



spring
2013



Lifestyle

News, Personalities and Perspectives from

HIGHLAND GREEN

A masterpiece of Maine living for those 55 or better

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LIFESTYLE
ISSUE**

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Half the Nation agrees: Highland Green is the place to be

New friends from 25 states and counting have now made Highland Green home.

After a strong 2011 and unprecedented growth and achievement in 2012, there has never been a better time to move to Highland Green than in 2013. Interest rates remain for now at historic lows, Highland Green home sites for custom built homes are moving fast, and there is a fine inventory of existing custom homes that are selling quickly. Spring has sprung and first quarter 2013 sales of existing homes at Highland Green matched the numbers for all of last year.

Highland Green residents spend less time with maintenance and more time enjoying life. Its vast 635 acre campus features the 235 acre Cathance

River Nature Preserve with miles of maintained trails and the Cathance River Ecology Center. The Highland Green Community Center is the hub of dynamic social, educational, exercise and volunteer activities. The Wild Duck Pub overlooking the Highland Green golf course offers fresh, local and unexpected pub-style fare and has become another popular community gathering spot. Highland Green's strategic location provides easy access to cultural outlets, medical and transportation services, diverse scenery and eclectic dining experiences along the spectacular coast of Maine.

Clearly, the active lifestyle



The Wild Duck Pub viewed from hole #2 of the golf course

opportunities at Highland Green are the driving forces behind so many making the community home. Steve Loeb, who relocated to Highland Green from Columbus, Ohio with his wife Sue in 2012 states: "Highland Green offers a

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complete package for an affordable high-quality of life. The setting is impressive not only for its natural beauty and gorgeous single family homes but its proximity to the college town of Brunswick. Intellectually and physically engaging activities at Highland Green, the peace of mind of the maintenance program, and the security of a supporting community make it just perfect.”

Since moving to Highland Green, Steve has taken full advantage of opportunities. He did not worry about their home when they went on a three week vacation this past winter. He has embarked on a new exercise program in the Highland Green fitness center and, amongst other things, has been named a Distinguished Lecturer at Bowdoin College, his alma mater located just three miles from Highland Green.

Perhaps most importantly, it is the incredibly strong sense of community and the chance to be actively engaged with others that sets Highland Green apart. A September 16, 2011 New York Times article cited current trends:

“Many people approaching retirement age are thinking not just about where they want to live and what sort of home they want, but also what sort of activities they will do – and whom they want nearby.”

Gerald and Barbara Combs from Grand Forks, North Dakota recently made the decision to make Highland Green home. After living in Ithaca, New York for many years where Jerry taught Nutrition Science at Cornell University and Barb had an extensive career in education, they moved to North Dakota 7 years ago where Jerry was named Center Director of the Grand Forks Human Nutrition Research Center of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Barb became an Associate Dean of Education at the University of North Dakota.



Jerry and Barb Combs from Grand Forks, ND look forward to the more temperate climate of Maine

“When talking about eventual retirement from our careers, we decided not to focus on when we would move, but where,” says Jerry. While considering many areas of the country over the last three years, including Ithaca, New York, Burlington, Vermont, Brunswick and Portland, Maine, Highland Green in Topsham, Maine and even Arkansas, amongst others, Jerry applied his background as a research scientist. He created a side by side comparison of financial factors and distances to cultural and service amenities nearby these places. Highland Green came out on top. “I am sure that I am as familiar as anyone with Highland Green and the greater Midcoast area via Google Earth,” remarks Jerry. The research was not strictly scientific however. The general ambience of natural beauty and community at Highland Green and throughout coastal Maine factored in esoterically.

“When you think of trees and history and quirky restaurants and geography and scenery and proximity to other interesting places and inexpensive lobster, Midcoast Maine cannot be beat,” says Jerry.

The marketing of a new 8 lot cul-de-sac neighborhood at the highest elevation in Highland Green, abutting the Heath Preserve and just across from the Cathance River Nature Preserve piqued the Combs interest. The opportunity to be part of this exciting new area called Red Maple Drive at Highland Green was enticing. “From there we were drawn into a vortex of decision making which we entered gladly,” says Jerry. The Combs were the first to make a pre-construction deposit on Red Maple which allows them to lock in their plan now, help Highland Green build this neighborhood, and to move in either late 2014 or early 2015 as their plans unfold.

Having made the initial commitment, the Combs made a whirlwind visit to Highland Green from North Dakota in late March to visit Bob and Pat Allen’s custom home which is the basis for the Combs’ new design. During the rest of the day, they met with the site engineer at Red Maple Drive, met with the Highland Green builder, the design coordinator, a representative from Bath Savings Bank who provides special construction financing, and their plan continued to come together seamlessly. The Combs participation in the design process melds their experience in building their own homes with the skill of the dynamic Highland Green team to create a familiar Highland

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Nancy Smith hosts at her Highland Green home

Green style completely unique to them. Most significantly, the day ended with a gathering with future and current Highland Green residents at Deke and Nancy Smith's home on Heron Drive followed by dinner at the Wild Duck Pub. Encircling the Smith's elegant living room, each guest introduced themselves and shared a bit about their Highland Green journey. Jerry

Combs spoke expressively, ending with this: "I really appreciate the opportunity to meet all of you. At some point, we really look at the sort of lifestyle that we want to lead and who we want to live with and I'm sure all of your decisions are not too different from ours. The rest is just numbers and sticks and bricks and plans. Those can always be figured out." ■

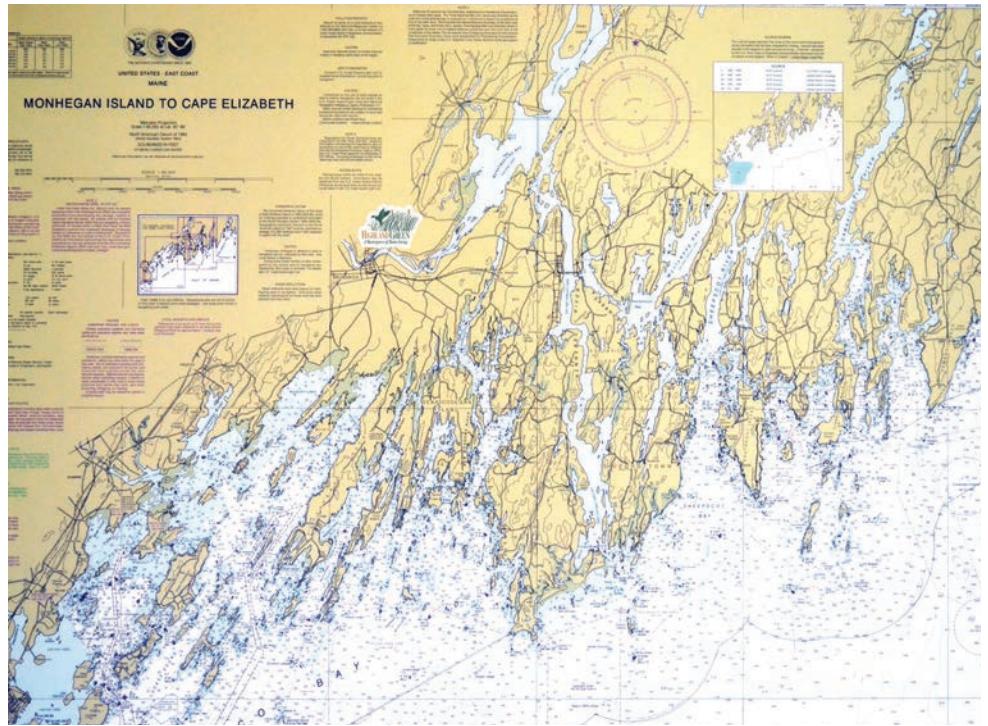
The love of the water

In many respects, Highland Green is located at the epicenter of all things that anyone who loves of Maine waters might desire. Right at the center of Highland Green is the Heath Preserve, a wetland held in a conservation trust that is a well known walking and birding area. The Cathance River runs through the 235 acre Cathance River Nature Preserve at Highland Green with trails along its edge affording views of spectacular falls and wide meandering stretches.

The Cathance River empties into Merrymeeting Bay, which is in Highland Green's "backyard" and is at the heart of an internationally renowned watershed through which 40 percent of all water flowing through Maine travels before emptying into the Atlantic Ocean. This bay is home to plentiful wildlife and plant life, including wild rice, bald eagles, osprey, heron and harbor seals.

Eventually, the many rivers surrounding Highland Green and Merrymeeting Bay empty into Casco Bay, which stretches from Harpswell to Cape Elizabeth, includes Portland Harbor and is home to 136 different islands. It is a legendary boater's paradise.

In the larger context, Casco Bay is just one part of the celebrated Maine coast, all easily accessible from Highland Green.



Highland Green on the Cape Elizabeth to Monhegan Nautical Map

While the coast of Maine is roughly 228 miles long "as the crow flies," it boasts 3,478 miles of coastline on the Atlantic. Its countless islands, bays, coves, stretches, reaches and peninsulas offer endless scenic possibilities onshore and off for those so inclined.

The greater Highland Green area is a canoeist or kayaker's dream with countless opportunities in close proximity.

Lew and Mary Brown who moved to Highland Green from Boothbay Harbor, Maine in 2011 were instrumental in the creation of the Highland Green Paddler's Guide. As lifelong paddlers Lew and Mary reviewed several safe and accessible areas right nearby. The guide can easily be downloaded from the Highland Green website or a printed version can be obtained from the marketing office.

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Low maintenance living and lifelong learning

An active lifestyle at Highland Green includes the opportunity to “turn the key and go” and to have less worry about such things as lawn maintenance and snow removal. There is even a schedule “check-in” program provided by Highland Green Management. All homes are equipped with monitored fire protection and low temperature sensors near the high efficiency natural gas furnaces.

Jerry and Gretchen Davis both graduated from Bates College in Maine and lived in New Jersey, Virginia and Connecticut while Jerry worked in marketing and sales for the paper industry and Gretchen served as an elementary school teacher. After they retired, they returned to Maine and lived in a waterfront condominium in Portland. They enjoyed their view and the low-maintenance aspect of condo living which allowed them to more easily pursue their passions: travel and education. One thing that was missing was a strong sense of community.

The Davises moved to Highland Green in 2009 mainly to be around other people with similar interests and have since embraced being interactively engaged in many ways with their fellow residents. “The people are just terrific,” says Jerry. Life at Highland Green is further enhanced for the Davises as they enjoy the low-maintenance benefits while having a custom built free-standing home abutting the Cathance River Nature Preserve. It is rare to see them out without Jerry, an avid birder, having his binoculars handy.

One of Jerry and Gretchen’s passions outside of Highland Green is Road Scholar, a non-profit educational and



Jerry and Gretchen Davis have been on over 60 Road Scholar trips

travel organization with which the Davises have been involved for over 15 years and with which they have been on well over 60 trips. They have learned about tropical ecosystems in Costa Rica, been birding in Belize, voyaged down the Danube and Rhine rivers, ventured across the Australian Outback and attended the Palm Spring International Film Festival each year, amongst many other adventures.

“The educational process is the most important part for us. Visiting new locations, meeting new people, there is no other organization like it. It’s one of the centerpieces of our lives,” says Gretchen. The Davises also give back to Road Scholar as ambassadors, spreading the word through presentations.

On Saturday May 18 Road Scholar will be incorporated into a very special Highland Green Open House celebrating active lifestyle within and outside Highland Green. New friends,

guests and residents will gather at the Community Center, the Davises will speak about Road Scholar, custom homes will be available for viewing, and Highland Green staff will be on site to answer questions. Renowned Road Scholar instructor Jim Millinger will also be on hand to speak about Midcoast Maine.

Jim Millinger was born in Maine, captained ferries in Maine’s Casco Bay, was educated at Princeton, Berkeley and Yale, and served as a naval officer. He has also taught Chinese History and Maritime History at many colleges around the country. He now lives here in Topsham, Maine and frequently lectures at the Maine Historical Society, the Maine Maritime Museum, and for Road Scholar programs, ashore and afloat. *To learn more about this special Highland Green Open House and how to RSVP, see the outside cover of this Lifestyle Newsletter.* ■



Fast friends

A fun impromptu meeting occurred in early April at the Highland Green Community Center as Anne Cole from Fairfield, Connecticut and Susan Roux from Naples, Maine met for the first time. Both had arrived that day in their blue Subaru wagons (which many consider the “state car” of Maine).

Anne grew up in Maryland, received her degree in Nursing from the University of Maryland, a Masters in Public Health and lived in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts before settling in Connecticut where she ran the student health center at Fairfield University. She is looking forward to her son’s wedding in California in June.

Susan grew up in Michigan, graduated from Michigan State and then moved with her family to Illinois, then Brooklyn, New York, then Massachusetts and eventually to Naples, Maine. Most recently, she has worked writing Environmental Impact Studies.

The meeting was significant for many reasons. Both are partially retired, have children scattered around the country, and enjoy being active and social. They will both move into their new Highland Green homes in May and will live across from each other on Finch Drive.



Anne Cole (third from left) visits with Highland Green friends

Anne and Susan were fast friends immediately. They were also greeted that April day in the Community Center by the “Crafty Ladies,” a group of quilters that meets once a week to work on projects that are donated to charity.

Most importantly, both were searching for a place with a strong sense of community. Anne looked at all aspects of Highland Green very carefully, visiting several times and meeting with staff and many residents. “As a single person, one thing that I wanted to make sure early on was that the community was not just filled with couples who were constantly paired up,” says Anne. She adds: “What I found was a healthy mix of couples and single people and a very welcoming community where everyone pursues their own individual interests.” ■




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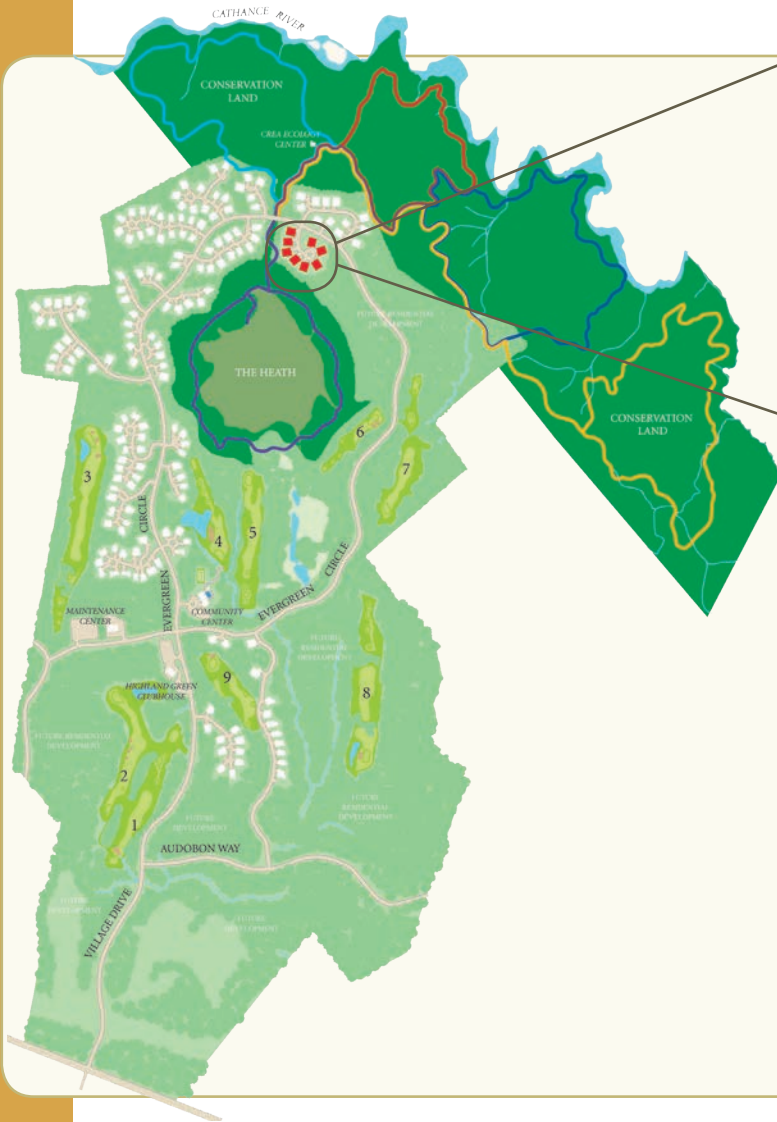
Wild Duck Hiker Specials, 9:30AM

Sunday, May 19; Saturday, June 1 (National Trails Day); Sunday, July 7 - Begin the day with one of Chef Rae’s signature protein smoothies. Enjoy a FREE guided hike on the Cathance River Nature Preserve. Open hours at the Cathance River Ecology Center. Join us for brunch after the hike!

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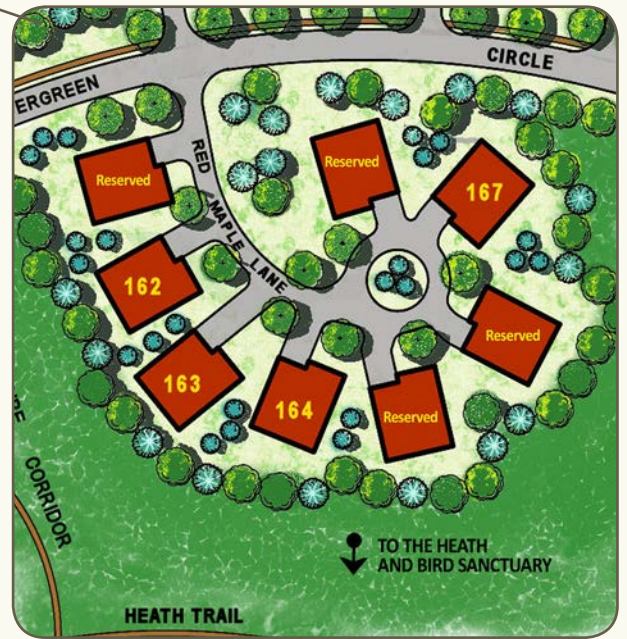


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Eight homes to be built at the highest elevation of Highland Green and adjacent to conservation. Reserve in May for special pre-construction pricing and for move-in 2014 or 2015, your choice. 1-866-854-1200



7 CHICKADEE DRIVE Like New!

This home is just right – open, bright and available right now. One floor two-bedroom living at its best on a friendly drive equidistant from the Community Center and the Nature Preserve. \$260,000



1 PARTRIDGE DRIVE Customized!

Stylishly tailored in every way, this home backs privately on to conservation land and features a true gourmet's kitchen, custom bathrooms, hand crafted built-in features, a second floor loft and more. \$530,000



Bev Brown and Paul Hureau, who moved to Highland Green in 2011 from a condominium development in Duxbury, Massachusetts, have taken full advantage of proximity to boating opportunities. In fact, they have become Highland Green's somewhat official "Boating Ambassadors," a role to which they are well suited.

After a career in the Coast Guard, Paul went on to work for Boston Whaler for 18 years, heading up their Commercial Products Division. During that time he met Bev, who was working as a Regional Sales Manager for Outboard Marine Corporation's Boat Group. They eventually married and started their very own boat design and manufacturing company called Maritime Skiff in 1991.



Bev and Paul aboard their boat in Brunswick

After renting vacation cottages on the Maine coast in the summer for 15 years and then selling Maritime Skiff, they started to look for a new adventure. By discovering and exploring Highland Green they found an opportunity that was perfect for them. The location gave them easy access to boating, and a special sense of community. "We have met more people and formed more friendships in the past 18 months than we did in 24 years in Massachusetts. We love our beautiful house, but it is the entire lifestyle that makes Highland Green home. We have never looked back," says Bev.

Paul knows Casco Bay waters like the back of his hand and says that it offers some of the finest cruising anywhere. Highland Green's proximity to the coast not only gives Bev and Paul time to pursue one of their boating passions, it opens up another chance to socialize. "We find ourselves entertaining Highland Green friends on our boat more and more," says Paul. He adds: "Within 45 minutes of the dock there are so many restaurants that we can pop into for lunch or dinner by boat," referring to the numerous coastal villages and marinas up and down the Midcoast. "And it's an easy ride right down to Portland," adds Bev.

Highland Green, Maine's premier master-planned community for those 55 or better has attracted new friends who share interests from 25 states and counting. The active lifestyle at Highland Green means different things to different folks, but the possibilities are endless.

Resident organized events at the Highland Green Community Center include book discussion groups, the annual spring Chowderfest and summer Lobster Bake, group exercise classes, guest speakers including renowned Maine swordfish captain and author Linda Greenlaw coming this spring, movie nights, organized volunteerism and many more.

Residents are extremely active with opportunities nearby the community such as auditing classes at Bowdoin College, taking college level courses at Midcoast Senior College, attending the famous Maine State Music Theatre, volunteering at Maine Maritime Museum or the Portland Museum of Art, enjoying the Coastal Botanical Gardens, and volunteering with the local Red Cross or the Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program.

The Cathance River Education Alliance, the non-profit organization cofounded by Highland Green developer John Wasileski, manages the 235 acre Cathance River Nature Preserve and the Cathance Ecology Center. "CREA" provides many Highland Green residents the opportunity to volunteer on the Preserve, attend educational events and generally embrace conservation and nature right within the security of the community.

Betsy Brandt, who moved to Highland Green in 2012, recently reflected while volunteering at the Ecology Center. Said Betsy: "The nicest thing about Highland Green is that the people are so friendly and do not put on airs. There is no pressure to be involved and one can be as busy or as private as one chooses." ■



UPCOMING EVENTS AT HIGHLAND GREEN

Please join Highland Green residents, friends, and guests at our themed events designed for interaction and a true taste of different aspects of the Highland Green lifestyle.

Road Scholar Open House Saturday, May 18 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Highland Green residents Jerry and Gretchen Davis will share their Road Scholar experiences
- Renowned Maritime Historian Jim Millinger will speak about Midcoast Maine
- Light Lunch Served

Wind Over Wings Open House Saturday, June 22 | 12:00 PM – 4:00 PM

- View an award-winning movie entitled “Pale Male” about the famed Red-tailed Hawk of Central Park, New York
- A live male and female Red-tailed Hawk and a live male and female American Kestrel (falcon) will join us following the movie

Paddling Adventure Saturday, July 13 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

- Start the day with a healthy protein smoothie at the Wild Duck Pub
- Kayak or canoe the Upper Cathance River (equipment provided)
- Enjoy lunch and fellowship afterward at Highland Green

Highland Green information and featured homes are available for viewing during and after events. Call today for more information and to RSVP, 1-866-854-1200.



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Top left cover photo taken by Highland Green resident, Jim Wilkes

