

# ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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Fall 2014

## HULA HOOPS AS QUADRATS?

*Quadrat = a usually rectangular plot used for ecological or population studies (Merriam-Webster)*

Martha Bell's personal mission as an educator is to make learning fun. And she succeeds. Since her arrival at IHT last spring, she has taught environmental education to islanders of every age from pre-school to adults. Most of them are having such a good time, they might easily forget that they are learning science.

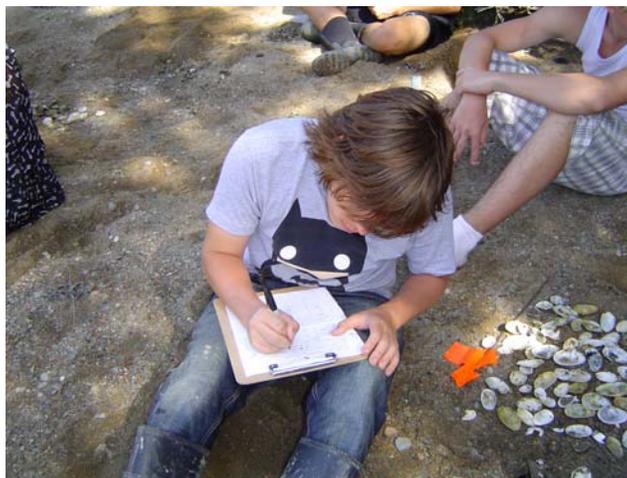
For the very youngest, toddlers at Haley McDonald's Island Childcare, it means fostering a sense of wonder: exploring textures, patterns and colors and celebrating the thrill of every new, small thing; learning to feel "at home" in the woods. Camp Kooky campers--about 20 children ranging in age from 6-12--visit and learn about a different preserve in each of their four weeks at camp. IHT's K-8 School Program gives kids a more in-depth look at the natural history at each of the preserves.

These outdoor laboratories, coupled with age-appropriate activities, provide a grounding in science that is based on home turf: the geology of granite, marine life in tide pools, the ecology of native

***"A lot of kids that don't thrive in the classroom do outside in the field."***  
**- Martha Bell**

flora and fauna. But it has to be engaging, too. Martha remarks knowingly that, "to do transects with hula hoops is a lot more fun than with measuring tapes." Which is exactly how island sixth graders set up

circular grids in which to count mussels, snails, seaweed and barnacles at nearby Barred Island. Martha has also led IHT's new summer Family Program: field trips in which parents and children explore and learn together. Mariners Park provided boundless opportunities to use a



**A student records his findings near the Southeast Harbor side of the Oceanville bridge**

*Martha Bell*

magnifying lens to examine insects up close: bees collecting pollen, spittle bugs making spit. And the flight of nesting swallows to catch insects on the wing. The children even became insects themselves as they attempted to "camouflage" themselves in imitation of that protective strategy employed by prey of all sorts.

Martha's efforts have focused particularly on developing and managing field projects that will form the basis of ongoing scientific studies, starting with marine science in conjunction with the Marine Pathways Program. All students who participate in a Pathways program, whether marine, arts or health-care oriented, are required first to take Pathways 101. Offered this summer for the first

time, this intensive one-week course allowed students to spend nearly half their time with Martha doing data collection as a group. They conducted an inventory of clam flat species--green crab, periwinkles, blue mussels--and measured the thickness of clam shells of differing sizes. One hypothesis that could be tested is that ocean acidification might lead to changes in shell thickness and composition. But the first step is to develop sound baseline data. In conjunction with data collection, students learn how to manage and share information, collaborate, consult with and support each other, skills that will serve them in whatever "pathway" they choose to take. In the fall, Martha will work with students in the field on biology concepts: evolution, adaptation and classification.

In order to oversee marine science projects, Martha must first do the research necessary to "construct" the project: what should be studied, where, how, when, not to mention why. She must also determine what documentation, instruments and supplies might be needed. Collecting baseline data and compiling inventories are the foundation for potential future projects and, like house construction, what is built later depends on the integrity of the foundation. In preparation, this summer Martha worked with interns, Sam and Henry Wakelin, to explore some possibilities for citizen science projects. Together, they measured 10' by 10' plots in the rocky intertidal zone at Scott's Landing, Dunham Point, Sylvester Cove, Tennis Preserve (*Continued on P5*)



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 Marissa Hutchinson *Development Director/*  
*Volunteer Coordinator*  
 Janna Newman *Stewardship Director*  
 Martha Bell *Environmental Educator*

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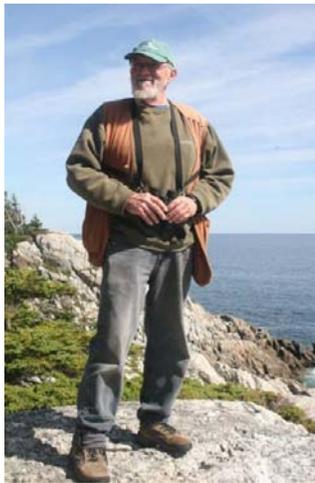
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**Newsletter**

|              |               |
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**To contact us:**

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 Deer Isle, ME 04627  
 207-348-2455



**FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Michael J. Little

When IHT is given a conservation easement, we promise that we will oversee the donor's property forever ("in perpetuity" is the phrase). That is a long time!

How can we make that promise? The same way land trusts all over Maine and beyond do – with good staff and the money to support their work. Thanks to you, our generous supporters, we have a stable and growing operating budget. We have an outstanding staff and are able to attract excellent people when others move on.

But, what is really going to make IHT healthy for the long run is *community* – this island community of which IHT is a vital member. The buzz word in the land trust world is "community conservation."

Land trusts all over the country are looking for ways to better integrate themselves into their communities. Many of the ideas

that are being discussed are actions that IHT is already taking like protecting public access to areas that are important to local residents – think Lily Pond Beach and Causeway Beach; working to protect natural resources vital to livelihoods – think clammer access to flats and protecting shores to reduce run-off from the land; connecting people with nature and the outdoors – IHT's hiking trails, Walks and Talks and school programs are all intended to get folks in closer contact with nature. Our newest project at the Lily Pond has elements of all of these. And, finally, land trusts are looking for ways to help support the local economy. IHT's Wings, Waves and Woods birding festival in mid-May brings visitors from all over the country to Deer Isle in shoulder season, and our hiking trails attract over 10,000 annual visitors – 88% of whom are not from the island. Community conservation – working together to preserve what is important to all of us – is at the heart of IHT's sustainability.



**Thanks to Eagle Scout Cody Eaton for the benches now placed on island preserves like the Lily Pond, at left.**



Lily Pond on a fall afternoon

Anne Beerits

**LILY POND: Community Conservation**

Thanks to wide community support and IHT's efforts in 2010, the Lily Pond has remained a treasure for all to access. Foot traffic is busy on the tidy path leading from a parking area at Deer Run to the beach on a summer day. A school bus delivers and picks up students on fall and spring field trips to learn about freshwater ecology. Swimming lessons in the summer, birthday parties, fishing, ice skating, picnics, even baptisms occur throughout the year.

We are grateful that the Pickering family has offered to sell--at below market price-- the adjacent 10 acres of land, including about 640 feet of frontage on the western shore of the pond. The parcel has nearly as much frontage on the Quaco Road, affording an important opportunity for alternate access to the pond, and the space to develop some amenities, such as parking, composting toilets and a pavilion. Thus far, parking at Deer Run has been dependent upon the goodwill of the non-profit Housing Foundation (Orono) which owns Deer Run. On a busy summer day, there are often more than two dozen cars parked here. This is in no way a guaranteed permanent arrangement.

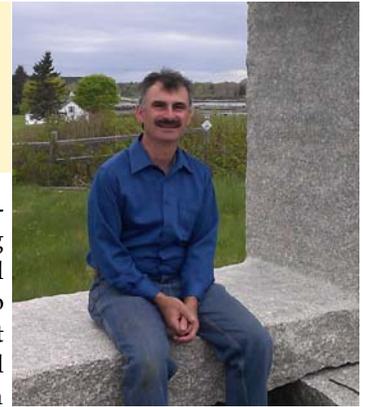
Pat Gross heads a Lily Pond Committee that will be seeking community input regarding possible amenities and their siting on the property. We are grateful to Doug Coots who has made draft sketches to get people thinking.

**But first we have to close the deal! About \$42,000 is still needed to complete the funding for this project.**

*Please make donations for Lily Pond Phase II Project either online or by mailing a check to: IHT, PO Box 42, Deer Isle, Maine 04627.*

**Your input and support are both appreciated!**

# DEER ISLE LEGISLATOR VALUES “CLEAN ENVIRONMENT”



**Kumiega at Scott's Landing** *Courtesy of W. Kumiega*

**W**alter Kumiega, Deer Isle's representative to the state legislature, received a perfect rating from Maine Conservation Voters for his consistent support of legislation protecting Maine's environment and natural resources. Now serving his second term, he is co-chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources and Legislative Commissioner to the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission.

In an interview, Kumiega stressed that whatever the tensions that may exist between the environment and economic development in other parts of the world, in Maine the connection is quite clear: the two mainstays of our coastal economy "are fishing and tourism. Without a clean environment we have neither."

Two important bills, both supported by Kumiega, were enacted during the legislature's most recent term and are of potential significance to our community. First, is the passage of a bill establishing a commission "to study the effects of ocean acidification and its potential ef-

fects on commercial shellfish harvested and grown along the Maine coast." The commission is also charged with developing plans to combat these effects. For a long time, fossil fuel use has been driving up carbon dioxide levels in the ocean, in turn increasing various forms of carbonic acid. This ocean acidification threatens Maine's shell fisheries -- lobsters, clams, oysters, shrimp and sea urchins -- with a potentially harsh impact on jobs and the state's economy.

The Legislature also passed a bond bill that will be on the ballot in November. As described by the Maine Conservation Voters, the bond will provide ten million dollars "to help manage [Maine's] water resources, protect clean drinking water sources, help communities safeguard themselves against extreme storms and flooding, and restore our fisheries." Funds will be used for conserving drinking water aquifers and lakes, culvert replacement and storm management projects.

Overall, however, Maine's 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature failed to pass a number of meas-

ures, including food hubs to support school nutrition and the local foods economy; protections for Maine's lakes; establishment of a fund to provide rebates for the purchase of solar equipment; the use of monies derived from timber harvesting on public lands for the establishment of a heating efficiency program; and a bill directing the Department of Environmental Protection to resume an ongoing study of climate change and to implement resulting recommendations.

Kumiega indicated that, whatever the outcome of the gubernatorial election, the environmental bills that failed in the session just ended would be pressed forward again.

*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.*

## MARK ISLAND LIGHT NEEDS YOUR HELP



**From a distance, Mark Island Light seems untouched by the elements.** *Elke Dorr*

**M**ark Island Lighthouse, built in 1857 and transferred into IHT ownership in 1994, is in peril. The lighthouse desperately needs the peeling paint scraped from its brick exterior, its crumbling mortar repointed and new, weather-resistant paint applied. Over the last three or four years, weather related deterioration has accelerated (see photo) to such a degree that large cracks are now clearly visible and increasing in size.

Although the U.S. Coast Guard maintains the light itself, as well as the foghorn, IHT is responsible for maintenance of the building. The cost for exterior repairs is estimated at \$25,000.

con of warning and welcome long into the future. We need to raise \$10,900 more to get this project fully funded.

Your donations may be sent to IHT or made online, designation: Mark Island Lighthouse Fund; or call 207-348-2455 for further information.



**Closer scrutiny reveals the extensive deterioration of the brick** *Elke Dorr*

# THREE NEW MEMBERS JOIN IHT'S BOARD

Brooklin, Maine, resident **David Porter** has a long history in the area beginning with his childhood summers spent on Great Spruce Head Island, a family property bought by his grandparents and made famous by his uncles, the photographer Eliot Porter and painter Fairfield Porter. In fact, David, now Emeritus Professor of Plant Biology, University of Georgia, credits those childhood summers for his life-long interest in the environment and for the focus of his academic research -- mycology. Educated at Yale and University of Washington, Seattle, David brings his abiding interests in the natural world and his experience on the board of Blue Hill Heritage Trust to his work at IHT.

Seeking "a deeper connection to Deer Isle," prompted David to join IHT's Board of Trustees, he said, though he's long been involved as a volunteer Walks and Talks guide. One of the ongoing challenges facing land trusts, he believes, is "the perceived conflict between the voices of conservation" and those who oppose it. Overcoming those who say, "why would I want to do that?" requires "creating the educational tools to make the local population aware of the value of preservation," he said. A significant influence to his own interest in preservation, he added, was his own family's placement of two-thirds of Great Spruce Head Island in a conservation easement many years ago.

When he's not championing the cause of land preservation, David enjoys working on projects like the barn he's building, and gardening with his wife, Jean. He also sings in the Bagaduce Chorale and introduces the Metropolitan Opera live telecasts at The Grand, in Ellsworth, and at the Blue Hill Li-

brary. But "just walking through the woods," he said, continues to be among his greatest pleasures.

**Peter Sly** brings his deep experience in land and environmental issues to his service on IHT's Board of Trustees. After earning his J.D. from Yale, in 1974, he spent much of his professional career in California, primarily involved in water rights cases in western states, particularly dispute resolution between Native American tribes and state government. He wrote *The Reserved Water Rights Settlement Manual*, a book providing a comprehensive description of the law, useful to both the government and attorneys for the tribes. Following his move to Brooklin, Maine, in 2003, Peter taught courses in land conservation, environmental justice and Indian law at both Colby College and College of the Atlantic. He joined Blue Hill Heritage Trust in 2005, serving on its board and as both chair of stewardship and as a member of the accreditation committee.

It was a conference at Colby College, in which he participated in 2008 -- "Protecting Livelihoods and Landscape in Northern Maine" -- that resonated deeply with him, its subject one that still lingers in Peter's mind as a dual imperative for land trusts. All too often, the two are perceived as competing interests: livelihoods versus landscape preservation. Peter believes that intentionally considering and protecting livelihoods as we preserve land is vital. Moreover, he feels that forging healthy relationships with local organizations, such as IHT enjoys with Penobscot East Resource Center, is essential to the effectiveness of land trusts.

In addition to his ongoing interest and (Continued on p5)



Peter Sly, David Porter and Ken Kleeman *Elke Dorr*

## SETTLEMENT QUARRY GETS A NEW PANORAMA SIGN

Several "Friends of Settlement Quarry" gathered in late September to unveil a new sign at the top of the hill overlooking the quarry and the expansive view to the south. The panoramic depiction was beautifully painted and lettered by Stonington artist, Richard Lindloff.

Settlement Quarry -- the island's first preserve -- has one of the best "big views" on the island, including the many islands of the Thorofare, nearly half a dozen of which are represented on the sign. Tree work is presently being done to keep these views open.



From left to right: Ian Walker, Diane Walker, Mike Little, George Linkletter & Jane Osborne *Elke Dorr*

(Continued from p1) and where Holt Mill Pond joins the Inner Harbor; they tested equipment designed to measure water quality; they evaluated eel grass beds for green crab depredation. This "groundwork" will form the basis of citizen science projects that both students and adults can carry out next summer.

In addition to its mission of conservation and providing public access to protected places, IHT is investing in environmental education. The two are not unrelated. Martha would be the first to emphasize that the more time we spend outdoors in all seasons, the more connected we feel to the natural world and to this place, in particular. And the more we learn about the ecology of the island, the more likely—and able—we will be to care for it into the future.

**For more information about how you can help now or next summer, contact Martha at [mbell@islandheritagetrust.org](mailto:mbell@islandheritagetrust.org).**



Martha Bell



Martha Bell



Woody Osborne

**CLOCKWISE Top Left: Henry & Sam Wakelin "plotting" at Sylvester's Cove; Marissa Judkins admires prying mantis at Lily Pond Beach on IHT School Field Trip; Using calipers to measure clam shell thickness.**



## IHT RECEIVES JOSEPH FIORE ARTWORK

Island Heritage Trust is pleased to announce the recent gift of two works from The Rock Paintings Collection (1975-1987) of avant-garde artist, Joseph Fiore.

This artwork was gifted to IHT by Maine Farmland Trust (MFT), a statewide membership organization that works to protect farmland, support farmers, and advance the future of farming. During his lifetime, Joseph Fiore was a generous supporter of MFT. The Falcon Foundation, a vehicle created by Fiore's estate, gave a large collection of Fiore's "Rock Paintings," also known as the Geological Works, to Maine Farmland Trust to re-distribute among organizations throughout Maine

which appreciate Maine's geology and natural environment. While Fiore is most known for his abstract compositions, his key inspiration was always the natural world—and this is where his heart lay.

IHT will have the two pieces, "Nine" and "Fragments Rejoined," on display at the Heritage House for all to enjoy.

(Continued from p4) active participation in environmental issues, Peter enjoys both sailing and rowing. He is also an enthusiastic supporter and occasional singer for Blue Hill Bach, for which his wife Marcia serves as executive director.

**Ken Kleeman's** long involvement with IHT began when he and his wife, Joy, built their home on the island in 2002, after vacationing here for a number of years. His ongoing interest in the trust has been focused on its financial health, though Ken is actively involved on many other levels. Working in the family retail business following his graduation from Washington and Lee University, followed by his 25-year career in the financial services industry, as well as serving on various non-profit boards, provided Ken with a broad range of financial management experience. He has brought that expertise to his service on IHT's finance committee, primarily overseeing the trust's endowment. Knowing first-hand the challenges a non-profit organization on an island must contend with makes Ken a cau-

tious financial steward.

Keenly aware of the evolution of land trusts, Ken noted the current movement in preservation, from acquisition of property to a necessarily greater emphasis on stewardship. IHT is no exception in this evolution, he said. Ken also believes the trust needs to find ways to more fully "integrate into the year-round community," attracting "the local folks and getting them involved."

Like his newly elected colleagues on the board, Ken, too, has cultivated diverse interests now that he's retired. He enjoys sailing, kayaking, playing golf and attending concerts at Kneisel Hall. He's also taken a seamanship course at Wooden Boat School and a course in which he built a kayak. All that would fill most people's leisure hours to brimming, but Ken is also an avid gardener who's transformed his granite-strewn hillside high above Penobscot Bay into a vibrant garden – an impressive accomplishment by any measure.

# UNWELCOME VISITORS TO MAINE COAST

Sunbathers and clam diggers are common sights at Island Heritage Trust's Causeway Beach property, the gateway to Deer Isle. Also common, but not as easily visible unless you walk along the shallows, are small green crabs scuttling amid the eel grass and seaweed. While they seem a part of an idyllic intertidal scene, providing prey for the flinty-eyed seagulls that swoop down and snatch them up, as well as endless entertainment for kids playing in tidal pools, green crabs are actually more of an ecological menace.

Signs of their presence can be spotted amid thinned out and shredded eel grass beds, which green crabs clip to get better access to their favorite food source: shellfish. The pesky crustaceans feast on soft-shell clams, posing a serious threat to an important economic resource on the island and the state's third-largest wild fishery, after lobster and elvers.

"They are everywhere," says Martha Bell, Environmental Educator for IHT, who has witnessed them in

her field research with students in Deer Isle-Stonington High School's Marine Studies Pathways Program.

To be clear, green crabs aren't new to the region: *Carcinus maenas* has called Maine waters home since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the invasive species was introduced to the U.S., presumably hitchhiking in ballast water. It now can be found along the East Coast as far south as South Carolina and north to Newfoundland. In the past 25 years, it has broadened its range to include the Pacific Ocean, where it extends from San Francisco in the U.S. to British Columbia, Canada and to Hawaii, Asia, Australia and South America.

Yet, a warming trend in ocean temperature in recent years has caused green crabs to proliferate. They've also expanded their habitat into deeper sub-tidal water. Especially hard hit in Maine the past few years has been the mid-coast region where the crabs' preferred habitat of estuaries and salt marshes is abundant. Memories remain fresh of the last big explosion of

green crabs in the early 1950s that lasted through the decade and caused widespread depletion of clams. Only when water temperatures turned colder in the '60s did the cycle reverse.

Fortunately, reported numbers in the state are down this year by an estimated 10%, most likely because of the colder winter, according to research conducted by the University of Maine, Machias. Efforts to contain the population and protect resources by fencing and netting, help, as does trapping. The state has also relaxed its licensing when it comes to green crabs: commercial fishermen no longer need a special license to harvest and sell green crabs and they don't have to report the catch to the Department of Marine Resources. Lobstermen are now allowed to keep green crabs as a by-catch. When fishing is closed for most crab species on the Sheepscot, Damariscotta, and Medomak Rivers in mid-coast Maine, from December through April, green crab fishing will remain open.

Unlike rock and Jonah crabs, two popular crab species in Maine, the green crab yields very little meat and has a tougher shell that's hard to crack and so it's not desirable as a food source. Green crabs are also aggressive and drive out other crab species. As a non-native species that's destructive to important native fisheries, and

with no viable commercial markets as yet, the green crab is not a fishery that Maine's DMR is interested in managing for sustainability. Instead, the DMR focuses on eradication efforts.

To that end, the Eastern Maine Skippers Program, a regional high school program that includes students from Deer Isle-Stonington, Vinalhaven, North Haven, Mount Desert, Ellsworth, Sumner Memorial, Washington Academy and George Stevens Academy, aims to engage the next generation of fishermen and women so they can be effective advocates. These students have begun monitoring and studying the green crab, hoping to develop viable commercial markets for the invader. So far, attempts to create a market for lobster bait and cat food from the increasingly ubiquitous green crabs have not proved profitable. If this winter proves as cold or colder than last year (as the Farmer's Almanac would have us believe), one consolation would be seeing fewer of these invasive crabs next year.



**Invasive green crabs**

*Abby Barrows*

*"If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life. . . ."*

- Rachel Carson

# NEW STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR JOINS IHT

Meet Janna Newman, IHT's new Stewardship Director. Janna earned her undergraduate degree from Syracuse University in Geography and Policy Study, where she became fascinated with the relationship between society and the environment. From there, she moved to Washington D.C., and later to Boston, to work as a geo-spatial analyst (techno-jargon for digital map-maker) for a large national firm doing hazard mitigation planning at state and local levels in accordance with FEMA standards. In layman's terms, she created complex GIS maps to define areas subject to potential hazards such as flooding and fires.

Concurrently, she got a Certificate in Community Environmental Studies at Tufts University, which led her to pursue a Masters degree there in the Department of Urban and Environmental Planning and Policy. After juggling both full-time work and academic studies, she has finished her course work and hopes to complete her thesis by the end of the year. Once complete, her thesis will provide a working framework for a large landscape conservation plan for the Penobscot watershed. A "large landscape" plan has three components: the environment, economy and social considerations, with the understanding that they are interrelated and cannot be properly viewed in isolation from each other--the ecology of planning.

Janna's first introduction to the area was on a vacation to Acadia National Park three years ago, when she "instantly fell in love with the area." She has an interest in fisheries and fisheries management and has come to see Downeast Maine as a "forward-thinking" region in terms of environmental and conservation planning. We are delighted that her search for a job

in the world of land trust and conservation organizations led her to IHT's doorstep.

Clearly, Janna brings a broad, comprehensive viewpoint to her work as Stewardship Director. Her charge is to oversee and manage IHT's preserves and conservation easements, but she was specifically attracted to Deer Isle's "working landscape." She admits to being "pretty astonished" at the number of preserves in such a small area, and the lively fisheries economy only piqued her interest all the more. Janna, who lives in Ellsworth with her boyfriend and a newly-acquired rescue dog named Peter, began her half-time job with IHT in August.

Since then, she has quickly become oriented to lay of the land and surrounding islands, has met more than half of the volunteer easement and preserve stewards and is getting her hands dirty checking properties, maintaining trails, building boardwalks over wet areas. Two upcoming new easements have her establishing baseline documentation (what the property looks like now). Janna will also be working closely with volunteers, including IHT's Land and Stewardship Committees, as well as the several "Friends of . . ." groups that have sprung up to help support favorite preserves with both funds and labor. She hopes to put her considerable mapping skills to work in developing new maps for IHT holdings that will prove useful not only for the recreational hiker, but for "large landscape" planning and data analysis that might well be of interest to town officials, schools, and other island non-profits. She is especially pleased to find that IHT is a place where she feels encouraged to contribute new ideas and think creatively about the job of Stewardship Director. Welcome, Janna!



**Fishing for stripers in the Union River, a favorite pastime** *Nathan Richards*



**Meadowbrook Corner: a favorite view on the Sunshine Road**

*Anne Beerits*

# NATURAL PARTNERS: ARTISTS & IHT

**“The pictures have been flying out of here for the past hour!”**

This was Carolyn Caldwell’s comment when I showed up at her art sale for IHT at 5 o’clock, an hour after the event started on September 12. There were few pictures left hanging on the walls of her studio.



**Carolyn Caldwell** *Darby French*  
**in her studio**



Carolyn is moving to Montana to be near family and to be surrounded by new scenes to paint. She decided to discount many of her pictures, particularly of IHT conserved lands, and donate 20% of her earnings to the Trust. She loves Deer Isle and has painted many scenes of the beauty with which we are surrounded. Carolyn is incredibly grateful to IHT for preserving and looking after the many special spots here on Deer Isle and was gratified that her paintings will be remaining here with those that love and appreciate our island. I was too late to get a painting, but IHT received over \$2,000!

Carolyn will be back next summer and may teach a class on color.  
**Thank you Carolyn, from all of us, for your generous contribution!**

Turn your Amazon.com spending into donations for Island Heritage Trust. AmazonSmile will donation 0.5% of your purchases towards IHT when you sign up and make purchases through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Thank you to those who already have!



*Mark Bilak* **Redbreasted Nuthatch**



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