

# ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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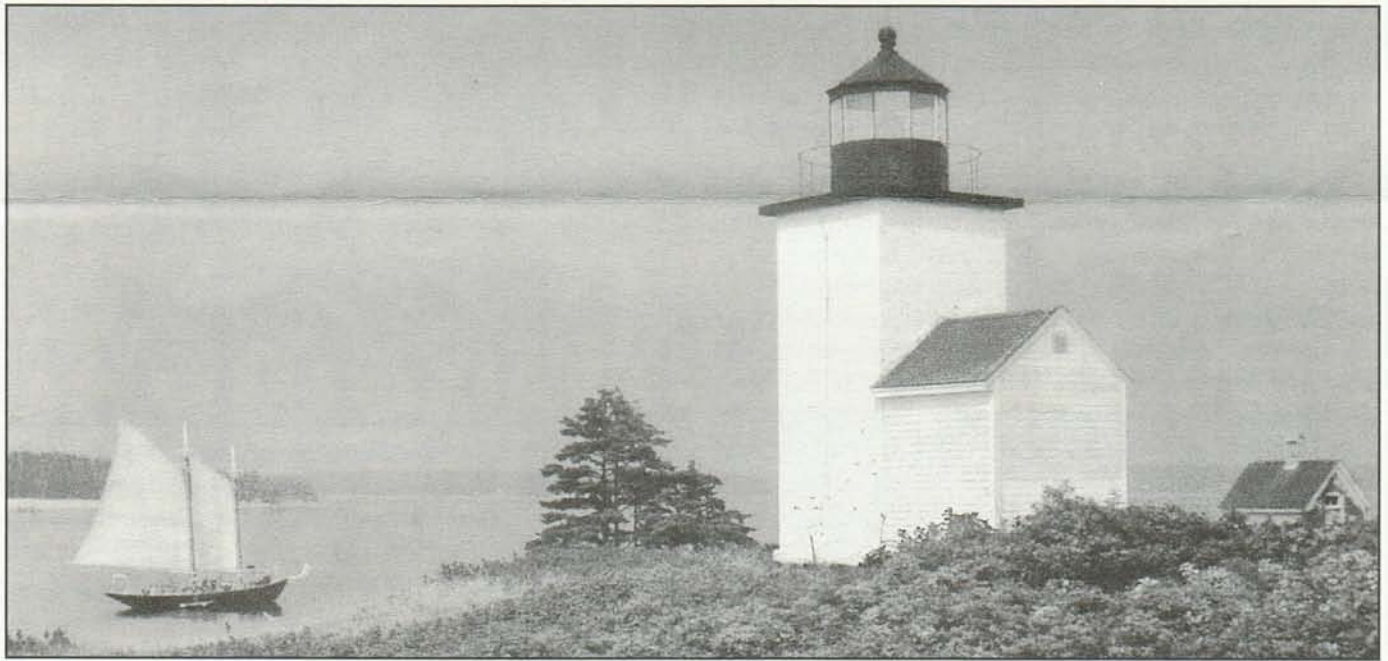


PHOTO BY JOHN W. BRAINERD

*Mark Island Light*

## *President's Report: New and Growing Responsibilities*

**A**t last! We've been officially notified by the Maine Lights Program that the Island Heritage Trust is to receive the deed for the Deer Island Thorofare (Mark Island) lighthouse station. We're in the process of dotting the "i's" and crossing the "t's" in legal language and expect to have the deed in hand within a matter of weeks. In recent years the Coast Guard has abandoned the maintenance of its lighthouses.

Through a successful program initiated by the Island Institute, lighthouses on the Maine coast are to be transferred to qualifying organizations that will assure their continued upkeep. Not only does IHT become the owner of a lighthouse but also a lovely six-acre is-

land and seabird nesting site as well.

A happy celebratory party was sponsored by an informal group of local Mark Island Light buffs. Three hundred people showed up despite a snow storm! As part of the celebration an auction of items from lobster traps to fine arts raised nearly \$2,000 to help IHT with its lighthouse stewardship costs. Lighthouse buff par excellence, Marnie Reed Crowell, who helped spark the party, has agreed to be the island's Senior Steward. If you want to help, give her a call! She is organizing our stewardship activities.

The list of IHT activities these past months is a good one. In addition to moving from Stonington to

our new office on Main Street in Deer Isle, making the final arrangements to receive Mark Island, and working on the Settlement Quarry project, we have continued our discussions with a number of landowners (including owners of individual islands) about various land conservation projects. We are also exploring ways to pull together a natural resources inventory for all of Deer Isle. There have been a variety of studies made over the years. We want to collect and consolidate this information to help us better identify environmentally significant land. In turn this should help us with the setting of priorities.

*Continued on page 2*

## President's Report

Continued from page 1

We've drawn a simple graph showing the significant increase in IHT protected land in recent years. We have every expectation that the upward trend will continue in 1998 and beyond.

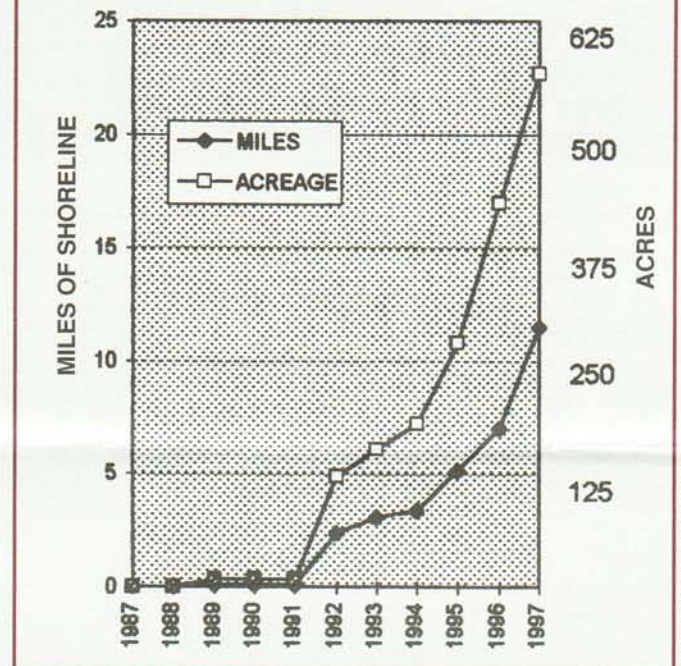
Stewardship responsibilities vary significantly depending on who owns the protected property. Stewardship of land owned by IHT carries with it all the obligations one normally assumes with land ownership including picking up the trash! We currently own four islands as well as the Settlement Quarry. As all these properties are available for public use and enjoyment, they need fairly close oversight to keep them attractive and to assure the natural order is not overly stressed.

Monitoring private land protected by a conservation easement is quite a different kind of stewardship. It is much less time demanding but it has its own requirements. Monitoring means understanding the legal restrictions of a conservation easement and their implications, keeping in touch with the owners of the property, answering their questions, and seeing that the wishes of the easement donor are honored. The responsibility for maintaining the property in the traditional sense remains that of the landowner. IHT stewards are happy to assist a land owner with beach cleanup if asked, or with trail maintenance if public access is permitted, but the ultimate responsibility rests as it should with the owner of the land.

As we increase the land we own as well as the land we are responsible for, we have had to take a new look at how we best organize ourselves for this important stewardship task. In the past the Stewardship Committee as a whole has tried to be informed about all our protected properties. Now we believe appointing a single Senior Steward for each of our protected

### Land Protected by the Island Heritage Trust

Total 1987 to date



GRAPH BY ROBERT HARRIS

Protected land under the Island Heritage Trust's Stewardship Program includes land covered by conservation easements, land owned outright by the Island Heritage Trust, and land held in partnership with The Nature Conservancy. For 1998 more land is expected to come under protection by the year's end.

properties will better ensure that we properly carry out our responsibilities. We will look to them to identify and organize the tasks to be done, and when extra hands are required, draw on the wider pool of IHT volunteers. And we're looking to you to help us expand that volunteer roster! Want to help? Give us a call (207 348-2455).

## Islanders Celebrate Mark Island's History

In spite of the weather some three hundred hardy islanders braved a snow storm to come to the DI-S High School to celebrate the significance of Mark Island and its history to the Island. It was a gala affair with a sit-down dinner, music, entertainment, and an auction.

Guests were greeted by a flashing lighthouse several feet high. A lighthouse keeper who tended the light in the 1940's was the guest of honor. About thirty descendants of former Mark Island lighthouse

keepers came from near and far, some from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, bringing memorabilia and artifacts, including keepers' logs that tell the sagas of rescues off the island. The evening's program included children performing in a skit, "The Tale of the Royal Tar," based on the legendary sinking of a circus ship in the 19th century, which by tradition resulted in lions, tigers, and an elephant washing up on local islands off Stonington.

Local merchants, innkeepers,

and seafood dealers donated roast beef and hundreds of pounds of lobster, shrimp, and scallops for dinner. An auction of lobster traps, ship models, a granite table, lighthouse paintings, and crafts was held to raise money for future maintenance of the lighthouse. Many islanders worked very hard in the organizing of this successful event, which was one of the highlights of the winter for the community.

Marnie Reed Crowell

## What's Happening at the Settlement Quarry?

There has been real progress since our last report in making this 50-acre Stonington landmark easier to visit. The parking area is now in place and will be completed with some final grading and the installation of a drainage culvert at the entrance on Oceanville Road. Construction of the entrance kiosk will start once the ground dries out and the weather improves. Our schedule calls for this work to be completed by June 15th. Ian Walker's willingness to oversee these construction activities makes us all comfortable that

things will be done right!

Ann Hooke, who has laid out the trails and then mapped them, reports that while some final cleanup is planned, they are really ready for use now. An enlarged version of Ann's map will be displayed at the entrance kiosk to orient visitors.

A very good brochure about the quarry is being produced by Diane Walker and will be available soon. It brings together information about the geological and industrial history of the site, along with a copy of Ann's trail map. It's hard to

imagine today how important the Settlement Quarry was to the town of Stonington 75 years ago. It was its largest employer in a tough and dangerous business. The brochure and other informational signs Diane has developed go a long way to helping a visitor see the area in a more complete way. The view from the top of the quarry continues to speak for itself and needs no interpretation. Come see for yourself!

*Gordon Rittmeyer  
for the Planning Committee*

## Ann Hooke, Trailmaster

Ann Hooke of Deer Isle has created six trail maps for walking trails around the island, including one for the Settlement Quarry that will appear in the new IHT brochure for the Quarry. You may have used her maps if you have walked at the Edgar Tennis Preserve or at Barred Island, or picked up "Walking Trails of Deer Isle" at IHT. Her maps also appear in the booklets *Wild Flowering Plants of Deer Isle* and *Quick Key to Birds of Deer Isle*, published by the Deer Isle Conservation Commission.

Ann has had a love of the outdoors since childhood. Her interest in the natural world has taken her and her geologist husband, Roger Hooke, throughout New England, North America, Iceland, and to the far parts of Europe and Asia. They have been to Scandinavia, Scotland, New Zealand, Tibet, Nepal, and Turkestan. "Living year-round in Deer Isle has given me a chance to nurture my love of tramping around in the woods," Ann said. She went on to describe



PHOTO BY ROWAN WAKEFIELD

*Ann Hooke puts a finishing touch on a trail map for the new IHT brochure.*

the usefulness of trail maps. "Maps and trails do more than bring people into the woods. They allow urban people to rediscover the world of nature, and allow rural people a chance to rediscover the richness and beauty at our doorstep. But people must learn

how to be in the woods and increase their respect for the natural world. A marked trail and a map help open the door to seeing our planet as our precious home to be cherished."

*Rowan Wakefield*

## New IHT Office Open This Summer

PHOTO BY ROWAN WAKEFIELD

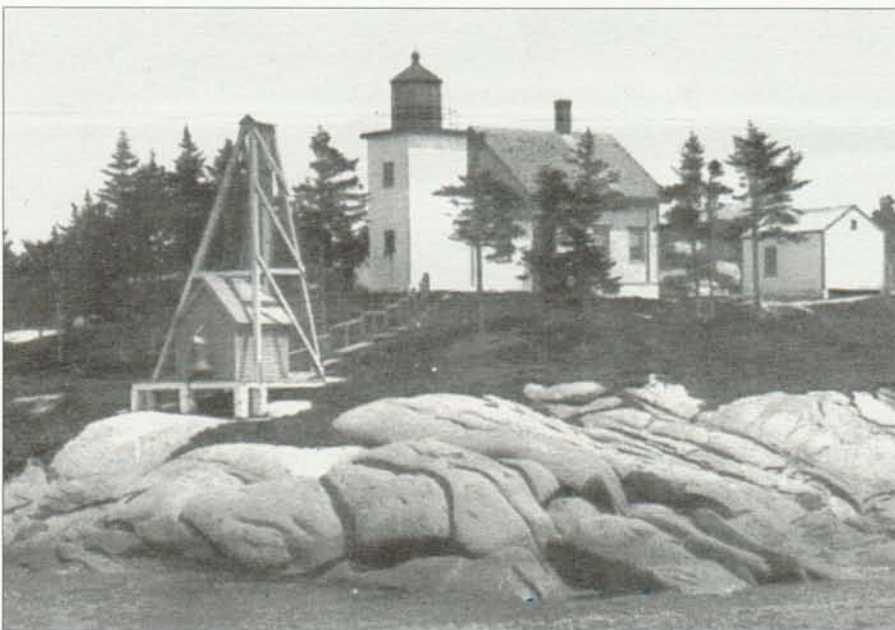


Pat Gross at the computer in the new IHT office in Deer Isle.

After not having had a public information office in 1997 because affordable space was not available, this summer, thanks to our loyal volunteers, IHT will once again be open to the public for information and for sales of our maps, cards, and T-shirts. We will be at a new location on Main Street in Deer Isle Village. Here we will share the office with Pat Gross, who so skillfully manages business matters for IHT.

There is plenty of room for us in the spacious storefront office opposite the old Deer Isle post office building, and we are working on making it an attractive, welcoming place. Once again Fran Peterson has kindly agreed to coordinate the volunteers to staff the office. If you are free to give a couple of hours once a week between July 1st and the end of August, please call the office (207-348-2455). We look forward to showing off our new "digs."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, 1895



### Save the Date: Annual Meeting Wednesday, July 15, 1998

Island Country Club  
7:00 pm

Join us for an interesting program and reports on IHT's plans and progress.

### Consider a Bequest to the Island Heritage Trust

One significant way to preserve the Island and its natural beauty for your children, grandchildren, and others is to leave a bequest to the Island Heritage Trust in support of its mission of environmental and scenic protection for Deer Isle and Stonington.

For more information about how to leave a bequest, ask for our brochure on bequests by writing or phoning our office: IHT, P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627 (207-348-2455).



### Island Heritage Trust NEWSLETTER

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