

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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Spring 2015

RECREATIONAL TOURISM: Maine's Natural Niche



Bradbury Island, Ned Hill; Local Trail, Marissa Hutchinson; Puffin, Mark Bilak

The Deer Isle Wings, Waves, and Woods birding festival, now in its ninth year, is more than a rite of spring: it's now the unofficial start of summer for many local businesses.

"I'd always thought of Memorial Day as the opener of the summer season," says Barrett Gray, owner of Boyce's Motel in Stonington, who already has some bookings for the festival weekend of May 15-17. "Now, it's a whole weekend earlier with Wings, Waves, and Woods. It strengthens our shoulder season, which is a great asset for the tourist industry."

Indeed, what began as a humble way for a few seasonal inns on Deer Isle to attract customers in the early part of their season—then known as Warbler Weekend—has evolved

into a three-day, event-packed extravaganza that appeals to the most serious of birders, the so-called "life-listers," as well as to more casual nature enthusiasts, artists and gardeners. It attracts people from as far away as Minnesota, California and Texas, and appeals to children as well as adults. Activities range from bird walks on the many preserves stewarded by Island Heritage Trust (IHT), to boat trips to off-shore breeding and nesting islands, to workshops on arts and crafts and landscaping design. No longer a simple affair

put together by a couple of inn keepers, the festival is now sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce, Island Heritage Trust, Penobscot Bay Press, and the Downeast chapter of the Maine Audubon Society and organized by the staff and volunteers at IHT.

The number of attendees continues to increase each year and two guides are now needed on the birding walks to handle the crowds. It's popular, too, because the mid-May timing of the festival means that a lot of over-wintering seabirds are still here; at the same time it coincides with the early northern migration of warblers and other songbirds. "It's a migratory intersection that distinguishes this location and festival and makes it more interesting for birders," says organizer Anne Beerits of IHT.

Yet, Wings, Waves, and Woods is much more than a birding festival: it's a testament to the power of recreational tourism and its benefits to regional and local economies, especially those areas with abundant natural resources and dwindling industrial and manufacturing bases. Recreational tourism, and the economic, social and cultural benefits that it spurs, is a topic attracting a lot of attention and generating vigorous debate, especially in Maine, and will be the focus of this year's annual meeting of the Island Heritage Trust on Tues., July 7 when Lucas St. Clair is scheduled to give the keynote address at the parish hall of St. Brendan the



Boat trips to Matinicus Seal Island to see pelagic birds, especially puffins, are perennial favorites

Anne Beerits

Navigator's Episcopal Church in North Deer Isle.

St. Clair is spearheading an effort first proposed by his mother, Burt's Bees co-founder Roxanne Quimby, to turn 150,000 acres of their privately owned land in the Katahdin region, along the eastern edge of Baxter State Park, into a national park and recreation area, noting that such a plan would be a boon for job creation, tourism and tax revenues while at the same time preserving the wilderness for traditional uses such as hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. (cont. on p. 4)



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 Michael J. Little

What does environmental education have to do with land protection? Has IHT lost its way? Moving away from protecting the places we love and value to nature crafts? Not that there is anything wrong with nature crafts!

I guess I would beg to differ. Instead of losing our way, we are creating all sorts of ways to connect next generations with the natural world, to explore and appreciate our island environment. People are more likely to protect what they know and value.

In our increasingly digital world, our direct connection with nature is declining; parents are afraid to let their children go to the park alone; getting outdoors and getting dirty and wet are experiences we should be providing for our kids. Adults, too! With school

teachers stretched thin covering the basics, IHT can help provide enrichment and new experiences.

IHT also supports and encourages citizen science initiatives – everything from phytoplankton monitoring for the Department of Marine Resources to tagging and releasing monarch butterflies with the primary grades. All add to our knowledge and appreciation for our natural world, helping to foster good stewardship.

So, what does environmental education have to do with land conservation? Everything! Take a look at the enclosed schedule and come out to some of our programs this summer and find out. Most are free and children are welcome at all of them.



Mark Bilak

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Please patronize & thank the businesses that support us!

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- Barter Lumber Company
- Blue Hill Concert Association
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- Dan Foss Construction LLC
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- Deer Isle Hostel
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- Old Quarry Ocean Adventures
- Opera House Arts
- PC-Fitness
- Pilgrim's Inn
- Shore Shop Gifts, Isle Au Haut
- Spencer Insurance
- Stanley Subaru
- Tasha's
- Three Half Press
- The Nanatoo
- The Periwinkle
- Webworks Downeast
- Wildflower Gallery

Island Heritage Trust's mission is to contribute to the well-being of the island community by conserving its distinctive landscapes and natural resources, maintaining public access to valued trails, shoreline and islands, and by providing educational programming for all ages.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: DOUG WILSON

When Deer Isle blacksmith Doug Wilson talks about the island's spruce-fir forests or the far-reaching views to the Deer Isle archipelago from Settlement Quarry, or the annual migration of salamanders to vernal pools on his property on a wet night in spring, his voice reveals a reverence and deep passion for the natural world. It is that very passion he enthusiastically shares with others as a long-time Island Heritage Trust volunteer.

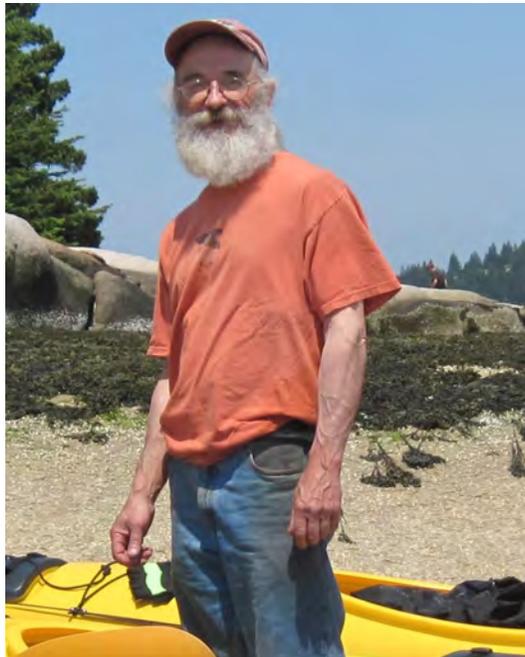
Raised in Michigan, Doug "grew up outdoors," he remarks, significantly influenced by his father, a high school biology teacher. By the time he was in fourth grade Doug had his own canoe, his "first educational expenditure," he says laughing, in reference to having purchased the canoe with money given to him for his education by a generous relative. He still has that canoe.

In 1981, Doug accepted an invitation to be a teaching assistant at Haystack, for renowned blacksmith Frank Turley, an opportunity that changed the direction of his life. In the course of his time on the island that summer, Doug met metalsmith Ronald Pearson, who encouraged him to think about moving to Maine, and offered Doug the use of his forge. He recalled Ron presciently telling him, "If you move to the island, it will change your life." Buoyed by Ron's generosity and encouragement, Doug returned to Wisconsin, where he was living at the time, packed up his things and moved to the island, his home now for some 34 years.

"The more we can do to get people out there, seduced by the environment, the better off we'll all be."

Although Doug's desire to share his love of the outdoors initially prompted his volunteerism, he brings his many interests, consummate skills as craftsman and artist, and an acute awareness of the benefits of first-hand experiences in nature to all his volunteer activities. Take his drawing workshops, held outdoors on IHT preserves, about which Doug says, "If you're drawing, you're forced to look closely, deeply. You slow down and observe." And about

simply walking in the woods, he has this to say: "You get outdoors and walk, and you step away from your day-to-day life. You observe." It is that verb -- observe -- that repeatedly enters the conversation, underscoring its importance to Doug. For him, teaching people to look with



Doug at Wreck Island Clean Up

new eyes, to look deeply, at the wild places all around us seems nearly like a calling on a mystical level.

But there's also a very solid, practical side to Doug's calling. He gladly helps with the annual island kayak clean-up, during which participants travel to Wreck and Round islands to gather whatever trash might have found its way there. "A huge pile of mainly plastic trash is collected, which Bill Baker picks up with his boat," he says and goes on to observe that "the more we can do to get people out there, seduced by the environment, the better off we all will be." During the clean-up, "you work and have a picnic lunch in a beautiful place, and meet lots of other folks, and it increases your enthusiasm."

For Doug, that enthusiasm extends also to working on IHT's Program Committee to help create new and interesting programs, including ones with practical application. Doug introduced program volunteers Davida and Tom Kellogg to the Trust, and hosts Tom Kellogg's knot-tying workshops, not simply for summer visitors, but in winter as well, when he welcomes participants into his shop. His contributions don't end with his work on the Program Committee, however. The sign identifying IHT's Heritage House and the elegant iron base of the new sign at the Settlement Quarry overlook are testament to Doug's skill as a blacksmith.

When he's not lending a hand in IHT clean-ups, conducting and lining up workshops for IHT's Walks and Talks, or hard at work at his forge, Doug can also be heard singing - yes, singing bass with the Bagaduce Chorale -- or volunteering at the Bagaduce Lending Library. An active birder, he even finds time to trek through the island's forest that he loves and that he likens to "a fairyland," to observe the birds to be found there, taking great joy in their presence. When he made that long-ago move to Deer Isle, Doug says, he found not only a "unique place" of great natural beauty, but a diverse community of talented, passionate, hard-working folks among whom he feels gratefully at home.

MARK ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE REPAIR WORK TO BEGIN THIS SUMMER

Paint stripping, repair of brickwork, and repainting: Estimated Costs are \$25,000; Money Raised so far is \$15,778

(cont. from p. 1) A preview of what is being proposed for the area by St. Clair and his family's foundation, can be found at www.katahdinwoods.org.

A 2012 study by the Trust for Public Land, a national San Francisco-based non-profit organization that works to protect land by creating parks and preserving open space, bolsters the case that land conservation leads to an increase in recreational tourism that, in turn, creates jobs and adds to the economy. According to TPL's analysis, an estimated 845,000 residents and non-residents participated in some form of fish and wildlife-related recreation in Maine in 2006, spending \$1.14 billion in retail sales and supporting nearly 26,000 jobs.

Tina Oddleifson, co-owner of Pilgrim's Inn and the Whales Rib Tavern notes that "the beautiful trails and preserves maintained by Island Heritage Trust are enjoyed by many of our guests, and are a major asset to our business. Visitors to the island love to experience those special places that are off the beaten path, and Deer Isle is filled with them, thanks to IHT."

Barrett Gray and Tina Oddleifson know first-hand that that land conservation, public access, and wildlife recreation contribute directly to the island's economy.

While the Wings, Waves and Woods festival is a fun time, it's also a window into recreational tourism and its importance to the future of Deer Isle and to Maine.

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE -from the youngest to the oldest . . .

Popular Kids in Nature returns this summer with new Saturday programs — **join us!** See Included Walks & Talks brochure for Kids In Nature and other programs suited for folks of all ages.

It was a great opportunity to meet some families with children the same age and having the same interests. A wonderful introduction to the life of the Lily Pond! — Michele Levesque (Jasper's mom)

I took my granddaughter on a nature hike with Martha [Bell] . . . she was so full of enthusiasm, expressing delight and encouragement with everything that each child discovered. I hope there will be many more of these adventures this coming summer. — Joy Kleeman

I loved it, I would like to go again next year. . . I had a lot of fun looking for fish and using the nets. — Jasper Rossney



Trust volunteers bring "nature" with them in a new monthly program for Island Nursing Home residents. If you'd like to help out a couple of hours a month contact Jane Osborne at 348-5274.



Island Nursing Home residents May Hamblen and Laurice Hardie (left) slather pine cones with peanut butter and seeds to hang outside for winter birds, while Anna Powers (right) models a fox "stole" chosen from animal pelts brought in by volunteers.

Island Nursing Home Photos by Harry Rodriguez

FRIENDING FRESH AIR

For those of us who made friends with the natural world before the Digital Age, it may seem like an oxymoron (*juxtaposition of elements that appear to be contradictory*) to experience nature via smart phone. And, for some, maybe it is. Not so, however, for children aged 8-18 who spend up to 10 hours, 45 minutes per day in front of media, according to a study by the Joan Ganz Cooney Center. A screen is their lens onto the world. No wonder educators and parents are increasingly concerned that children are missing an essential connection with nature by becoming media-centric. How to balance these two realities?

In 2013, the National Wildlife Federation published a report called *Friending Fresh Air*. It addresses this very issue of “green time” and “screen time,” offering ideas for balancing and even combining the two. Whether you go birding with a pair of binoculars, just sit in quiet place and listen to every small sound, or look up an interesting bug on your digital device, you are connecting with the natural world.

Self-guided DeeriNature offers a digital introduction to the plants and animals found here on the island: beach shells, wildflowers, summer birds, winter birds, shore birds, spiders, butterflies, dragonflies and damselfly, moths, mosses, ferns, frogs and fish, animal tracks, rocks, and tide pool dwellers. The Nature Shop has dozens of field guides

you can buy, but it is great to have a guide for media users that is specific to Deer Isle and it is FREE! Thanks to ecologist Ken Crowell and natural history writer Marnie Reed Crowell, for creating this suite of PDFs, a local compendium based on their years of nature walks, and to Roger Hooke and Robert Knowlton for contributions in their respective fields: geology and marine biology.



DeeriNature

Marnie Reed Crowell

Have you ever picked up a beach shell that has a perfect round hole to string a necklace? The guide tells you how that hole was created. It's amazing! Want to see what the Lily Pond looks like underwater? Or what Settlement Quarry looked like when it was in operation? These are just a few examples of the nuggets to be found on DeeriNature.

A botanical survey done at Scott's Landing revealed more than 300 different plant species. Imagine learning even half of those. . . . In DeeriNature, the Crowells have selected a manageable number of plant and animal species to serve as “basic vocabulary” for nature. These “familiar” will make you feel right at home on any of our preserves or in your own backyard.

In addition to Self-Guides to the various preserves, a Species Almanac describes in word and image the plants and animals you are most likely to find. Nature Activities includes games and challenges for the whole family. There are two versions: one for your computer at home, and one for mobile devices on the trail. Find them both at DeeriNature.

2014 GRANT AWARDS

Maine Community Foundation, Hancock County Fund
\$5,000 Branding/Graphic Designer

Land For Maine's Future
\$120,000 Lily Pond Phase II, (awarded, uncertain payment)

New England Lighthouse Lovers
\$5,000 Mark Island Light

Eleanor Stitch Recreational Grant
\$150 Transport to Preserves for Camp Kooky

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
\$1,000 Lily Pond Phase II, \$200 Ice Cream Social

Camden National Bank
\$1,000 Lily Pond Phase II

Virginia Wellington Cabot Family Foundation
\$10,000 Lily Pond Phase II; \$10,000 General Operating Budget

Norcross Wildlife Foundation
\$2,300 Technology; \$1,500 Environmental Education

Elizabeth F Cheney Foundation
\$1,000 Mark Island Light

Next Generation Foundation
\$56,250 Environmental Education – over 5 years

MONTHLY DONATIONS - A GREAT WAY TO GIVE

Two of our newest sustaining members share why they now give monthly:

“I realized the reliability of a donation is important instead of a flood (one hopes) at year end that can't be predicted in a budget, so I changed all my donations to monthly ones where there was a process for doing so. Island Heritage Trust made it easy to do the monthly route, I had been giving erratically all along, as memorial gifts and year end donations. So I lumped it!”
-Susan Seater, MA

“For decades I have drawn sustenance from the fragile beauty of Deer Isle and its surroundings. I am so happy to be in a position to give back so her beauty can be preserved for all to enjoy. I hope I inspire others to become sustaining members so the uniqueness of this special place is never lost on natives, summer people, or tourists. Join me please.”
- Judi Jacobs, CO

Sign up at www.islandheritagetrust.org by clicking “DONATE NOW” and choosing “monthly.”

HISTORIC STORM BRINGS OUT VOLUNTEERS

When Janna Newman, IHT's stewardship director, arrived on Deer Isle, Monday, Nov. 3, 2014, she was shocked by what she saw. The area's first major storm of the season, a massive nor'easter that blew through the area just the day before, had left the island littered with downed trees and fallen power lines blocking roads, making travel throughout the island nearly impossible. Unable even to get to Heritage House or to any of the preserves to assess the damage, Janna went back home to Ellsworth. It wasn't until two days later that she got her first look at the devastation, when she went to Shore Acres and had to make her way through the trail by cutting what she called "the small stuff" with a handsaw, a job she thought might take an hour or so, but instead, "was much closer to four hours." That marked the beginning of a days-long process that resembled nothing so much as triage in a battle zone.

From Shore Acres, Janna proceeded to Pine Hill where she found ten trees down in the short span from the parking area to the foot of the hill. Tennis Preserve seemed hardest hit, she said, noting that there were so many trees down on the shore trail overlooking Pickering Cove that it took eight hours of nearly non-stop work for Janna and volunteer Ian Walker to make the trail passable. Sections of the Davis Farm area were so tangled with fallen branches as well as uprooted trees that it was nearly impossible to see across the trail, Janna commented. Only because she and Ian were wearing blaze orange, could they see each other through the dense web of limbs.

Ian Walker, long-time IHT volunteer, reported that Dan Hadley, a fellow member of the Friends of Settlement Quarry, had called to inform Ian of the storm's damage

there and began organizing the response, a task Ian referred to in all seriousness as "the hard part," as he much prefers the hands-on, heads-down grunt work. In looking back on the damage the storm left in its wake, Ian observed that as far back as he could recall, this storm "... hit [the island] as hard as anything has."



Post-storm havoc leaves tangled trees and a gaping hole on trail at Tennis Preserve *Janna Newman*



Ian Walker brings downed spruce to its knees on approach to Barred Island *Marissa Hutchinson*

Following Janna's assessment of the preserves, she created a plan, organizing it all so well, said Ian, that "all I had to do was just put my head down and get to work." The two, working side by side at Tennis on the extensive damage there, didn't even stop for a lunch break. Ian was just "so enthusiastic and more than willing" to do whatever was needed, Janna commented. Among the challenges, she said, were the many snags, trees that fall onto others and get hung up and which she refers to as "scary hang-ups." And they had plenty of those to deal with, she said, adding that great caution must be used in cutting them loose.

Additionally, the streams that typically resemble nothing more than a trickle over rocks, were impassable in some places, significantly complicating the hauling of chainsaws and fuel. Other storm response volunteers included Jane Rosinski and Gordon Russell, who took on the Shore Loop Trail at Shore Acres. Janna said the clean-up wouldn't have been nearly so effectively achieved without all the helping hands on site and those, like Dan Hadley and Pat Gross, who managed the organizational end of things. Fully aware of the invaluable contributions IHT volunteers make in fair weather as well as in emergency mode, Janna is

working to create a Friends group for each of the preserves. Already in place, the Friends of Settlement Quarry nimbly stepped up in the immediate aftermath of the November storm, confirming Janna's belief in the value of such groups. (Cont. on p. 7)



LILY POND PROJECT FACES UNEXPECTED SETBACK

We are more than discouraged that the expansion of the Lily Pond project (Phase II) is temporarily on hold - along with over 30 other conservation projects statewide. In opposition to the will of Maine voters and his own earlier commitment, Governor LePage is refusing to sell bonds, already approved, for the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program. The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine has joined with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and The Nature Conservancy in expressing disappointment with this unexpected roadblock.

The popular bond program has been approved by Maine voters by wide margins all six times it has been on the ballot since it began in 1987, yielding more than 315,000 acres for recreation, hunting and fishing; 30 working farms; two dozen working waterfronts; 1,200 miles of shoreline and dozens of lakes and ponds, with guaranteed access for boating and fishing. A 2012 study showed that every \$1 invested in land conservation through the Land for Maine's Future program returned \$11 in goods and services to the Maine economy. Apart from the economic return on investment, the program has helped preserve Maine's traditional livelihoods, recreational heritage and the natural beauty that leads so many visitors to wish *they* lived here.

Among the projects in jeopardy are two located in Somerset County, which would protect over 18,000 acres of deer wintering area and 800 acres of maple syrup production. Like Island Heritage Trust's planned expansion of protected property around the Lily Pond, along with permanent access (now lacking), most projects are smaller. But all won approval in a competitive process for LMF funding and most have budgets that are now in limbo, with purchase-and-sale agreements that may be in jeopardy.

Conservation organizations, land owners, businesses, municipalities, and interested citizens are pressing legislators and the governor to honor his commitment to authorize these funds. Contact IHT for updates or information on how to weigh in on the issue.

(Photo: Pickering Parcel Shoreline, Marissa Hutchinson)

Annual Shore Dinner & Benefit Auction Saturday, July 25, 2015

- ◆ An incredible setting ◆ Silent & very live(ly) auctions ◆ A tasty, traditional shore dinner catered by Bianco Catering (chicken or vegetarian option also available)! ◆ Toe-tapping music 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.*

(Continued from p. 6)

As if the November 2 storm weren't enough to manage, a second November storm arrived not long after Janna and her volunteers had built a new boardwalk at Shore Acres. It seemed like a kicked-while-down moment, after Janna and her volunteers had just completed the grueling work of cleaning up in the wake of the first storm. But Mike Little, Ian and Janna met again after Thanksgiving, doing what was necessary to clear trails.

While such storms are rare, routine trail work is not. It's a regular part of IHT stewardship, essential to keeping the preserves both accessible and safe for visitors. Janna noted that annual work parties are conducted primarily in June, facilitated by a faithful cadre of hard-working volunteers, a

group she hopes to enlarge. "We even offer refreshments," she happily noted. Getting the Friends groups in place to help with routine work like bog bridge building will be enormously beneficial, she said, but perhaps even more so in the event of another significant storm. As for the condition of the preserves now, some four months after the November storms, Janna reports that she'll comprehensively reassess the needs at each, once the snow melts. And she'll depend on those faithful volunteers once again to help with the ongoing work.

If you are interested in becoming a Friend of a particular preserve and volunteering to saw, hammer, or organize, please contact us at the IHT office: 207-348-2455 or at iht@islandheritagetrust.org.

Wings, Waves & Woods

Birding by land, by sea and by art



Finch Siri Beckman

May 15-17, 2015
Deer Isle, Maine

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Eagle Spotting | Art Workshops |
| Warbler Walks | Live Owl Demo |
| Birding for Kids | Shore Bird Walk |
| Art Show & Reception | Guided Puffin Boat Trips |
| Landscaping for Wildlife | Birding on Swan's Island |
| Maine Birds at Risk - Mark McCollough | |

www.deerisle.com

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



Join us for just one activity or a weekend immersion in birding and art. Children will enjoy checking the blue bird boxes at Scott's Landing (right after school on Friday) and seeing the live owls on Saturday. A special bird walk at Mariners Park on Sunday is designed especially for children, and extra binoculars will be available.

New offerings this year include Wildlife Gardening—two professional landscapers are transforming their own Deer Isle yard for the benefit of birds and other wildlife; and Siri Beckman, the featured artist on this year's poster, gives a wood cut demo at her studio—she has been working on birds all winter.

Schedule available at Island Heritage Trust or online.

I live on Deer Isle and get to experience wildlife at its best year round. Last year, I decided to go on the Night Noises "adventure" with a dear friend and we had a blast!!! We not only got to hear the 'p-e-e-n-t' of the woodcock, we caught them in the wild act of shooting straight into the night sky then free falling to the ground!! An amazing experience—I plan to go again next year. I also took a watercolor class with a local artist, which was great fun. Thanks!

Patty Heanssler, Deer Isle

I've been enjoying Wings, Waves & Woods for years. Every year, my sister and friends from CT look forward to visiting Stonington for this weekend to participate in all the great activities that IHT arranges. And it's not just for birders!

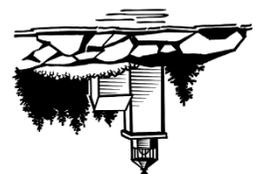
Shyrel Bauby, Granby, CT



View from Scott's Landing Preserve
Woody Osborne



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