

# ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



Volume XVIII, No. 1

Spring 2009

## Scott's Landing – A Hot Spot

Chip Moseley, a retired veterinarian from Sedgwick, has been bird-watching for more than 50 years. "I've had the honor of birding with some of the best birders in the world." When asked what his favorite spot on the island is, Moseley's ready answer is Scott's Landing. "It's a hot spot," he declares. "I can stop there for just a few minutes and count on seeing at least a couple dozen species. Now and



Photo—Anne Douglass

### Second graders enjoy Scott's Landing.

then, often enough to keep me on the alert, I see something unexpected, like I did last fall." What Moseley was lucky enough to spot was a Varied Thrush, a species on the Audubon "watchlist." Native to the Pacific Northwest, a handful of these birds show up in the East each year. Similar in size and shape to a Robin, it is boldly patterned in slate, rust and black. Easy to identify—if you know

what you are looking at and, like Moseley, sharp enough to recognize a rare migrant.

What makes Scott's Landing a hot spot? Birds like "edges:" a shoreline fringed with seaweed and barnacles, the shrubby border where a meadow meets the forest, thickets rimming a marsh. Edges have a mix of vegetation, habitat and wildlife. Mother Nature's favorite sort of neighborhood. Scott's Landing is a maze of edges, offering the most diverse food menu, nesting sites, nesting materials and cover from predators in a compact 24-acre area. "The whole name of the game is habitat," notes Moseley.

Birds respond to seasonal "edges," too. Spring and fall are migration times. Breeding warblers and other song birds are arriving daily now from the Caribbean, Mexico and Latin America. A keen observer can see a dozen different species of warblers this time of year and Scott's Landing is a "hot spot" to try. While he enjoys birdwatching, Moseley feels "the most worthwhile thing I can do is to collect data and pass that on, helping to provide a scientific basis for habitat preservation." IHT will soon be making this a lot easier to do by setting up a wildlife sightings blog on its website: birds, mammals, amphibians, reptiles and even plants. Send your e-mail address to [iht@islandheritagetrust.com](mailto:iht@islandheritagetrust.com) for information about contributing sightings.

If warblers are the darlings of spring song birds, and they are...

then wild flowers are the floral equivalent. Local botanist, Sally Rooney, was delighted to find a sizable patch of trout lilies, aka dog



Trout Lily

tooth violets (*Erythronium americanum*) at Scott's Landing. This woody, humus-loving plant is so named because the mottled leaves resemble a dappled trout. Furthermore, the yellow flowers bloom at the same time that fishermen are casting their flies (and swatting the black ones buzzing around their heads). Rooney surmises that years of farming on the site have created an unusually rich layer of soil that is inviting to this very appealing plant that typically favors the deep soils found in forests.

Both Chip Moseley and Sally Rooney will be guiding walks during the May 15-17 Wings, Waves and Woods—Birding and Art—Festival. Check [www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org) for a complete schedule. The Walks & Talks roster has more than thirty opportunities to learn from an expert, visit an island, paddle our shores and care for a preserve. Join in!

Anne Beerits



### From The Executive Director: Mike Little

By the time you read this spring will be turning into summer. Today, spring arrived on a blustery north wind, chilling the island in spite of the bright sunshine. Signs of the change of season are all around us: reports of grackles and turkey vultures, a woodcock seen on Dunham Point Road; seed racks appearing at V&S and M.D. Joyce's. The island is thawing out - and hope for the new season blossoms.

We are talking with landowners about a couple of conservation easements that will add to the protected lands of the islands; our school programs are growing in sophistication and impact; the Lands Committee is engaged in an in-depth look at the land and resources of the island so that we can best focus our limited time and money on those projects that will bring the most bang-for-the-buck.

Looking at Island Heritage Trust and the coming year, I feel hope. The world may be in crisis, but IHT ended last year with a balanced budget! Early revenues are not far off from last year's and I know that you will give as much as you are able to protect the land and waters of the island we all love - so I am hopeful for the new year! You can call me Pollyanna, but I have been so impressed by the wonderful people who make up IHT that I think that this will be a great year for your land trust.

### From the President: Linda Campbell

As this is my first "letter from the President," I have much to say but little space in which to do so. First, I am honored to have been elected president. I could hardly have imagined that I would head the organization that helped lead me to move here full-time. I am constantly awestruck not only by the unique beauty that IHT has so steadfastly worked to protect, but by the true sense of community on the island. Whether we live here year round or for just a few weeks, most of us are here for two reasons: the natural beauty and the community. Since 1987, IHT has protected an astounding 1200+ acres through conservation easements and fee owned properties. We must continue to protect both the environment and public access, but also foster collaborations with other island organizations to strengthen and bring creativity to our collective efforts.



This newsletter highlights both the wonderful results of our preservation of Scott's Landing (p. 1) and our continued collaboration with Opera House Arts (p. 6). Recently, IHT and the Island Community Housing Group submitted a joint grant application to secure an Americorps member who will work with both organizations. The island has been designated as the least affordable community in Maine. Affordable housing with a conservation component makes sense. We are very excited about the possibilities in this new partnership.

With a recently adopted Strategic Plan (12/08), new financial controls, a 2008 balanced budget and a tireless hardworking executive director (Mike Little), Island Heritage Trust is poised to continue to protect the island, the community and the cultural heritage that we so dearly cherish. Thank you to all who have volunteered and donated to our beloved organization. Keep it coming!



#### ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST NEWSLETTER

Mission Statement  
The Mission of the Island Heritage Trust is to conserve significant open space, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, natural resources, historic and cultural features that offer public benefit and are essential to the character of the Deer Isle area.

420 Sunset Road  
PO Box 42  
Deer Isle, ME 04627  
207-348-2455  
iht@islandheritagetrust.org  
[www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org)  
Mike Little, Executive Director  
George Fields, Stewardship Coordinator

<b>Trustees</b>	<b>of</b>	<b>IHT</b>
Linda Campbell		President
Bill Haviland		Vice President
Pete Dane		Treasurer
Cathy Hart		Secretary
Brian Clough		Rena Day
Josephine Jacob		Sally Mills
Judy McCaskey		Ann Hooke
Chick White		Anne Beerits
Roger Bergen		

## Outreach Programs at the Elementary School

Elementary school field trips to island preserves give an opportunity for hands on learning in a natural setting.

The kindergarten and first grades should get an award for being intrepid this winter. Both classes had trips that challenged the organizers! And added more items to the trip planning checklist. A “no-show” bus taught us the value of a song repertoire to keep spirits up while Plan B is determined. After bundling up on a very cold day it would have been a shame to go back to the kindergarten room without at least getting out into the sun and snow. So, with no bus, the class investigated the shapes of trees in winter and collected some winter weeds behind the school. Then we had an aerobic workout trampling a huge circle in the deep snow on the soccer field.

After a snow-day interfered with the original date, it took two weeks to reschedule the first grade trip to Causeway Beach (we have learned to check the tide table). When we finally got there it was amazing to see all the debris tangled in the sea weed on the beach. When we had left the beach after our fall visit it was pristine!

The mystery of the day was a strange growth found on a piece of rockweed. It was later identified by Mike Little as the calcareous tubes of *Spirorbis borealis* (a type of marine worm).

The Deer Isle Conservation Commission is looking for a few good Vernal Pools—to certify. If you would like to see if your pool qualifies for protection, please contact the Chair of the Commission, Jane McCloskey 348-6075

Plans are beginning to take shape for spring field trips to the preserves. More teachers are beginning to take us up on the offer of pre-trip discussions in the classroom. Brainstorming in advance of a preserve visit helps kids connect their classroom learning with what they might discover at “their” preserve.

We are looking for people who would like to join the School Outreach effort and share their enthusiasm for the natural world in the classroom or in the field. Students and teachers welcome



Photo courtesy of Anne Douglass

### Mike Little examining seaweed with first graders

our involvement. A visit to a class can be as short as a “morning meeting” appearance or as long as it takes to coach a student working on a quarterly project. Each class at the Elementary School has adopted a preserve: kindergarten – Reach

Beach; 1st grade—Causeway Beach; 2nd grade—Scott’s Landing; 3rd grade—Mariner’s Park; 4th grade—Shore Acres; 5th grade—Settlement Quarry; 6th grade—Barred Island; 7th grade—Pine Hill; and 8th grade—Tennis Preserve.

Call or email Jo Jacob (348-6997, [jjacob31@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jjacob31@myfairpoint.net)) to help Adopt A Preserve grow.

Jo Jacob  
Outreach Chair

## Saving Salamanders

A dozen of us spent more than an hour on the night of April 6--in the dark, in a driving rain, with gusting winds—happily gawking at spotted salamanders. Doug Wilson ushered us to the vernal pool behind his studio where we found a dozen or so of the 6-8” creatures noted for their annual migration from the woodland duff to the “mating pool.” (Because they dry up in the summer, vernal pools are not viable habitat for predator fish.) Then, in a hands-on contribution to species survival we helped dozens more get to the vernal pool side of the (Eggemoggin) road! Check the IHT website for two more vernal pool activities in early May.



Photo—Leo Kenny

## Dick and Carol Bridges: "Grabbing an Oar"

Ask Dick and Carol Bridges why they serve as stewards for Island Heritage Trust and Dick points out that the IHT "has achieved a good balance in preserving the land." Carol adds with an engaging grin, "If you want a say in the direction the boat is going, you better grab an oar."

Carol remembers that she got involved with the Island Heritage Trust many years ago, shortly after its founding, when people like Rowan Wakefield, Ken and Cherie Mason, and Dud Hendrick "tapped her on the shoulder." A realtor with Shepard's for almost as long, she acknowledges ruefully that in those early years, raising two daughters and with a demanding job, her support had to be, by necessity, limited. "Even then I was an interested party, but you can't always do everything you want," Carol explains. That has changed with time and she, together with her fisherman husband, Dick, have served Deer Isle as stewards for IHT for the past several years. They go on to say that despite very real concerns by islanders that land going to the Trust leaves the tax rolls and ultimately may limit the availability of land for purchase, nevertheless, IHT "opens up the shore to people who might not have access otherwise, as well as woods and trails that might not be there



Photo—Anne Sigmund

for the public to use."

Dick and Carol are stewards for St. Helena island, visible from Stonington harbor. As stewards, the Bridges are obliged to visit the island at least once a year to determine whether the terms of its conservancy are being met. In reality, Dick, a fisherman on Deer Isle for some five decades, passes within fifty feet of St. Helena's every time he goes out in the Katherine-Ellen, named, of course, after their two daughters. That's easily 200 days out of the year and he pays attention to the island. An aspect of their service as stewards that the Bridges have enjoyed has been getting to know the island's owners, who live in Camden and have had a camp on St. Helena's for decades.

One of the issues that the Bridges feel strongly about is preserving what makes Deer Isle a special place, "a good place to live. People here help one another," Dick explains. "And they work together if there is a need."

That said, he goes on to note that things are very tough right now. "A fisherman can't survive on \$2 a pound lobster. If we lose fishing, the character of the island is gone." That's why people have to get involved, Carol concludes, and for us "working with the Island Heritage Trust is one of the ways we can help set the course for the island's future."

Anne Sigmund

### Volunteer Opportunities FMI call 207-348-2455

#### Office/Nature Shop

Greet visitors, answer phone, sell shop items, assist with office tasks

#### Walks & Talks

Greet and orient participants at a Walks & Talks activity, collect names/contact info, and enjoy the program yourself!

#### Become a Volunteer Steward

All of IHT preserves and conservation easements are assigned a steward who visits the property annually and ensures compliance with the easement term or with management goals.

#### Preserve Workdays

May 8-9 *Scott's Landing*  
May 16 *Pine Hill*  
May 20-21 *Crockett Cove Woods & Barred Island*

=====

June 6— *World Ocean Day Wreck, Round and Millet Islands*  
Boats and bodies needed!  
348-2455

=====

June 8 *Tennis Preserve*  
July 17-18 *Shore Acres*  
July 27 *Settlement Quarry*  
August 3 *Tennis Preserve*

#### In Memoriam

During 2008, IHT received gifts in Memory of:

*Margaret Brush*  
*Theresa Metcalf*  
*Pete Peterson*  
*Roger Steinharter*  
*Anne Van Buren*

## Tennis Preserve Plaque

Last fall, Ann Hooke and Joe Dorr installed an informational plaque, donated by Dr. Matthew Asbornsen and his wife Mimi (Tennis) Asbornsen, at the Tennis Preserve cemetery. The plaque provides some of the Toothaker family history as researched by Dr. Asbornsen, and is the second sign donated by the Asbornsens for the Tennis Preserve. The first plaque, located at what was once the Davis farm, shows the buildings that once comprised the farm and traces the Davis family history. Mimi Asbornsen's father, Dr. Edgar Tennis, donated the original acreage to the State of Maine establishing the preserve that now bears his name. The Asbornsens have since donated additional land to the State of Maine to expand the Tennis Preserve to its present 145 acres. IHT holds conservation easements on 45 of those acres and works with the State to manage the entire preserve.

### Stewardship

The most exciting news to report about the preserves is that birders have discovered the remarkable variety of field, wood-



Photo Elke Dorr

### Joe Dorr and Ann Hooke setting up a plaque at Tennis Preserve

land, shore and water birds that can be found at Scott's Landing. A well-known local birder, Chip Moseley, has been raving about the birds there, saying it is the "best birding spot on Deer Isle!" An extra bonus is that the eagles are again nesting on Carney Island and can be viewed, as last year, from the Causeway Beach.

By the time you read this, mud season will be a messy memory, but the wrath that winter wreaked on the trees and shores of the preserves will still be in evidence. Each year volunteers step forward to help open the trails. Would you like to join this effort during this spring or summer? Check out the schedule

of workdays listed in the newsletter (p. 4). To keep our two beaches, the Causeway Beach and Reach Beach at Gray's Cove, clean, individuals, organizations, and families sign up for a week to clean one beach or the other. To do this, contact the IHT office 348-2455.

To keep IHT's islands clean, we depend on willing skippers with boats and willing hands to do the bending and scrambling along rocky shores. Do you enjoy an excuse to get out on the water and have a boat that can land people on islands? Join us on June 6<sup>th</sup> for an island clean-up. And notice that our [Wish List](#) (p. 5) includes an aluminum skiff and a trailer.

*Ann Hooke  
Stewardship Chair*

=====  
[www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org)

Join IHT or donate online  
Sign up for PDF version of the  
Newsletter  
Updates for Walks & Talks  
Special Events  
Useful Links  
Island Wildlife Inventory

=====  
[Leave a lasting legacy](#)  
[Remember IHT in your will.](#)

## Island Heritage Trust Membership

**I/we want to help IHT preserve the natural beauty and way of life on Deer Isle now and for future generations**

**Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership donation**

\$250 Conservator  \$100 Sustaining  \$50 Family  \$35 Individual

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Electronic newsletter (PDF)  yes!

**A remarkable 70% of IHT's operating budget comes from member donations!**

**Thank you for joining that effort!**

*Please mail form to: Island Heritage Trust / PO Box 42 / Deer Isle, ME 04627*

## Space as Art: Dancing in the Quarry

When Island Heritage Trust bought the Settlement Quarry in Stonington, dancing in it was far from anyone’s mind. But, the open space with wonderful views of the sea and inner islands, and terraces made by quarrying, is a natural amphitheater.

Alison Chase saw it as a performance space. Looking for an outside space in 2003 for a project Opera House Arts was sponsoring, she says, “Once I saw the Quarry, I knew instantly...when I walked up that road and saw the flat place and the ocean behind it...”

That year a five-day workshop, with both community members and professional dancers participating, led to a small performance at the Quarry. It showed Chase that she needed “color and scale” in the next piece and, after seeing Mia Kanazawa (dancer, puppeteer and artist) perform “Come, Stay, Go,” at the Opera House, Chase knew she had found her “partner in crime.”

At the Quarry, Kanazawa looked at a piece of cable lying on the ground and said, “Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we could animate it.” And so they did. Kanazawa and her husband Mark Kinchi

created a 30-foot tall man who looked as if he was made of cable, and, using Rick Weed’s excavator to hang Cableman from, and a lot of community members from Brooksville to work the arms and legs when Cableman walked, a star was born.

The first performance, in 2006, led to the 2007 performance that people are still talking about. By 2007 Chase said they “cleaned up the narrative, and learned what would and wouldn’t translate from the gym floor,” the site of some rehearsals, to the Quarry. As Chase says, “We didn’t want to do ‘Our Town.’”

And they aren’t going to this year, either. “Habitat,” due to be performed in August, is, according to Kanazawa, “what happens



Photo—Alice Wilkinson

### Mia Kanazawa and Alison Chase

in the Quarry when no one is there.” Not exactly no one: there will be an excavator and dancers. Oh, and Charlie Peabody and his tow truck.

This year is development year for “Habitat.” Chase says, “If we had to do it in one year, it would be very hard.” Next year it will be as finished as dance pieces can be.

What makes these pieces so remarkable is the access Chase and Kanazawa have to the Quarry. “Usually,” they say, “a site-specific piece is developed off the site. Then a stage is built, and the piece is performed.” This is very different. So unusual, in fact, that Mike Little has been asked to speak at the Maine Land Trust Conference in May on unusual community collaborations.



Shadbush at Settlement Quarry

Photo—Barbara Southworth

### Items IHT could use: Wish List

- Bookcase for the office
- Gas-powered brush cutter
- Outdoor thermometer
- Bird feeders
- Utility trailer
- Aluminum skiff, motor and trailer
- Bluebird houses
- Small tables for shop



### Winterfest 2009.

Making peanut buttered pine cones for the birds

### IHT Nature Shop

After a successful first season in our new facility, the IHT Nature Shop is gearing up for 2009. You will find: plush Audubon birds from Wild Republic; field guides (including several specific to Deer Isle); note cards by various island artists; and "The Best Map of Deer Isle" (a compilation of nine USGS topographic maps). To these have been added a selection of binoculars for the beginning birder; pocket magnifiers and hand lenses for the experienced, as well as budding naturalist; IHT logo caps and T's; posters, and puzzles, yo-yos and other rainy day amusements. The Shop is open daily from 8-4pm, but it is always best to call ahead.

### Seals and More

IHT member Anne Sigmund recently had a visitor to her shore—a young harp seal. Called a "beater" these are post-weaning juveniles who have gone on "swim-about" exploring far from their Arctic home. These, along with Hooded Seals are generally called "Ice Seals," and in recent years they have been coming to our shores in late winter.



Photo Howard Willingham

In January, IHT Executive Director Mike Little attended a Seal Stranding Workshop given by Allied Whale at the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. IHT is now part of the reporting network for seal and other marine mammal strandings.

If you see a seal or other marine creature on your shore, you should report it to IHT (348-2455) or the stranding hotline at 207-288-5644 and someone will come to investigate. Often, as in the

### Coming this Spring!

#### Mark Island

#### Light

by Marnie Reed Crowell.



IHT is republishing this very readable and enjoyable history of the Deer Island Thorofare Light in order to raise funds for the ongoing maintenance of the 1857 lighthouse. Both Mark Island and its lighthouse belong to IHT. While the Coast Guard maintains the light and foghorn, IHT must maintain the building. You can help by buying this book or contributing directly to the Mark Island Light Fund at IHT, PO Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627. Price \$12.50 plus tax.

case of Anne's visitor, these fellows are just resting up or sunbathing! Usually, they are soon on their way without any help from humans. All seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Please observe them from a distance. They are wild animals, and they bite!



IHT Walks & Talks continue through the winter with Birding Adventures

Photo: Jo Jacob

Enjoy birding by land, by sea and by art at this island-wide festival celebrating the spring bird migration. This annual event, now in its third year, is a collaboration between Island Heritage Trust, Deer Isle-Stonington Chamber of Commerce and the Downeast Chapter of the Maine Audubon Society. We are fortunate to have Bob Duchesne, founder of the Maine Birding Trail, with us for the entire weekend. He will be presenting *Birding By Ear* on Saturday, May 17, at 7 PM, at the Deer Isle Congregational Church hall after a local foods supper featuring Dick Bridges's wonderful fish chowder. The event kicks off on Friday, May 15, at 5 PM, with an exhibit and reception at the Ron Pearson Legacy Gallery. Weekend activities include guided walks, offshore boat trips to see puffins and pelagics, kayaking, introductory sessions for beginners, as well as tips for backyard birding and feeding. The island's lively art community offers exhibits, demos and studio walk-throughs. FMI call 348-2455 or check [www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org) for a complete schedule.



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST  
P.O. BOX 42  
DEER ISLE, ME 04627  
(207) 348-2455

# Wings, Waves & Woods

A Festival of Birding & Art



Melissa Greene, Fishing Loons

May 15, 16, & 17, 2009  
Deer Isle, Maine

Poster by Rebecca Daugherty

Address Service Requested