

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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A FAMILY AFFAIR: CREATING A CONSERVATION EASEMENT WITH THE FUTURE IN MIND

Marnie and Ken Crowell created their first conservation easement in 1989, a bold act given that the process itself was still in its infancy, particularly on Deer Isle. Most folks thought an easement had something to do with power lines, Marnie commented, as she recalled the novelty of such an undertaking at the time. Although Rockefellers and Cabots had been donating large tracts of land for public use for some time, land trusts were young and easements weren't commonplace. With the help of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, which Marnie described "as a big sister" to the then nascent Island Heritage Trust, she and Ken created their first easement. Marnie noted that "friends who had given land," also influenced their deliberations about leaving property as a legacy for future generations. And it was those future generations that featured prominently in their thinking.

The Crowell family includes their two sons, Tom and Dave, along with their sons' spouses and four grandchildren, all of whom were included in discussions in developing the particulars of the family's conservation easements. "Even in very close relationships you have to steer children [regarding the land]," observed Ken. In their case that wasn't a difficult task, given that both their sons love

the island and visit every summer, bringing the third generation of Crowells. "We love our children and grandchildren, but we can't possibly guess who in the future can



Crowell Family Photo

come to Maine or who will have an interest in Maine," Marnie said. Echoing his mother's pragmatic words, Tom commented, "This gets very tricky as they [the grandchildren] all love going [to DI] now, but realistically, will they as adults?"

Additionally, Marnie commented that she has "personally seen family strife over property, and we didn't want that to happen." Concern for the future, then, in addition to their passion for preserving the beauty and ecology of the island they both deeply love informed the Crowells' thinking when they created the easements for their properties, which include three small, offshore islands as well as land on Deer Isle.

Creating conservation easements has changed a great deal since those

early years. Not only have nationally recognized land trusts matured, but local trusts such as IHT have grown in experience and knowledge alongside them, refining the whole process of land acquisitions and easements. Despite the greater sophistication of both landowners and land trusts regarding the process, one of the most common misconceptions continues to be the notion that public access must be provided to land in easement. While some easements do, in fact, specifically create access, through woods or to water, for example, it isn't a requirement. In fact, Ken noted, the only requirement for a conservation easement is that it be of some conservation value -- to views, to shoreline tracts, for forestry or habitat. Marnie and Ken both emphasized that easements are very flexible and that each is unique, designed by the landowner in conjunction with the land trust. Marnie likened an easement to a custom made garment: the landowners decide what is important to them, what details they want included, what their specific wishes are. In every sense of the word, an easement is a custom project.

To design that custom garment the easement represents, Tom said the Crowell family "had extensive conversations about the property," identifying, *Continued on page 7*



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Michael J. Little

Looking at what IHT does around Deer Isle, I was struck by two editorials I read this winter. The first, by Bob McElroy, president of Audubon of Kansas, talks about “rambunctious gardening” (from a book by that name by Emma Marris). The idea is that while there is little or no true wilderness, there is lots of nature. And if we want nature to be part of our lives we have to manage for it – this is the “gardening” part. There are many forces in our world, and on our island, that are detrimental to the natural world. Human development is one example: every new house takes away habitat. While no one wants to stop people from building and living on the island, IHT acts as a counterbalance to these changes.

Our preserves are managed for natural habitat, not wilderness. The island still has some wildness, but its wilderness disappeared a long time ago.

And that brings me to a piece written by David Yarnold, President of the National Audubon Society, in its March-April magazine. He states that “If you believe, as I do, that only humans can protect habitat, then you have to ask yourself, ‘What can I do about it?’” Against the juggernaut of humanity, nature always loses in competition with human development. This is where Audubon (National or Kansas) and IHT come in. Our mission is to protect precious landscapes, natural resources, and habitats. Thoreau reminds us “. . . in Wildness is the preservation of the World. . . .” Won’t you join IHT in some “rambunctious gardening”?



Come “Rambunctious Gardening” With Us



Backbone Trail Work Parties: 3rd Saturday each month
Coffee and donuts provided. . . .

2013 PRESERVE WORK PARTIES

8:30 to 11:30 AM

- Fri, May 31 – Pine Hill
- Thurs, June 6 – Lily Pond
- Fri, June 14 – Causeway Beach
- Fri, June 21 – Scott’s Landing
- Wed, June 26 – Shore Acres
- Tues, July 2 – Reach Beach
- Fri, July 12 – Settlement Quarry



Leslie Clapp

Save the date! Wed, June 19 - Volunteer Potluck

TENNIS PRESERVE HAS FRIENDS

On a gray March afternoon, twelve neighbors gathered at the home of Peter and Anne Beerits to discuss one of their favorite places: the Edgar J Tennis Preserve. Mike Little noted that the Preserve is actually owned by the State of Maine (most of the land was donated a decade before IHT was even formed), with IHT holding easements on certain parcels. Unfortunately, limited and ever-shrinking state funds for public lands mean that the Preserve receives very little attention from that quarter. Volunteers and IHT struggle to fill that gap. Neighbors and regular walkers spend far more time on the Preserve than IHT staff can and are, therefore, in a good position to report problems and, in some cases, help resolve them. It was this idea—that the Preserve has a “built-in” advocacy group among neighbors and regular users—that led to the meeting.

Each spring and early summer, Stewardship Director George Fields schedules a work party at each preserve to prepare for what is estimated to be more than 10,000 annual visitors. At the meeting he shared a draft work plan for the coming year at the Tennis Preserve. A daunting list, it includes cutting trees, trimming trails, mowing paths, bridging wet areas, refreshing trail blazes, picking up litter, filling pot-holes in the road, improving signage, building a new kiosk and marking boundary lines. Clearly, too much for a single work party!



Even Dusty is skeptical of the watery trail *Anne Beerits*

Everyone agreed that bog bridges should be a priority. Trails are flooded in several areas, causing erosion and forcing walkers to detour way off the trail. While work parties are a good way to accomplish a lot in a short time,

some prefer to volunteer in a quieter manner, when it is convenient for them. Richard Penfold agreed to tackle one particular spot as a family project with his young sons, and Peter Beerits offered to “bridge” another area with lumber of his that will be available for “reuse” later this spring. Joe Dorr, who lives next to the Preserve June-October and who has been keeping trails cleared for years, agreed to build a new kiosk. In addition, several work parties will be held in the coming months to tackle some of the remaining tasks.



Neighbors plan improvement projects for Tennis Preserve

Elke Dorr

Ann Hooke, who has been actively volunteering on the Preserve for more than twenty years, will lead a walk there starting at 9 AM on Monday, June 24th, drawing on her unparalleled knowledge of both the human and natural history of the property. This should be of special interest to Tennis “regulars” who will come away with a deeper understanding of their favorite preserve.

Anne Beerits is compiling a list of “Friends of Tennis Preserve” who wish to be kept informed of Preserve-related activities and news, contribute time, materials or even funds to support stewardship (checks should be payable to IHT and can be ear-marked for Tennis Preserve). Contact Anne at jam@nervousnellies.com or 348-6182 to be added to the Friends list, or if you want to help start a Friends group for *your* neighborhood pre-

settling a quarry. If you walk the trails often, already keep an eye on the happenings around the quarry, have thoughts about improvements and would love to put a little time into keeping it at is best – consider joining the “Friends of Settlement Quarry Preserve.”

SETTLEMENT QUARRY ALSO LOOKING FOR FRIENDS. . .



Contact marissa@islandheritagetrust.org for more information.

JOURNEY INTO CLIMATE

That our climate is changing is nothing new—the environment is inherently dynamic. In the last 30-40 years scientists have come to understand that the planet's climate is changing faster than at any time in human history. While radical change isn't new in Earth's history, scientists now believe for the first time that human activity has caused it. The resulting controversy is profound. "Never before have I ever seen a topic so well understood and embraced by the scientific community, yet so poorly represented and misunderstood by the public," noted forest ecologist and president of Unity College, Dr. Stephen Mulkey, when he spoke at MOFGA's 2011 Common Ground Fair Climate Change forum.

The skepticism surrounding this emergent science is thinning as people experience devastating storms and flooding all over the world. Globally, the 20 warmest years on record have taken place since 1981; the 10 warmest have all occurred in the last 12 years. Last year the USDA redrew the map for Plant Hardiness Zones to reflect a northward warming trend nationwide. Climate change is also characterized by weather extremes and unpredictability, making it difficult to anticipate future implications. For example, climate-related economies in Maine like skiing and snowmobiling, farming and maple sugaring, and tourism are all scrambling to adapt, even without knowing quite what to expect. In a state with 3,500 miles of shoreline, rising sea levels coupled with complex ocean temperature and chemical changes (Gulf of Maine waters are becoming both warmer and colder depending on where you look) affect everything—from real estate, which is disappearing in the

worst scenarios, to fish stocks, which are redistributing themselves either northward or to deeper waters in an effort to accommodate changes to their environment.

No one in Maine has a keener understanding of climate change than Castine resident and Director of UMO's Climate Change Institute, Paul Mayewski. A climatologist and glaciologist, he has led more than 50 research expeditions to the coldest,



Paul Andrew Mayewski

most remote places on earth: Antarctica, the Arctic, Greenland, Tierra del Fuego and the Himalayas. As a graduate student in 1968, he made his first trip to Antarctica. Like virtually all scientists at the time, he was a "gradualist," believing that climate change was slow and incremental. Indeed, frozen, remote Ant-

arctica was thought to be the one place on earth that would be *least* affected by changes seen elsewhere on the planet. Not so.

In fact, massive polar ice is uniquely suited to preserve data, year by year, in layers containing airborne chemicals, elements and micro-particles. Mayewski developed a sampling method by drilling out ice cores in places like Antarctica where snowfall adds layer after layer of depth, like growth rings in a tree. Ice cores—columns just a few inches in diameter and several to hundreds of feet long—contain hundreds, even thousands, of years of undisturbed data: temperature, precipitation, surface pressure, storminess, biological productivity, volcanic activity and many other indicators about life all over the planet. For example, 18 months after the Chernobyl disaster, radioactive debris from that site, traveling on air currents, was deposited and "locked" into the Antarctic ice.

Ice cores have revolutionized our understanding of climate change, providing substantial data about mankind's footprint on the globe. Despite the sobering findings, Mayewski himself is optimistic, believing in ". . . the enormous opportunity we now have to provide a healthier, cleaner, safer environment, as well as a stronger economy, and a better overall quality of life for our children."

IHT ANNUAL MEETING

On Tuesday, July 16, 7 PM Paul Mayewski will speak at IHT's Annual Meeting. His illustrated lecture, "**Journey Into Climate—Challenges, Realities, Predictions & Opportunities**" will be held at St. Brendan's Episcopal Church and is open to the public.

The lecture will be preceded at 5 PM by a wine and cheese gathering and a short membership meeting.

Please join us!

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

From plein air art experiences, to a toddler seaside activity, to bird-watching for unusual species, IHT's 2013 Walks and Talks calendar truly embodies a something-for-everyone approach. Not content to merely repeat previous guided Walks and Talks – although eminently popular -- IHT strives to bring fresh experiences to residents and visitors alike, helping them discover the diversity of the Island's ecology, gain new perspectives on familiar scenes, and further deepen their appreciation for the beauty and complexity of our natural world.

In mid-May, for example, discover the largest yellow birch in Maine, as Eric Ziner leads participants through his eponymous Yellow Birch Farm, where they will also be treated to a look at his certified organic dairy. Among the many activities to be offered by IHT during Wings, Waves and Woods weekend, is an opportunity to see live owl species in the barn at Heritage House. In June, Settlement Quarry will reveal itself in



Photo: Crowell Family

new ways through a pinhole camera view, in a guided art experience taught by Anne Claude Cotty. July offers toddlers between 2½-4 years old (accompanied by their parents) an opportunity to explore the tidal zone and its array of creatures, while birding in August will include a search for "the rarest nesting birds," Sandhill Cranes and Black Terns. Also this summer, Betsy Weiss will be giving a tour of her family's property on Little Deer Isle, discussing the complex process by which six people agreed upon a conservation easement that includes both a building envelope and working woodland.

While these represent but a few of our newest additions to the annual Walks and Talks calendar, old favorites including plant identification, night-sky watching, and boat trips around the island as well as to offshore islands remain by popular demand, providing a wealth of memorable experiences for the entire family.

Find IHT's complete calendar of events on our website: islandheritagetrust.org. Click on "Events Calendar," and scroll down until you see the monthly calendar itself; then click on the "Agenda" tab, upper right on calendar. A detailed description of each event including time, place, etc. is available by clicking on the name of the event.

A FEW FAVORITE PRESERVE LETTERBOX QUOTES FROM PINE HILL:

"17 years later, still as beautiful, doubt there is another place as beautiful as LDI, Maine at this moment" – Joey Cashman, son of Celina, grandson of Beulah & Neville Eaton

"Great place for Star Gaze! Bring flashlight and blankets." – Deb, Rick, Debbie, Julie & Becky

"Had a great time!" – Just for Kids Daycare

Annual Shore Dinner & Auction

Save the date: Friday, July 26

- ◆ Elegant, oceanside dinner with appreciation to the McWilliams family
- ◆ Silent & very live(ly) auction thanks to Sarah Doremus
- ◆ Fabulous Shore Dinner catered by Loring Kydd of Edgewater Farm, or a farm fresh vegetarian option!
- ◆ Music (and dancing . . .!) by Isle of Jazz

Join us for a wonderful evening of fun and fundraising to benefit Island Heritage Trust's conservation and environmental education efforts.

Kayak & Wilderness Skills Camp for Youngsters

July 17-19, July 31-Aug 2, or Aug 14-16

IHT collaborates with Old Quarry Ocean Adventures and outdoor educator, Kristie Marks, to offer a 3-day learning adventure for children entering 5th grade-9th grade. The camp will focus on learning wilderness techniques as well as developing leadership, communication and team building skills.

Day One: Fire building, shelters, map and compass, and outdoor cooking; create plans for an overnight kayak trip to a nearby island.

Day Two: Paddling & kayak rescue skills, then off to explore Stonington's stunning shorelines and waters via kayak until it is time to set up camp for an island overnight.

Day Three: Enjoy a morning honing skills (including preparation of breakfast and lunch) on a Maine island before heading back to Old Quarry in the afternoon.

Visit www.oldquarry.com for more information.

JANE OSBORNE: CONNECTING WITH HER COMMUNITY

Since moving with her husband Woody to Maine, from Washington, D.C., in the summer of 2010, Jane Osborne finds giving back to her adopted community the secret to understanding its history and beauty. Volunteering, Jane says, is a wonderful way to get to know and appreciate a lot of different people. Just scratching the surface of things is simply not enough.

Perhaps it was her career as a commissioned officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, which she joined with a Masters in Administrative Sciences from John Hopkins University, that compels her to serve her community. But Jane is also, at heart, an educator who believes that understanding the natural world can be a pathway for children to learn lessons that will serve them later in life. While in Washington, Jane founded the Saturday Environmental Academy, which brought together 7th and 8th graders from different neighborhoods in the Anacostia River Basin, an under-served area of low income families in DC. While they studied their environment, at the same time they learned to analyze, conduct research and work as a team. Under Jane's direction, and relying solely on grants and donations, this non-profit con-

and understanding of the natural world around them. As a member of IHT's program committee, she creates the monthly electronic newsletter, and she also has become an important link between IHT and Deer Isle-Stonington High School. Working on behalf of the steering committee for "Ready by 21," Jane is coordinating the school's job shadow program and this year will work with



Photo by Woody Osborne

others to find some sixty-nine placements for sophomores, juniors, and seniors with businesses and organizations on the island and on the Blue Hill peninsula. Under this program Jane matches students' interests with

play an even bigger role in the school curriculum, as part of the high school's new Marine Studies Pathway, for example. IHT's focus on water quality, and the relationship between freshwater effluence and the island's fisheries would be reflected in this new academic approach. As Jane notes, "What happens on the land affects what happens in the water." Jane is helping the high school write funding grants to implement the Marine Studies Pathway.

Jane's work with IHT has encouraged her to enroll in a new Master Naturalist program recently established by four of Maine's most prominent naturalists. The course involves more than 150 hours of class work, study, and the execution of several demanding projects. Unlike many traditional Master Naturalist programs that emphasize resource management and land protection, Maine's program focuses on developing a core of volunteer naturalists who will educate communities about their environment and help young and old alike to recognize and understand local flora and fauna. Jane is convinced that connecting with your environment means experiencing it first hand, becoming sensitive to it and learning about it. This philosophy infuses all of what IHT tries to do, as well.

It's hard to keep track of Jane's volunteer activities—and I have not mentioned them all—but one thing is certain, Jane Osborne is committed to Deer Isle, its residents and the uniqueness of its natural beauty. As she sees it, working with IHT and the island's kids is her way of connecting in a meaningful way with the entire Deer Isle-Stonington community.

“What happens on the land, affects what happens in the water.”

tinues to run seasonal 10-week programs for children.

Once on Deer Isle, Jane discovered an affinity with Island Heritage Trust which, like Jane, sees the need to begin at an early age to instill in young people an appreciation for

local jobs. The experience helps kids identify future career paths. Finally, she serves as a college coach for a young senior.

Jane believes that IHT has a great deal to contribute to education on the island and would like to see it

Cont from p. 1 the “critical habitats, where might one locate a future building lot, what type of flexibility would be important to retain.” He added, “Once the main natural features that we wanted to protect were identified,” the family then discussed “how we might want to use the property in the future.” Reflecting the economic concerns many landowners face, Tom remarked, “While keeping the property intact is obviously preferential from a conservation stand point, a larger property can become burdensome from a property tax stand point.” He observed as well that tax laws regarding easements differ from state to state.

Tom, who holds a master’s degree in environmental land use planning, has a unique perspective on conservation easements informed not only by his involvement in the family’s easement process, but by his work as Director of Outreach and Resource Development for the Columbia Land Conservancy in New York. His view on the process is from both sides: that of landowner and land trust. He acknowledged, however, that “the final decisions were made by my parents . . . the landowners . . . and it is

their conservation vision that [the easement] reflects,” noting that their family shared that vision.

Since 1989, the Crowells have placed more of their land into easements with IHT and have the benefit of experience in offering advice to others who are considering creating a conservation easement. The first thing Ken advises is that the landowner go to IHT or any local land trust for information. “Learn the language of easements,” he advises, “so you understand what your land trust officials mean. Engage in conversations with your family . . . then see an attorney and meet with officials from the land trust And call us,” he said, adding that he and Marnie will be happy to talk about their experience.



Caroline, Jonathan and Tom Crowell explore a protected island in Merchant’s Row

Crowell Family Photo

Marnie spoke for them both in declaring their hope that their legacy of protected land “will be a satisfaction to all our descendants.” She observed, “The island was a treasure before we got here and we hope it will be a treasure after us,” to which Ken added, “We’re just stewards passing through.” Echoing his parents, Tom commented, “Ultimately humans will re-define our landscapes, so if we don’t do what we can now to protect meaningful blocks of habitat, future generations will not be able to experience anything like what we know today.”



INTRODUCING IHT’S HERITAGE SOCIETY

Island Heritage Trust has established the **Heritage Society** to recognize the extraordinary commitment of people who include IHT in their estate plans. Members of this Society will be honored annually with a special event in the summer and, with permission, in our publications. The generosity of one will inspire another.

If you would like more information about becoming a Heritage Society member, or have already included IHT in your estate planning and would like to be recognized as a member of the Heritage Society, kindly contact the office at 207-348-2455. The importance of these future gifts to support the Trust should not be underestimated. They give the Trust the endowment and confidence that the work we do and the lands we love will remain in good keeping for future generations to come.

Planned Giving Options

Depending on how your planned gift is arranged, it will have distinct tax, financial, and charitable benefits. Consult with your advisors, both financial and legal, to determine what is right for you.

- Include IHT in your will;
- Name IHT as a beneficiary in your retirement accounts;
- Make IHT a beneficiary of a life insurance policy;
- Donate property;
- Give appreciated stocks & bonds, or mutual fund shares.

“I am excited about leaving a bequest to Island Heritage Trust as this step helps ensure that future generations can enjoy the stunning landscapes and seascapes that have brought such richness, joy, and beauty to my life and my generation . . . and it is comforting to know that by making this donation, I will continue to do my part to help the environment far into the future.”

Sandy Wachholz, Portland, ME

Wings, Waves & Woods

Birding by land, by sea and by art



Northern Parula by Leslie Clapp

May 17-19, 2013

Deer Isle, Maine

Art Workshops

Warbler Walks

Birding for Beginners

Guided Puffin Boat Trips

Birding on Marshall Island

Outdoor Sketching Workshop

Eagle Spotting

Live Owl Demo

Shore Bird Walk

Art Show Reception

Owls & Peepers Evening

Backyard Birding - Leslie Clapp

www.deerisle.com

Sponsored by the Deer Isle - Stonington Chamber of Commerce, Island Heritage Trust,
Downeast Audubon Chapter & Penobscot Bay Press 207-348-2455

ANNUAL MAY BIRDING FESTIVAL

Leslie Clapp, President of Audubon's Downeast Chapter, is both the featured poster artist and the speaker for our Saturday night program. If you haven't seen one of her slide shows, you are in for a treat—and if you have, then you already know that! The weekend kicks off with several new offerings, including a trip to Marshall Island (don't worry if you miss it—IHT has three more this summer), a new bird walk near Goose Cove, live owls at IHT's barn, a sketching workshop at Scott's Landing with Anne-Claude Cotty and special birder's supper at the Harbor Café (tickets available at IHT). This is the first of Maine's several birding festivals, specially designed to catch the early migrants, which will be filling the air with their song as they court mates and search out nesting spots. There will be two chances to go out to Seal Island to see puffins, Arctic terns and other pelagics not usually present on our island shores. You are welcome to partake of the Festival "a la carte": one activity or many. Registration and information at IHT and online at www.islandheritagetrust.org. You must pre-register for boat trips and birder's supper. The festival is intentionally informal and family-friendly—a great way to get outdoors and enjoy the abundance of spring life on the island.



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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The mission of 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.