



# the Trailhead

Take a hike...in your backyard

A publication of Saco Bay Trails

Vol. 6 No. 2 Fall/Winter, 2005

## Walther Pond spur trail honors land donor

Sandra Greenier Chipman and her sister Tamera Devine stood in the early autumn woods and gazed at the cattails growing in the vernal pond. As they did, they recalled how their grandparents, Ina and John Walther came to live in this spot more than 60 years ago and how much they enjoyed the solitude and the proximity of nature.

Ina particularly enjoyed watching the songbirds and waterfowl that were attracted to the small pond that lay next to Seaside Avenue. She kept a pair of binoculars next to the window and would use them to identify the different species.

The Walthers passed a portion of the land to their daughter Greta who then passed it to her daughters, Sandra and Tamera. Then, in 2002, the daughters donated a 2.27-acre section of the land encompassing the pond to Saco Bay Trails for the purpose of allowing the public to experience what their grandmother enjoyed so much.

"We think she would have liked to see the pond

**WALTHER POND, continued on page 2**



Photo by John Gold

From left to right: Alta Hayward, a friend of the family, Tamera Devine, Bob Chipman, Sandra Greenier Chipman and April Pattershall, a friend. The four were listening as Saco Bay Trails President Caryl Everett described the construction of the trail and the donation of land that made it possible.

### President's message

#### What would you like?

Rather than send a "president's message" I'd like to turn the tables and ask for YOUR input.

In 2006 we're going to continue to build and maintain trails (and ask for your help with work parties!) but we could also expand our offerings of guided walks.

Over the time I've been president I've heard a number of suggestions for trail walks. Here are some of the ideas I've heard:

Regularly scheduled interpretive walks on our trails. Not just guided walks, but walks with a knowledgeable naturalist who can point out spring wildflowers, owl nests, animal trails – all the stuff that's there that you don't 'see' until someone points it out.

Interpretive walks that focus on history (for example on the Cascade Falls or

**MESSAGE, continued on page 3**

## Wrapping up another season

*It was an exciting and challenging summer*

With the leaves now down from the trees and frost on the ground in the mornings, we have wrapped up our 2005 trail maintenance season. It has been, by all accounts, a successful season, one that kept trail coordinator Mark Whitmore busy as he dealt with several nagging maintenance issues as well as the construction of a new trail.

The season began with the construction of what we hope will be a temporary bridge over a washed out section of the Atlantic Way trail. The bridge, for now, allows hikers to pass safely over a section of the trail that is eroding because of damage to the culvert underneath. The City of Saco has promised to repair the culvert and it is our

hope that will happen sometime in the next year.

In addition, we made some progress in our continuing efforts to complete the Old Sawmill Trail, which begins in the Saco Industrial Park and will end on Flag Pond Road, across from the Sylvan Trail. The path was begun in 2003 and is about 50 percent complete. This summer we re-cleared the path and completed the connection between a boardwalk and the bridge spanning Foxwell Brook. This trail will be the focus of our attention next year.

We also were able to build and open the Walther Pond spur trail. Mark, along with a small but dedicated band of volun-

**TRAILS, continued on page 2**

## WALTHER POND, from page 1

cleaned up and a trail system put in so others could enjoy the wildlife and beauty of the area," said Chipman.

On Sunday, September 25, Saco Bay Trails dedicated the Walther Pond spur trail. The short trail begins and ends on Saco Bay Trails Ferry Landing trail in the Ferry Beach section of Saco, creating a short detour to the edge of the pond where two granite benches honor Walther's memory.

Devine and Chipman, their husbands and several family members

attended the event. The daughters told how their grandfather had come to Maine on a business trip, and, taken with the area, had sent for Ina and Greta. They settled on the Seaside Avenue property, then considered to be in a remote section of the city. Later they moved a nearby building to a spot adjoining their home. That structure was to be a temporary house for Greta and her husband, but instead became their home for nearly 50 years. Today Sandra and her husband Bob live on the site.

The pond, which was once fed by

tidal water from Saco Bay, is now a vernal pool, filling in the spring with rain and snowmelt, then drying during the summer.

SBT trail coordinator Mark Whitmore discussed the building of the path, which involved laying down a gravel bed over the forest floor and then building supports for the granite benches. Gravel for the project was donated and delivered by Moody's Nursery in Saco.

Following the ceremony, Whitmore led the group on a tour of the spur and the adjoining Ferry Landing Trail.

## Celebrating FBES

Saco Bay Trails Trail Coordinator Mark Whitmore (left) and Ferry Beach Ecology School Program Director Kim Schutsky discuss the ecology and construction of the Ferry Landing Trail during the FBES open house on Aug. 20. SBT helped FEBS celebrate the opening of its "green house" and Schutsky led two interpreted walks on the Saco Bay Trails Ferry Landing Trail, which abuts the school.

Photo by Nelson Jaquay



## Thank you for your help

We offer our thanks to **Great Works Internet** of Biddeford who generously donate internet access and web space for us. We also thank the **Saco Parks and Recreation Department** for their donation of office space and a meeting area at the new Parks and Recreation building at 75 Franklin Street. And of course we thank all of those who volunteer their time and donate their money to make us a success.

## TRAILS, from page 1

teers, laid down a gravel trail bed on the forest floor, poured footings for two beautiful granite resting benches and then placed the benches where they will provide seating for many years to come. We would like to thank Moody's nursery for their donation of discounted gravel and the free delivery of that material to the site.

In addition to these projects, we also kept up with the routine (but critical) maintenance of keeping the trails open, safe and litter-free. Our thanks especially to Tom Alarie who kept the Sylvan and Atlantic Way trails mowed on a regular basis and also spent a considerable amount of time trimming bushes and renewing blazes on the Sylvan Trail. Stewards like Tom are the backbone of this organization and we can't thank you enough!

As we mentioned earlier, the Sawmill Trail will be the focus of our energy in 2006. We are currently

## Seeking trail coordinators

Saco Bay Trails is looking for a few adventurous people to help share the load of organizing and executing our seasonal work parties. You don't need to be a trail construction expert or wilderness guide. It does help to have some experience with basic carpentry and you should be comfortable with organizing small groups of people. Other than that, we'll be only too glad to teach you everything you should know.

Our trail coordinators work with our master trail coordinator Mark Whitmore to plan and carry out our monthly work parties. You'd help plan and prepare for the event and then you'd be the "go to" person on site during the party, directing volunteers to places where they can work.

Work parties are usually held Saturday mornings, although weekdays are possible. Anywhere from a few to a dozen volunteers may attend. Tasks range from trail cleanup to construction of boardwalks.

As a coordinator, you will be asked to plan and supervise one work party during the construction season.

If you're interested and you'd like to learn more, please feel free to call Mark Whitmore at 284-4927.

seeking funding and materials donations for more than 600 feet of boardwalk that will be needed to complete the trail. We will have more information on this project in our spring issue.

We are also planning to update the information posted on our trailhead kiosks. A recent survey of the kiosks revealed that much of the signs and postings on the kiosks are suffering from weather exposure.

## Sweetser offers license to link trail

Thanks to the generosity of the Sweetser organization, we have been able to link two beautiful trails in the Goosefare Brook area off Route 1 in Saco.

The trail, named Sweetser Link because it crosses land owned by Sweetser, connects the Old Camp Loop trail (found behind the Mobil Mart on Route 1 in Saco) with the Lew's Quik Stop Trail that is found downstream from Philips Spring Brook.

The three trails make a network known as the Middle Goosefare trails. Sweetser this fall granted Saco Bay Trails a revocable license to use the 1000-foot long path.

The Sweetser Link Trail is found by traversing the Old Camp Loop trail. About half way around the loop, the Sweetser Link trail begins, taking the hiker in a southwesterly direction. The trail follows Philips Spring brook until it intersects the Lew's Quik Stop trail. A more complete description of the link trail may be found on our website, [www.sacobaytrails.org](http://www.sacobaytrails.org).



Photo by John Andrews

### Folks on the march

Saco Bay Trails and the Southern Maine Volkssport Association joined forces to host a volkmarch on October 16. Here participants are seen at the trailhead to the Ted Wells Memorial Trail in Ocean Park. You can see more photos and the full story on our website, [www.sacobaytrails.org](http://www.sacobaytrails.org).

## Cascade Falls project still under consideration

Plans for the development of the Cascade Inn and the protection of 14 acres of land around the falls are still making their way through City Hall. The city council has approved the request of the developer — Village Works Development LLC — for a contract zone. Village Works is now preparing to bring their plan to the planning board. If approved, the developers would be required to donate the land around the falls to the city and give \$50,000 towards the development of trails on the protected property.

#### MESSAGE, from page 1

Middle Goosefare trails)

- Guided walks especially for seniors
- Guided walks with yoga

How do these strike you? Maybe you have ideas of your own to suggest. Send an email to [info@sacobaytrails.org](mailto:info@sacobaytrails.org) and let me know what you want Saco Bay Trails to add next year.

We're heading into our winter "planning" period so now's the time!

#### The Trailhead

The Trailhead is published twice a year, in the spring and in the fall. It is mailed free of charge to members of Saco Bay Trails and anyone who requests a copy. If you'd like to be on our mailing list, drop us a note or send an email to: [info@sacobaytrails.org](mailto:info@sacobaytrails.org)

### Saco Bay Trails Membership Form

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

- |                                     |      |  |       |
|-------------------------------------|------|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student    | \$10 | <input type="checkbox"/> Pioneer         | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> Trailblazer     | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family     | \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership | \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pathfinder | \$50 | <b>Organizational</b>                    |       |
|                                     |      | <input type="checkbox"/> School          | \$50  |

Memberships are renewed annually in the spring or fall. Join at the \$25 level and above and receive a free trail guide. Membership at the \$50 level and above will also receive a free T-shirt.

Mail to: Saco Bay Trails, P.O. Box 720, Saco, Maine 04072

# Adopt a trail

*Here's a great chance to get your business some exposure of the natural kind*

In the coming year, Saco Bay Trails will be offering an opportunity for local businesses and people to adopt a trail. Under the program, the adoptive group will be recognized on the kiosk that marks the beginning of our trails, as well as in our newsletter and our website.

In addition, we encourage businesses to take an active role in the maintenance of the trail they adopt. This is a great opportunity to build teamwork amongst your employees. We will be glad to help coordinate employee work events as well as train employees to be stewards of the trail.

We are in the process of developing our list of potential "adoptees" and sponsorship rates. For more information, please contact Debi McKenney at [mckenney@gwi.net](mailto:mckenney@gwi.net) or by telephone at 282-3756.

# We celebrate a successful campaign

Saco Bay Trails has just completed its most successful annual fundraising drive ever. Thanks to the generosity of our members, friends and the Biddeford-Saco business community, we have raised approximately \$2,430 to date. This money, combined with income from our trail guide sales and memberships is our primary source of income and will be used to help purchase building materials and pay for education and outreach, such as this newsletter and our website, [www.sacobaytrails.org](http://www.sacobaytrails.org).

In addition, we received several offers of donated materials that can be used in trail construction.

We would like to thank the very generous donors below who responded to our appeal. Thank you again for all your help!

## Thank you to all our donors

First Atlantic Health Care (Atlantic Heights Retirement Community)	Vietta Hamblen
Saco and Biddeford Savings Bank	Brian & Cathy Cyr
Saco Plaza LLC, (Holiday Inn)	Guy & Marion Thivierge
Kerry T. & MaryEllen Connell	J. Hill
Caryl Everett	Bradley & Jean Leach
Quinn's Bike and Fitness	Ferry Beach Education, Inc.
Saco Valley Credit Union	Frank & Brenda Whitney
Milton and Joan Victor	Wallace & Jane Nutting
George Roth	Saco Printing Company
Bob Teichman	Jason & Michelle Scott
Bill & Mary Johnson	Patti Brodeur
Keith H. Kennedy	Richard Skillin
J.M. Funkhouser	Rolnick Chiropractic Wellness Centre
Malcolm Poole	Robert & Vera Warner
John Morrill Read	Sheila Painchaud
Chris & Deb McKenney	Daphne and Willard Warren
Ron & Pat Harwood	Peter M. & Inga Sandvoss Browne
Roy & Marilyn Fairfield	John M. Violette
	Paul H. & Rachel R. Tranchemontagne

