

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

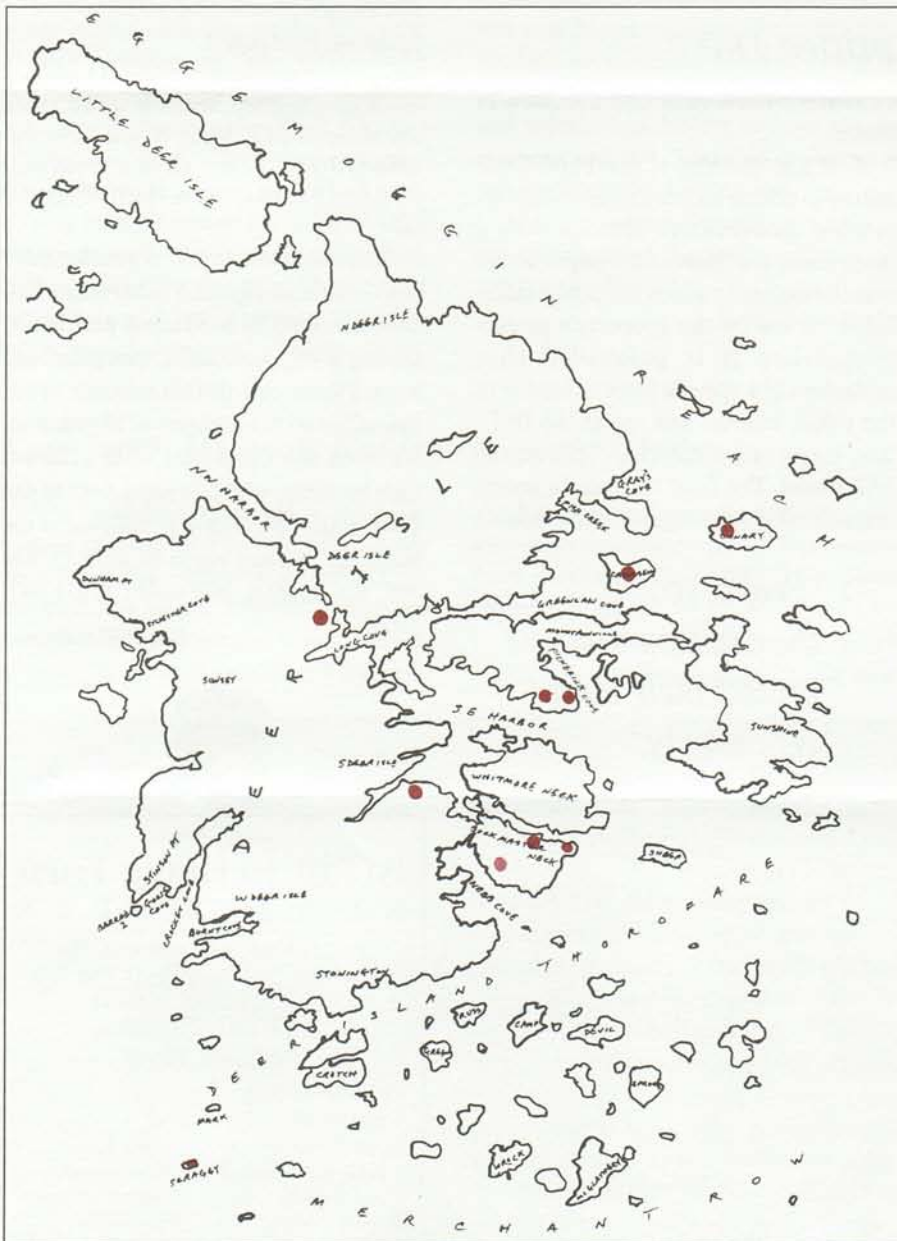
The Conservation Land Trust of
Deer Isle and Stonington, Maine, and Surrounding Islands



Volume VI, No. 1

Spring 1996

280 Acres and 5 Miles of Shoreline



Map of Deer Isle, Stonington and surrounding islands. The red circles identify the nine land conservation easements presently held by Island Heritage Trust. The lighter red circle in Buckmaster Neck, located in the eastern portion of Stonington, denotes the Settlement Quarry, where IHT will purchase 50 plus acres.

Message from the President

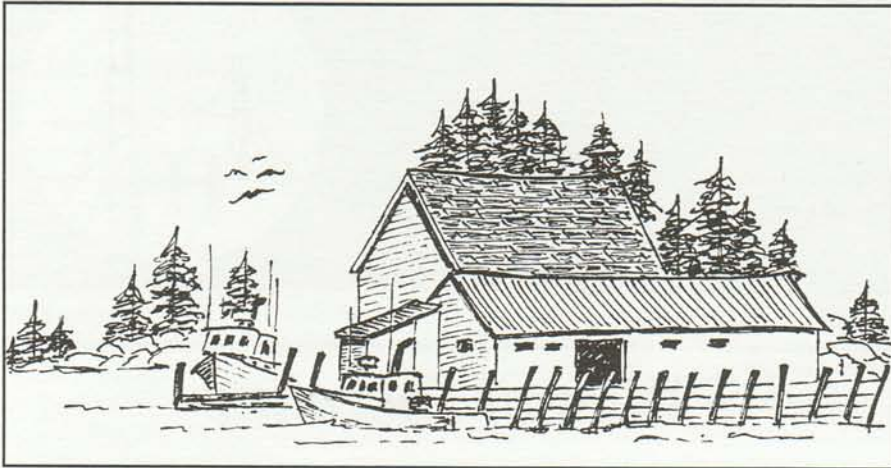
It's been nine years since Island Heritage Trust was founded, and thanks to your continuing, generous support we have plenty to be proud of. We hold nine conservation easements, have a growing number of probable new easements, and we expect soon to take title to 50 plus acres of the Settlement Quarry in Stonington. Our existing easements cover 280 acres and more than five miles of shoreline! The map on this page of the newsletter identifies our existing easements with red circles; the lighter red circle on Buckmaster Neck denotes the Settlement Quarry land.

We provide ongoing stewardship for all of the easements we hold, meaning that we assist the individual donors with their adherence to the terms of the respective easement documents. In addition, IHT recently entered into an agreement with The Nature Conservancy under which we are acting as stewards of the enlarged Barred Island Preserve.

Our mission "is to conserve significant open space, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, natural resources and historic and cultural features" in order to help maintain the character of this special Penobscot Bay area. We realize this must be accomplished in conjunction with a viable local economy, and we undertake our mission with this in mind. In all respects, we believe we continue to be pointed in the right direction.

IHT has been one of the most successful land trusts in Maine. We've had, and have, outstanding, committed board members with diverse backgrounds and areas of expertise. This has been an essential ingredient in our success. And

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What Does the Land Committee Do?

While land conservation is the primary mission of the Island Heritage Trust, it is landowners who ultimately must make the decision to protect their land. The efforts of IHT to preserve land on Deer Isle are dependent on the decisions of individual property owners, and their wishes to protect their land for the future.

The task of the Land Committee is to meet with landowners and to help them understand their conservation options and the steps that lead to long-term legal protection. In the process Land Committee members have become knowledgeable with respect to land-use patterns, local ordinances, environmental issues and tax considerations. However, the committee does not give expert advice – the owner’s lawyer and tax advisor do this – but we do raise key questions that previous experience has shown are important for landowners to address.

People reach the decision to protect their land very slowly. It is an irrevocable decision. They need to try the idea on for size and feel comfortable that it is the right thing to do. This means the Land Committee can be in conversation with a landowner for a number of years. At any one time we are generally in serious discussion with about a dozen landowners. New inquiries continually come to the Trust from people wanting to explore conservation options. At the same time, others with whom the committee has been talking decide either to finalize their conservation plans or not to go

ahead. In each case the decision is theirs.

It is also the role of the Land Committee to advise IHT trustees. While exploring conservation options with a landowner, the committee seeks to assess the degree to which the public interest is served by the property’s protection. When it is persuaded that protection of a specific piece of land is in the public interest and meets the IHT’s land conservation criteria, it informs the IHT Board. The final decision to accept responsibility for perpetual stewardship

“People reach the decision to protect their land very slowly.”

is serious business. It takes place only with the considered approval of the Board of Trustees.

In its nine years of life IHT has concluded nine conservation easements protecting more than five miles of shoreline. In the coming year we expect to conclude several additional protective agreements. This pace of concluding one or two projects a year is consistent with the experience of other land trusts in our area. While it is a slow process, the cumulative result over the years is preservation of Deer Isle’s present open and attractive scenic character – which is, after all, why we exist!

– Stan Myers

Wish List

Some things that IHT could use at its office:

- A small vacuum cleaner
- Low book shelves
- A sign painter’s talent



If you have anything to donate, give Pat Gross a call at 207-367-5950. Thanks for your help!

Message from the President

Continued from page 1

we’ve been blessed with a loyal and generous membership, without which there would be no IHT. Many of you have volunteered your time – often a great deal of it! And for that we are eternally grateful.

Thanks again to all of you for your help – financially and otherwise. You have assisted in producing and maintaining a very successful, energetic land trust. Please visit us this summer in our new office on Main Street in Stonington. We’re on the third floor of the Harbor Cafe building, which is right next to the Town Hall. Entrance is at the rear of the building. You can reach us at: P.O. Box 369, Stonington, ME 04681 (207) 367-5950.

– Roger Steinharter



Island Heritage Trust NEWSLETTER

is published twice a year by the
Island Heritage Trust, P. O. Box 369,
Stonington, Maine 04681.
Telephone 207-367-5950.

Peg Myers, *Editor*

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Settlement Quarry Update

We had hoped by the time this newsletter was mailed to you that we'd be able to announce we had taken title to 50 plus acres at the Settlement Quarry in Stonington. However, due to a problem with one of the other proposed buyers of the total Settlement Quarry of 70 plus acres, the closings have yet to occur. It's been frustrating for us, and we hope soon to be able to make a positive announcement.

In case you still aren't sure exactly where the Settlement Quarry is located, please refer to the map on the first page of this newsletter. You'll find the Settlement Quarry's somewhat lighter red circle on Buckmaster Neck, which is adjacent to Webb Cove (southeast portion of the map).

This past December we retained land use consultants to help us determine how best to utilize the property. Their report recommended two planned walking trails, included four colorful conceptual

watercolors of our plans for the property, an equally colorful map of the planned trails, and other site possibilities. We added a condensed history of the Settlement Quarry, so we now have a provocative informational packet. As you may know, this area was once the center of the granite industry. We think you'd find all of this interesting, and we look forward to the opportunity to discuss our plans with you.

As indicated in our fall newsletter, the 50 plus acres we will be purchasing will cost Island Heritage Trust \$75,000. To date we've raised \$16,500. We'll be looking to both our individual members and private foundations to raise the remaining \$58,500. Translation: Many of you just might be hearing from us!

We'd welcome the opportunity to show you around the acreage. The views are spectacular.

– Roger Steinharter



IHT Business Office Moved to Stonington

In the late fall it became necessary for the Trust to vacate its space in the Sunset post office building and relocate its business office to Main Street in Stonington over the Harbor Cafe. By entering from the rear and climbing a flight of stairs, members and friends can find IHT occupying two attractive rooms, one of which affords space for small committee meetings. Because of this move we have a new address and phone:

**P.O. Box 369
Stonington, ME 04681
207-367-5950**

New Faith Munson Notecards in the Works

The handsome notecards of Deer Isle scenes painted by Faith Munson have been a popular money-raiser for IHT for the past two years. Friends and members of IHT have admired three familiar scenes – Stonington seen from the water,

the bridge over Eggmoggin Reach, and the view from Caterpillar Hill – and have purchased the beautiful notecards in great numbers.

This year we are happy to report that Faith Munson has painted some new

scenes of Deer Isle that will be reproduced in a new set of cards to be available this summer. The latest scenes will include a view of Barred Island across water, sunset at Eggmoggin Reach, a Stonington Harbor scene in the fog, and the woods at Goose Cove. As a way of celebrating Faith Munson's talent there will be an opening of a show of her paintings, including the ones selected for the IHT notecards, at the Eastern Bay Gallery in Stonington on July 28th. IHT is very grateful to Faith Munson for her interest in and support of the Trust in this tangible gift of her work, and to Kate Fairchild for her help in the production of the cards.

In the meantime the original set of cards can still be purchased at \$10/pack from the IHT office (P.O. Box 369, Stonington, ME 04681, 207-367-5950) or from Harbor Farm, P. O. Box 64, Little Deer Isle, ME 04650. Please add \$2.50 for postage.

– Peg Myers



IHT Joins Efforts for Island Swimming Pool

Again this year Island Heritage Trust will join the Island Fishermen's Wives in cosponsoring a street dance on Stonington's waterfront to benefit the Community Swimming Pool Project. IHT is happy to be a part of the Island-wide effort to raise the money for building a pool where all Island residents can learn to swim.

Carl Chase and his steel drum band will provide the rousing music for dancing once again. There will be a raffle with many great prizes, lots of good eats as well as the chance to swing to the beat of Flash-in-the-Pan's irresistible rhythms. IHT will have a sales and information booth at the dance. The date is Monday, August 12, at 6 p.m. Don't miss it! Get in the swim!

— Rowan Wakefield

Annual Meeting

Island Heritage Trust's 1996 annual membership meeting will once again be held at the Island Country Club. The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 17th. Please mark your calendars.

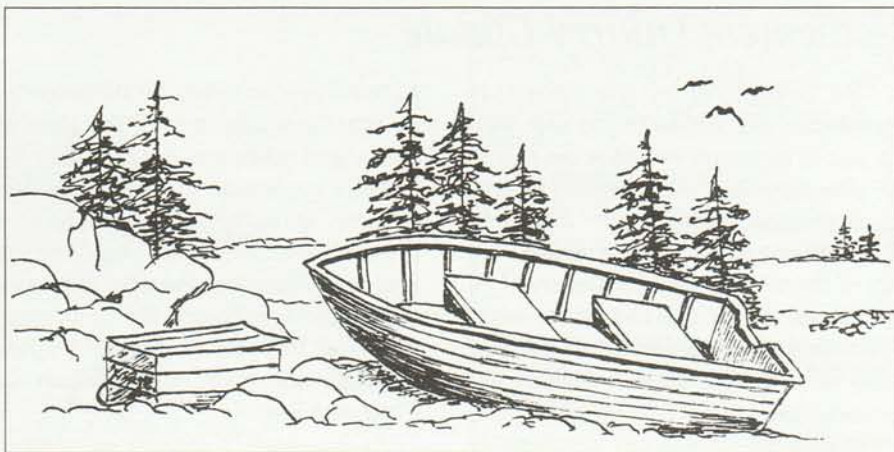
We're fortunate this year to have as our speaker Kyle Stockwell, a dynamic land steward for the Maine Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He's been with TNC for five years and has responsibility for the management of TNC's 82 nature preserves, including the Barred Island Preserve here on Deer Isle. IHT has responsibility for the stewardship of the Barred Island Preserve.

The Maine chapter of The Nature Conservancy was established in 1956 and now has 11,000 members. TNC has conservation responsibilities for 100,000 Maine acres, 22,000 of which are owned by TNC. Fifty-two islands are represented in the acres TNC owns. They work with five other land trusts like Island Heritage Trust in the protection and management of conserved acreage.

You'll want to attend this meeting to hear Kyle's talk, part of which will bring you up to date regarding access to Barred Island. Of course, there'll be time for questions.

Plan to attend. We've been assured that the evening of July 17th will be cool and comfortable!

— Roger Steinharter



Our New Video Draws Praises

The Trust has had very positive feedback from those who have seen our new video – a 12-minute, professionally produced tape telling what IHT is all about and answering common questions about conservation easements.

Narrated by Cherie Mason, the video presents dramatic pictures of the beauty of Deer Isle – the kind of beauty that the Trust is working to preserve for the future – along with historical photographs of the Island. At the heart of the video are interviews with a landowner, who has donated a conservation easement on his property, and with local supporters of IHT who love the Island and want to see its beauty preserved.

The Trust has given copies of the video to libraries on the Island, to the Historical Society, and to other conservation groups. A screening was held at the high school and viewings have been arranged for easement donors and for members and friends of IHT. Rowan Wakefield will be heading up the video education project, and he will be happy to arrange for groups or individuals to view the video. If you would like to see the video and learn more about IHT, please call Rowan Wakefield (207) 348-6400 or the IHT office (207) 367-5950.

— Gordon Rittmeyer

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