

# ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



Volume XI, No. 1

Spring 2001

## *The View from Caterpillar Hill*



PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

ARRIVING AT CATERPILLAR Hill, like crossing the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge, is one of the defining experiences of living on Deer Isle. Driving southwest along Route 15 through spruce and mixed hardwood, the road starts to climb and turn southerly. As the woods thin on the right, glimpses of a far horizon begin to appear, hinting at something more. Suddenly an opening appears, and briefly to the west is Penobscot Bay shining in the sun, the blue Camden Hills beyond. This image is quickly obscured. First by roadside trees, then an unfinished house followed by two aging shingled buildings. There is a two-story house used as a seasonal gallery. Beyond the buildings, the uninterrupted panorama bursts into full view. Wow!

On a really clear day, it is hard not to slow down or stop for a minute. There is a lot to see. From the pullover just past the gallery, the horizon arcs from the tip of Cape Rosier and the Camden Hills in the west, to the Fox Islands, Isle au Haut, and finally Jericho Bay and Swan's Island in the south. Inevitably one looks for familiar landmarks. It takes a minute to es-

*There are now three land trusts involved in efforts to keep this grand panorama intact.*

tablish that the western shore of Walker Pond is not part of Penobscot Bay beyond. There are the islands, Pond and Hog, off Cape Rosier, and farther to the south in the center of the Bay, Great Spruce Head Island. Dunham Point is visible behind Little Deer. One's gaze will drop to the blueberry fields that spread across the hill to a distant tree line. There is the abandoned farmhouse, weathered, solitary, and windowless, suggestive of a Wyeth painting. In the distance beyond the house are the familiar twin towers of the bridge, but one must look farther south to see the Reach itself as its eastern end stretches down to Jericho Bay, Sunshine, and Stinson Neck. This is a view to be savored and saved.

It may be a truism that we don't miss something until it is gone, but it is also a powerful reality. The first hint that this grand panorama might be changed dramatically came several years ago with the construction of a miniature golf course a short distance down the road. It is not conspicuously part of

the view, but its appearance shocked many to the realization that familiar blueberry fields can succumb to the pressures of development. This fact prompted a member to ask pointedly what the Island Heritage Trust was doing to protect the view.

That question started a series of discussions between IHT and Blue Hill Heritage Trust in whose area of interest Caterpillar Hill belongs. In addition to preservation of the view, BHHT has long been interested in protecting the Walker Pond watershed. Two land trusts sharing a common objective and working cooperatively surely increase this project's chance of success. An understanding was reached that the ownership of land or any protective easements would be held by the BHHT, and IHT would ask its members and the community to help with the necessary funding. When the Maine Coast Heritage Trust learned what was happening, it volunteered its supporting services for a project

*Continued on page 8*



## *President's Letter: With Each Success, More Challenges*

THIS YEAR as both the towns of Stonington and Deer Isle embark on the Comprehensive Planning process, the question of development is forefront in the minds of many. What role can IHT play in this long-term development of the island? Where is the balance between protecting significant wildlife habitat, recreation areas, favorite vistas, and supporting a healthy island economy? Will zoning, that dread word, help keep taxes in check and protect traditional lifestyles? IHT can certainly play a very important role, but then we must ask: to what level of

long-term stewardship responsibility can we safely commit our financial and human resources?

As the development pressure continues, these are the sorts of questions that all land trusts along the coast of Maine are asking. These pressures are varied. Frequently, a stretch of undeveloped land is put on the market, or a site is proposed for near-shore aquaculture pens. It takes willing owners, generous supporters, and creative actions by concerned people to protect the rural beauty and economy of Deer Isle. If you would like to be a part of our solutions,

please stop by the office or call for more details.

We are very excited about hiring our new Administrative Director, Lesley Lichko, who is providing much needed support for all our efforts. To provide working space in the office for Lesley, Roger Hooke has volunteered many hours over the winter to move a partition and add needed shelves for storage. Many thanks to Roger, and again to Ian Walker for the fine work he did last winter.

We hope to see you often this summer!

*Ann Hooke*

## *Stewardship Committee Reports Shore Acres Preserve to Open Mid-Summer*

AFTER THE LONG stormy winter, the trails are in remarkably good condition, and everyone is eager to get out and explore this beautiful island. Given that every year more and more people are visiting natural areas on the island, we must consider the carrying capacity of these areas. How much traffic can the thin mineral soils of the trails withstand? Most of the parking areas are small to provide a better visitor experience and to reduce visitor impact. You can help protect these areas by using "Leave No Trace" ethics. For example, by walking single file, you will see more and reduce trail wear. There are several preserves on the Island that many people have yet to discover. Explore the possibilities! Visit the IHT office in Deer Isle for suggestions.

The development of Shore Acres Preserve is moving along with hopes that by sometime in the summer both the parking area and the trails will be ready for visitors. The Preserve is located along the Greenlaw District Road. The trail winds down through the woods to the shores of Greenlaw Cove and then loops back a different way. There are old gnarled birches and

moss-covered stone walls along the way. From the shore, there are expansive views across Greenlaw Cove toward Campbell Island and Mount Desert Island in the distance. The glacial geology along the shore is fascinating.

The primary function of the Stewardship Committee is to care for the lands we own and to uphold our responsibilities as holders of easements on property owned by others. The lands that we own are open to the public and therefore have trails, signs, and parking areas that need to be managed to keep the areas safe for humans and protected for the wildlife. As many of our owned properties are islands, we are always in need of people with boats who are willing to serve as island stewards. The responsibility of easement stewards is very different as easements are generally not open to the public. Our responsi-



*Low tide at Shore Acres, looking toward Campbell Island.*

PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

bility is simply to make an annual visit to verify that the land is being cared for as defined by the legal requirements of the easement. Each easement is unique.

Our popular Walks & Talks Program will again provide opportunities to learn from local experts about forests, birds, plants, butterflies, geology and more. The forest programs may be of particular interest as our even-aged island forest suffered extensive blow-down damage during the winter. Look for the enclosed schedule, and make your reservations early as many trips are limited to small groups.

*Ann Hooke*



## 2001 Summer Nature Walks & Talks

Sponsored by Island Heritage Trust, Stonington Conservation Commission,  
Deer Isle Conservation Commission, and Deer Isle Walking Trails Group

FOR INFORMATION, reservations, and changes due to weather:  
Call 348-2455

**Fri. May 11: Springtime Life in Bogs, Swamps, Marshes, and Vernal Pools.** Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden, opposite Sunset P.O., at 1:00 p.m. Led by Ken Crowell and Lesley Lichko. Wear rubber boots. Reservations necessary. Limit 12. Rain date May 12.

**Sat. May 19: Warbler Wave Walk.** Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden, opposite Sunset P.O. at 7:30 a.m. Extra binoculars available. Led by Ken Crowell and Perry Hunter. Rain date May 21.

**Mon. June 11: Bird Calls for Beginners.** Led by Perry Hunter. Meet at Tennis Preserve (FR 523 off Sunshine Road) at 8:00 a.m. Rain date June 12.

**Wed. June 13: Moths and Butterflies of Deer Isle.** Led by Marnie Crowell. Meet at the Mariners Park parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Rain date June 14.

**Mon. Jun 25: Mudflat Wildlife.** Meet at Little Deer Isle end of Causeway at 8:00 a.m. Wear rubber boots and bring insect repellent. Reservations necessary. Limit 12. Rain date June 26.

**Fri. June 29: Rejuvenating our Coastal Spruce-Fir Forests.** Indoor session given by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. To be held at Sunset Parish Hall, just south of P.O. in Sunset at 7:00 p.m.

**Sat. June 30: Spruce-Fir Forest Walk.** Jointly led by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry, and Paul Miller of Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM). Meet at Sunset Congregational Church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon, or bring lunch and participate in further observations and discussion. Rain date July 2.

**Sat. July 7: Why Small Islands Have Mice, Not Moose.** Led by Ken Crowell. Meet at Settlement Quarry Parking area on Oceanville Road at 8:00 a.m. Rain date July 9.

**Sat. July 14: Walking Trails Group Hike at Crockett Cove Woods.** Meet at preserve entrance on Whitman Road (FR 88) in Stonington at 9:00 a.m. For info: 348-2559 or 367-2448. Rain date July 15.

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### Wed. July 18: Island Heritage Trust Annual Meeting & Program

To be held at the Island Country Club at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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**Sat. Aug. 4: Woodland Ferns of Deer Isle.** Led by Sally Rooney. Location to be announced. Plan to meet at 9:30 a.m. Reservations necessary. Limit 12. Rain date Aug 5.

**Mon. Aug. 6: Polypod Island Celebration.** Meet at Polypod Island for mid-day picnic and exploring. High tide 1:15 p.m. Rain/fog date Aug 7.

**Sun. Aug. 12: Introduction to the Geology of Deer Isle.** Given by geologist Roger Hooke. Meet at Sunset Parish Hall, just south of P.O. in Sunset, at 7:30 p.m.

**Mon. Aug. 13: Bedrock Geology Field Trip Around Deer Isle.** Led by geologist Roger Hooke. Meet at Sunset Congregational Church at 9:00 a.m. Bring bag lunch and wear hat with brim. Back by 1:00 p.m. Rain date Aug 14.





## 2001 Summer Nature Walks & Talks Continued

### **Sat. Aug. 18: The Wide Variety of Natural Environments of Holt Mill Pond Preserve.**

Led by Diane Walker. Meet at Island Medical Center at 9:30 a.m. Rain date Aug. 19.

### **Mon. Aug. 20: Glacial Geology Field Trip of Deer Isle.**

Led by geologist Roger Hooke. Meet at Sunset Congregational Church at 9:00 a.m. Bring bag lunch and wear hat with brim. Back by 1:00 p.m. Rain date Aug. 21.

### **Thu. Aug. 23: Care and Culture of your Small Woodlot.**

Led by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry, and Paul Miller of Small Woodland Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM). Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden opposite Sunset P.O. at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon, or bring lunch and participate in further observations and discussion. Rain date Aug. 24.

### **Sat. Aug. 25: Shore Acres Preserve Opening.**

Explore the new Preserve with a naturalist. Meet at parking area Greenlaw District Rd. at 11:00 a.m. Bring picnic lunch. Rain date Aug. 27.

### **Sun. Aug 26: Morning Hike to Enjoy New Blue Hill Trail**

with the Walking Trails Group. Plan to meet at 9:00 a.m. for carpooling. Reservations necessary: 348-2559 or 367-2448. Limit 12. Rain date Aug. 27.

### **Fri. Aug. 31: Miniature World of Mosses.**

Led by Marnie Crowell. Meet at Crocket Cove Woods Preserve entrance on Whitman Road (FR 88) in Stonington at 9:00 a.m. Reservations necessary. Limit 12.

## *Community Service Opportunities to Help Care for IHT Lands*

Meet new friends. No prior skill necessary.

**Fri. June 8: Trail Work at Shore Acres Preserve.** Meet at Preserve parking area on Greenlaw District Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring work gloves, chain saws, loppers, water. Rain date June 9.

**Wed. July 25: Trail Work at Shore Acres Preserve.** Meet at Preserve parking area on Greenlaw District Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring work gloves, chain saws, loppers, water. Rain date July 26.

**Wed. Aug. 1: Shore Cleanup of Millet Island.** 9:00 a.m. Bring rubber gloves and bag lunch. Reservations necessary. Limit 12. Rain/fog date Aug. 2.

**Fri. Aug. 10: Trail Maintenance at Tennis Preserve.** Meet at Preserve (FR 523 off Sunshine Road) at 9:30 a.m. All welcome. There are jobs for everyone. Wear work gloves. For information: 348-2559. Rain date Aug. 11.

### **Wed. Aug. 29: Shore Cleanup of Wreck Island.**

9:00 a.m. Bring rubber gloves. Reservations necessary. Limit 12. Rain/fog date Aug. 30.

### **Mon. Sept. 10: Settlement Quarry Cleanup and Trail Work.**

Meet at Settlement Quarry parking area on Oceanville Road at 9:00 a.m. Wear work gloves. All welcome. Rain date Sept. 12.

### **Island Heritage Trust**

#### **Mission Statement**

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





The Board of Trustees, staff, and volunteers of the Island Heritage Trust wish to thank you, our contributors. Your generosity has enabled us to protect cherished land in the Deer Isle area that enriches our lives.

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## Leave a Legacy for Generations to Enjoy

One significant way to preserve the Island and its natural beauty for your children, grandchildren, and others is to leave a bequest to the Island Heritage Trust in support of its mission of environmental and scenic protection for Deer Isle and Stonington. For more information about how to leave a bequest, ask for our brochure on bequests by writing or phoning our office: IHT, P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627 (207-348-2455).



## Volunteers Are Welcome

Volunteers are essential to the success of IHT. If you believe that land protection is important, please consider becoming a volunteer. We have interesting possibilities in all kinds of ways! We need volunteers to:

- help in the office greeting visitors
- serve as easement stewards to complete annual visits
- serve as Island stewards making regular visits through the summer
- help with trail maintenance
- assist with the Walks & Talks program
- help at social events
- assist with public relations and fund-raising

There is a special need for parking area monitors for Barred Island Preserve on selected summer days.

To volunteer, you can phone 348-2455, email: [aphooke@acadia.net](mailto:aphooke@acadia.net) or [IHTtwo@prexar.com](mailto:IHTtwo@prexar.com), or write the IHT office, P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle ME 04627. THANK YOU!!

## Concern Over Impact of Proposed Salmon, Trout, and Halibut Fish Farms

It is hard to imagine the change that fish farms would bring to the waters between Little Deer Isle and Pickering Island. Two 15-acre areas of fish pens have been proposed off Pickering and Scott Islands just south of Little Deer Isle. Fish farms necessitate 24-hour generators, lights, and floats. Would this bring a boost to the local economy or would it conflict with the existing uses of the area by the local fishing community, summer visitors and residents along adjacent shores, and the native bird and marine life?

This quickly developing situation will be very much in the news this summer leading up to a public hearing to be scheduled late in the summer. If you are interested in staying abreast of the situation, stop by the office and we will provide you with current contact information.



## Land Committee Reports New Easement on St. Helena Island

**I**HT CONCLUDED two important conservation easements in the closing months of last year. One easement protects St. Helena Island, a 39-acre island in Stonington's archipelago while the other protects 7 acres of the bold westerly shore of Little Deer Isle.

Over the years we have had a series of discussions with the owners of St. Helena Island about their vision for its long-term future. Today, seen from offshore, it is largely spruce-covered with some open meadow and a single small cottage. To be invited ashore and given a tour is to see compelling evidence of the island's extensive industrial history. Years ago St. Helena was the site of a very active quarry with steam powered derricks, drilling equipment, and a resident work force. Its granite was shipped by schooner to locations along the eastern seaboard.

Planning for the future of a family-owned island while its family members are living on several con-

tinents takes time, but persistence pays off. The decision was to protect it and its history as it is. Some modest changes to the cottage and minor outbuildings may be made, but to the larger community, St. Helena will continue to appear as it does today.

In contrast, developing the easement that protects the Little Deer Isle property was simple. The owners had made up their minds to protect the natural habitat and scenic beauty of their property by prohibiting any development. They sought IHT's help to implement their plan. The entire process took about two months. The lesson learned once again is that the land protection process varies widely because of the owners' wishes and the character of their land.

### Some Current Projects

In addition to our interest in protecting Caterpillar Hill described elsewhere in this newsletter,

the Land Committee is working on several other projects. The Committee is considering various options for protecting the beach at the Causeway. This process has been complicated by the natural changes along a beach that happen over time, and by various land transfers that occurred when the State built a straighter paved road to replace the earlier curving gravel road belonging to the town of Deer Isle.

Spurred by a question from a local landowner about protecting her property, a working farm for generations, we have been learning about farmland easements. The goal of this form of easement is to preserve the farming capabilities of the protected land for future owners. There are a growing number of farmland easements in the Blue Hill area. This potential easement would be our first farmland easement on Deer Isle. *Stan Myers*

## IHT Hires Administrative Director

**O**VER THE WINTER the board of directors of the Island Heritage Trust came to the conclusion that the mission of the trust could best be carried out with the help of a paid administrator. On March 7, Lesley Lichko became IHT's new Administrative Director.

This is a 20-hour per week position with many responsibilities, including day to day management of the office, supervision of volunteers, coordination of committee objectives, financial development, and public relations.

Lesley was born in Pennsylvania, spent part of her school years in New Jersey, and now resides in the Bangor area. She moved to Maine in 1996 to become Director of Operations for the Bangor Humane Society. She has many years of experience in the area of animal welfare.

She is the mother of a 9-month-old daughter, Stephanie. She has a degree in animal science from the University of Delaware, and will receive a master's degree this year from the University of Maine in ecology and environmental science. She has spent the last 3 years working on a graduate level research project on Sears Island, studying the success of amphibian reproduction in created vernal pools.

When asked what excites her most about working with IHT, Lesley expressed her deep belief in the mission of land conservation and remarked on how refreshing it is to work with a board and volunteers possessing talent, knowledge, commitment, and enthusiasm. Lesley is interested in drawing a wide variety of folks into the work of land conservation. She will be in the of-



*From L to R: Pat, Annie, and Lesley*

fice every Thursday and Friday, and half a day on either Wednesdays or Saturdays. Stop in and introduce yourself. Don't forget to bring a treat for her canine companion, Annie!

*Dana Douglass*

PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE



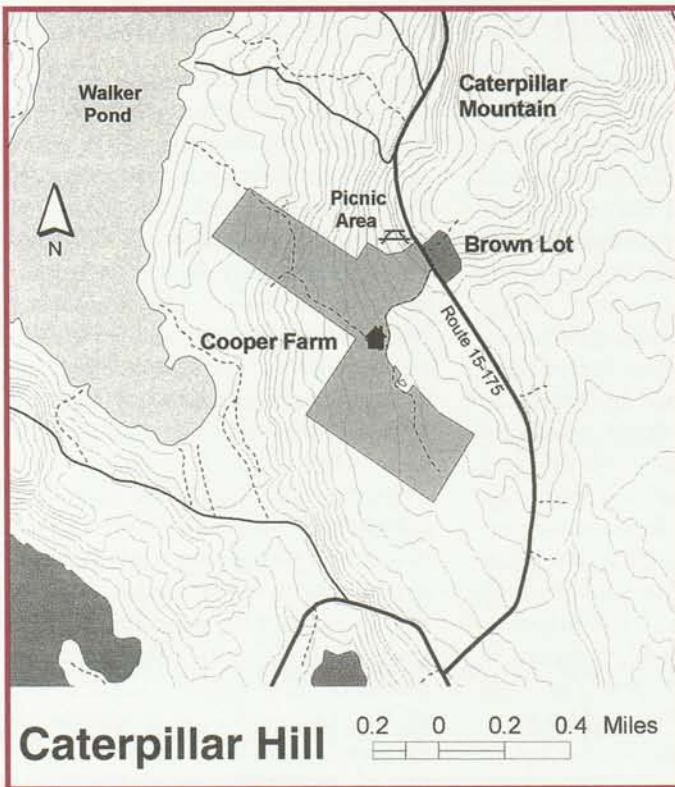
## Caterpillar Hill *Continued from page 1*

seen as having statewide significance. Now three land trusts are involved.

Land protection does not take place without a willing landowner, and protection of the view from Caterpillar Hill involved discussions with many landowners. Each had different interests, expectations, and timetables. However, the patient efforts of the past three years are finally bearing fruit. Agreement has been reached for BHHT to purchase the 146-acre parcel of blueberry fields known as the Cooper farm. This property is the largest and in a sense the keystone for the entire project. During the past winter, BHHT was also able to purchase a smaller 9-acre lot on the uphill side of Route 15 from the Brown family. Efforts will continue to add adjacent properties and broaden the area of protection, but this most significant first step has been taken, and that is the really good news.

There will be many beneficiaries of all this effort, but there can be little doubt that it has special significance for island residents and visitors. Looking out from Caterpillar Hill to the familiar view of Deer Isle has always signaled "...almost there." IHT Trustees will be meeting shortly to determine the best way to organize our financial support for this important project. As these plans develop, we'll let you know how you can help.

**Stan Myers**



### Deer Isle Rabies Alert! Some Precautions to Take

We often think that only pet owners need worry about rabies, but in an area like Deer Isle where many of us plan to enjoy the woods, a few words about the rabies situation are required as several rabid wild and domestic animals have been reported. If you are bitten or scratched by a wild or domestic animal, immediately wash the wound with soap and water for at least 10 minutes. Immediately call your doctor or the Island Medical Center; and call the Animal Control Officer so that he can capture the animal for rabies testing.

To help prevent the spread of rabies, please vaccinate all pets; avoid contact with all wild animals or domestic animals that are behaving oddly; do not attract wild animals with food or uncovered garbage cans; do not allow pets to roam at will; do not encourage children to let pets lick ("kiss") their faces; remember to keep a safe distance from any wild or domestic animal you or your children don't know well. On Deer Isle, you may call the Animal Control Officer, the Island Medical Center, the Veterinary Clinic, or the State Police for further advice or assistance.

**Annual Meeting**  
Wednesday, July 18, 2001 at 7:00 pm  
Island Country Club  
Save the date!



### Island Heritage Trust NEWSLETTER

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*Newsletter Committee:* Lesley Lichko,  
Harriet Steinharter, Ann Hooke

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