proud to carry on the tradition of supporting the land trust, and appreciate that our grandchildren can enjoy the preserve trails as generations of our family have.



Our Willow Brook Farm on the Cross River remains the center of our multi-generational extended family, with siblings, nieces and nephews and many cousins finding time to spend here every year. Once a dairy farm, our land is now primarily a Certified Tree Farm. In addition, we have approximately seventeen acres of open fields, which we have occasionally leased to young farmers to help get their organic farming business established.

Starting with my father, the family has always believed in preserving as much of the farm from development as possible. With the guidance of BRLT, we were able to protect a large portion of the land from the pressures of the region's housing development, while maintaining it as a viable tree farm.

My great-grandfather was a sea captain, sailing to South America on clipper ships built in Portland. His wife adored the house we now live in, and he purchased the house, built in 1793, in 1866. Welshes have lived in it ever since. Becky and I have lived here year-round since 2011.

My career was in nonprofit health care administration, and Becky worked in nonprofit development for performing arts and environmental organizations, including Maine Audubon. We spent many years living and working in Western Maine, where we were surrounded by multiple land trusts working to preserve the beauty and open space of the Western Maine mountains and rivers.

It is refreshing to be the Board Chair of such a healthy, well-supported organization as BRLT. I was privileged to chair the development committee during the Oak Point Farm campaign, and I was amazed at the incredible support we received from our members, friends, foundations and local businesses. It was a memorable and rewarding experience.

With our new Board in place, our wonderful volunteers, our generous donors and expanding membership, as well as our dedicated staff--Nick, Christine, Skye, Tracy and Brad--we are well-positioned for our mission-driven future.

**COVER: Knickerbocker Lake
by Bob Kaufman**

JOURNEY INTO THE NIGHT

by Tracey Hall, Environmental Educator



As we approach the darkest days of the year, with early sunsets and late sunrises, there is less

daylight to discover BRLT preserves. While our properties are traditionally closed to visitors from dusk to dawn, we do offer several events a year that allow nighttime visits to the trails. Owl prowls, night hikes, lantern walks, and campfires are all on the schedule in the coming months, and offer a safe way to discover our preserves in the dark. Hiking at night offers a different perspective of the landscape and allows us to discover wildlife that we do not see during the day.

Many of our animals in Maine have periods of activity under the cover of darkness, with some being completely nocturnal. Nocturnality is a behavior in which animals sleep during the day and are active during the night, the opposite of diurnality where animals are active during the day and sleep at night. Nocturnal creatures often have specially adapted eyes to make use of the low light levels, as well as highly developed senses of hearing and smell. In our region, nocturnal animals include owls, bats,

flying squirrels, beavers, coyotes, raccoons, skunks, porcupines, fireflies, and crickets.

In addition to nocturnal and diurnal animals, we are also home to a variety of crepuscular animals. Crepuscular animals are most active at dusk and dawn, which is also known as the twilight period, and include mink, foxes, bobcat, deer, and moose. These animals are also seen at other times of low-light, including cloudy days and moonlit nights. What time animals are active arises from a variety of circumstances, including the behavior of other predators or prey, extreme hot or cold temperatures, and local competition.

If you are interested in discovering more about nocturnal animals or would like to experience a BRLT preserve under the cover of darkness, we hope you will consider joining us on for an upcoming nighttime program. All of our educational events can be seen on our website at bbrlt.org/events.

A GIFT OF LOVE CREATES A LEGACY

by V. Skye Wood, Development Director

Sisters Deedee Blane and Dottie Habel spent their first full summer in Boothbay Harbor in 1960.

It was the year after their parents made the very careful decision to purchase a rustic seasonal cottage in the Appalachian community. The cottage, which they still lovingly refer to as Birch Lodge, seemed huge to the young girls at the time. As they grew and continued to spend all or part of their summers there for the next six decades, the dwelling took on a smaller feel, but the cottage and the neighborhood remained much the same.

Very early on, Deedee, Dottie and their parents were welcomed into the community with open arms. Their mother was a member of the Boothbay Region Garden Club, their father friends with the renowned painter, Lonnie Sisson. Deedee and Dottie learned to

sail at the Boothbay Harbor Yacht Club and worked as counselors at the Boothbay Region YMCA Day Camp. Deedee worked at the Spruce Point Inn, and Dottie was a waitress on The Argo's supper sails. They were friends with the summer crowd, but their long-standing friendships have been with their local peers. In a word, the Boothbay region had offered them a place of belonging for many years.

Maine summers gave Deedee and Dottie a lifetime of memories that cannot be matched. But there comes a time in everyone's life when you have to say goodbye to something you love so much. How do you plan for such a moment? For Dottie and Deedee, it was an easy decision. They co-owned the family cottage, but knew that the property did not hold the same importance for their extended family as it did to them. They saw the need to divest of some of their



Sisters Dotty Habel (left) and Deedee Blane (right) wanted to give back to the community that had welcomed them so warmly as children.

physical assets, but also wanted to do some good. They immediately thought of Boothbay Region Land Trust.

Through a Retained Life Estate, the sisters were able to plan for their future while also making a significant contribution to Boothbay Region Land Trust. Deedee and Dottie worked with their attorney to sign over the deed to their beloved Birch Lodge to BRLT. The land trust is now the deeded owner of the cottage, but Deedee and Dottie still retain the right to live in and maintain the property for the remainder of their lives, or until they choose to relinquish those rights to BRLT. When the time comes, Boothbay Region Land Trust may sell the property, with no restrictions, and use those funds to further land conservation goals in the region.

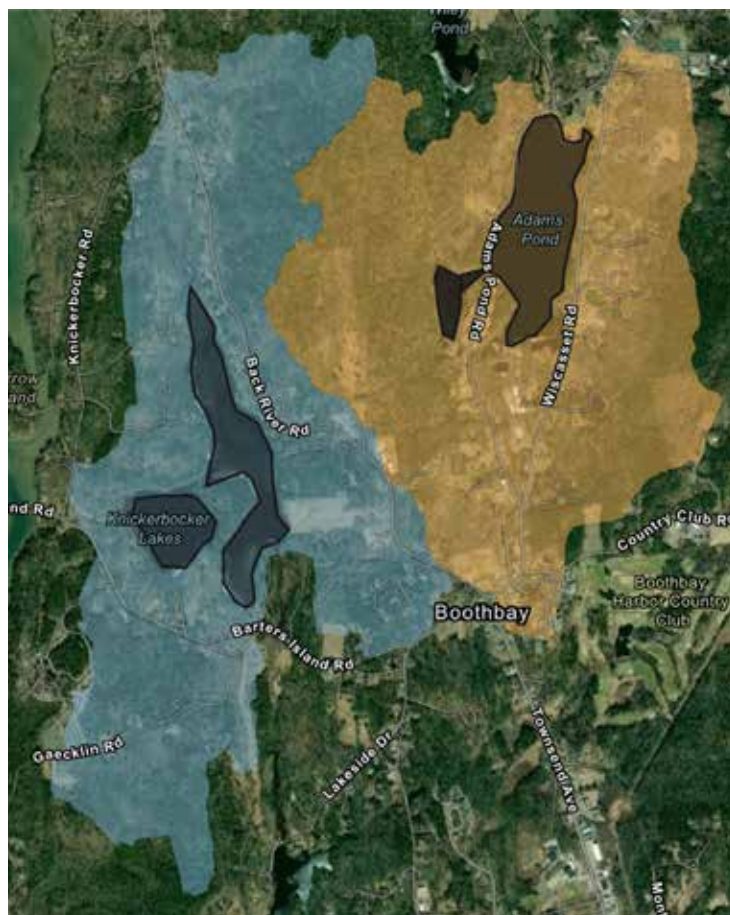
(Continued on page 7)

Clean Drinking Water (Continued from page 1)

Currently both Adams Pond and Knickerbocker Lake meet state water quality standards, but the water quality is classified as below average by Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Furthermore, the threat of development in the watersheds is high, and both lakes are listed among Maine's most at risk from new development. Changes in precipitation patterns due to climate change, such as extreme rain events and prolonged droughts, will exert additional stress on these water bodies. Combined, the risk to our limited and already stressed public water supplies is high. Therefore, it is essential the community take steps to protect this most vital resource.

At this time much of the land in both watersheds remains undeveloped, yet only a fraction of it is conserved--well below what is needed to adequately protect the public water supply. We have all observed the increasing development pressures throughout the region. This past summer, Lincoln County saw some of the highest increases in the cost of housing in the state. Without careful planning for new development, and necessary protections in places around the vulnerable watershed, risk to the water quality has the potential to greatly impact our entire region.

Thankfully the team that has come together to support the Clean Drinking Water Initiative represents some of the region's most respected nonprofits. While their missions vary, they all share a commitment to fostering



The above map depicts Adams Pond watershed (yellow) and Knickerbocker Lake watershed (blue). A 2018 report prepared by Forest Bell Environmental for the water district projected a need to maintain 75% of the land in the watersheds as undeveloped in order to safeguard the quality of the public water supply. Currently only about 30% of Adams Pond and 10% of Knickerbocker Lake watersheds are permanently protected from development.

positive impacts in our local community, which is at the heart of this initiative. The goal of protecting the clean drinking water supply is one that benefits every person, business, and organization in our region.

The land trust and the water district have each secured grants to kickstart the initiative including a grant from Maine Land Trust Network. In addition, both organizations have committed operational funds to support the continued work of the initiative. These grants and funds enabled the hiring of a consultant who worked with members to define the initiative's mission and purpose, as well as the hiring of a part-time administrator who will support the needs of the initiative and will help keep the project moving forward.

We look forward to sharing further updates soon as the real work of this collaborative moves forward.

SAVE TIME AND BE A TRAIL MARKER!

Our Trail Marker Monthly Giving Program makes supporting Boothbay Region Land Trust easier than ever! No more remembering when your membership is due. Set up a convenient, automatic contribution to BRLT for as little as \$5 per month. When you become a Trail Marker, you are protecting the natural habitat and scenic beauty of the Boothbay region as a sustaining member, throughout the year. Visit bbrlt.org and click the donate tab to set up your monthly giving today!

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT MOVES FORWARD ON BRLT PRESERVES

by Christine Selman, *Communications & Outreach Manager*

Invasive plants are a threat to the native ecosystems of coastal Maine including Boothbay Region

Land Trust preserves. In the absence of pests that would normally keep these plants in check in their native range, they are able to spread rapidly in the new environment. Once established they reduce native plant diversity by out-competing for resources like sunlight, water, and nutrients. Without careful monitoring and management, BRLT preserves will see a loss of diversity among native plant species, as well as the wildlife that rely on them for food and habitat.

As part of its strategy to address invasive plants, the land trust established a new volunteer team this spring called CLIP, or the Committee to Limit Invasive Plants. CLIP began its work pulling invasive plants at Penny Lake Preserve. The team will continue meeting until it becomes too cold and then will pick up where it left off again next spring.

“Our hope is that after a couple of years of consistent pulling, the invasive plant growth at Penny Lake will be much more manageable using Early Detection Rapid Response,” explains Lands Manager Brad Weigel. Early Detection Rapid Response is a key tenant of invasive plant management and involves regular monitoring and pulling during the growing season to avoid larger infestations.

At Ovens Mouth East, BRLT has set its sights on a more pronounced infestation. There nearly five acres of forest in the center of the preserve is overrun with burning bush and Asiatic bittersweet, both invasive. These plants have grown extremely dense and are crowding out virtually all of the native plants living beneath, including the next generation of overstory trees such as red oak and white pine. This infestation requires greater attention and resources to eliminate. This spring, BRLT applied for and received a \$5,000



CLIP volunteers at Penny Lake tackle a patch of bush honeysuckle and Asiatic bittersweet, both common invasive species in the region

grant from Davis Conservation Foundation to begin tackling the infestation at Ovens Mouth East.

“In preparation for the work, I completed testing and licensing through the state of Maine to utilize chemical treatments for invasive plant management” Weigel notes. “The application of these treatments is extremely precise, individually applying small amounts to stems of cut invasives. This careful approach protects native plants in the process.”

Weigel has begun work this fall at Ovens Mouth, though the effort will require a multi-year focus. BRLT is utilizing mapping software that will help track progress over time. The effort will not only safeguard the preserve’s biodiversity, but it will also ensure that the beauty we enjoy at places like Ovens Mouth East, from the delicate lady’s slipper orchids to the majestic pines, are there for future generations. If you are interested in learning more or you would like to join CLIP work parties, please contact Brad Weigel at bweigel@bbrlt.org.

Legacy of Love (Continued from page 4)

Not only do Deedee and Dottie get to feel good knowing that the value of their property will benefit the land trust while still keeping the keys, but they were able to realize a tax-deduction for the property transfer at the time of the planned gift. It's a win for all involved parties, and Deedee and Dottie get to give back to the community that gave them so much over the years.

When describing why they made the decision, the sisters expressed their appreciation for the history and the character of the area. Dottie shared, "When we first moved here, we were summer people but we were greeted warmly. We never felt like intruders, or that we didn't belong. It always seemed like a welcoming community and there is still a very welcoming feel." Deedee added, "Both of our parents would be so proud of our choice."

Entering into a Life Estate Agreement with Boothbay Region Land Trust means you have the legal right to stay in your property for the remainder of your life, you get an immediate deduction for Federal Income Taxes, and BRLT only has the right to sell your home after your death. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact Development Director Skye Wood at vwood@bbrlt.org, or visit: bbrlt.org/support/ways-of-giving



DONOR RECOGNITION PLAQUE INSTALLED

In appreciation of the 471 supporting households, businesses and granting foundations to the This Land is Your Land Campaign for Oak Point Farm, BRLT has installed a beautiful new plaque in the breezeway as you enter Oak Point Farm. The plaque features a cross-section of an oak tree in which the name of every donor to this transformational project is listed in the rings. In the center is BRLT's new osprey logo with oak leaves extending on the right and left sides. Oak Point Farm has already become an incredible community resource. We at Boothbay Region Land Trust are so very grateful to the many supporters who contributed to this effort.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS WELCOMES PENNY POLLARD



Penny Pollard was elected to BRLT's Board of Directors at this year's Annual Meeting. Ms. Pollard is a native Floridian who spent her youth enjoying the beaches, waterways, and nature preserves between West Palm and Miami Beach. She led a distinguished career as a health policy analyst and served for many years in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Office of Technology Assessment of the U.S. Congress, and in the private sector at The Lewin Group.

In her retirement, Penny and her husband Michael "commute" between Southport and Chevy Chase, MD. Penny is an active volunteer in a variety of organizations. She is treasurer of the Smithsonian Women's Committee and a docent at the Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens and the Textile Museum in D.C. Locally in the Boothbay Region, Penny has served as a flag officer of the Southport Yacht Club and on the Boards of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and the Friends of Burnt Island Light. Penny has been a longtime supporter of Boothbay Region Land Trust. Her thoughtful analysis and leadership skills will be a great asset to the board. Newly elected board members commit to a three year term, with the opportunity to be re-elected for a second term.



PO Box 183 / 60 Samoset Road
Boothbay Harbor ME 04538

Tel: 207.633.4818 | Web: BBRLT.org
Email: brlt@bbrlt.org

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit #3
Boothbay Harbor
ME 04538

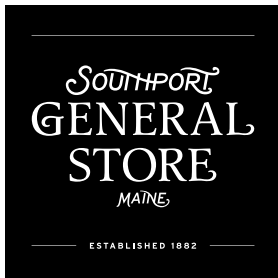
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

FOLLOW US:   

The Boothbay Region Land Trust seeks to conserve for the public benefit the natural habitat, scenic beauty and working land of the Boothbay region.



2021 Preserve Adopters



Annual Conservation Partners:

