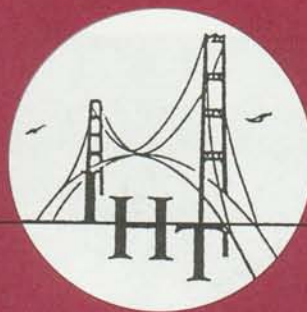


ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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Fall 2001

What a Summer It Was!



IHT lobster picnic was a big hit.

What a summer! Golden day followed golden day – and the tragedy of September 11 had not yet struck. The lack of summer rain was hard on the gardens and some folks' wells, but it was wonderful for outdoor activities of all kinds. IHT had a busy summer with a very full schedule of "Walks and Talks" that explored bogs and swamps, ferns and mosses, forests, geology, and the worlds of birds, moths, and butterflies. Led by our knowledgeable guides, many friends of the Trust participated in these events.

A major focus of the summer was working with the Blue Hill Heritage Trust to raise funds for the purchase of the 124-acre Cooper Farm at Caterpillar Hill. We raised money by soliciting individual donors, a letter to our members, a raffle, and a lobster picnic.

The picnic was held on a sunny afternoon at Edgewood Farm, where we could look out on Caterpillar Hill. Eighty people feasted on mussels, corn on the cob, lobsters, and sumptuous desserts,

with a minimum of speechmaking and lots of conviviality. Thanks to the work of Chick White, Loring and Claudette Kydd, and all their volunteers, it was a memorable afternoon. The raffle for a handsome Terry Lester photograph of the view from Caterpillar Hill, was won by Chris Leith of Sedgwick; the winning ticket was

drawn by Terry at the picnic.

The other major event of the summer was the opening of 38 acres Shore Acres Preserve, a gift of land to the Trust from Judy Hill. Shore Acres Preserve, located in

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ANN HOOKE



As in past summers, stalwart volunteers helped with cleanups of Trust-owned islands. Many bags of trash were removed to restore the beauty of the shore and rocky terrain.



Marnie Reed Crowell leads a nature walk on mosses.

What a Summer It Was!

Continued from page 1

the Greenlaw District of Deer Isle, adds another area open to the public for day-use. Friends of IHT will include this preserve among their other favorites, such as the Tennis Preserve, Barred Island Preserve, and the Settlement Quarry, as a place to explore and to cherish land that will stay the way it is now and into the future.

We could not operate without all the wonderful volunteers; some staff our office in the summer, some act as stewards, and some work hard to help organize special events like the Lobster Picnic. The summer of 2001 can go into the record books as one of the best!

Peg Myers

Summer Walks & Talks

Two hundred and eighty people participated in 16 nature "Walks & Talks," and 35 volunteered for trail and island maintenance trips. We are fortunate to have volunteer leaders, many of whom are professionals in their fields, who are happy to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with us. If you are willing to share a particular interest, location, or expertise with us next summer, please contact Ann Hooke (348-6933).

President's Letter: We Have Exceeded Our Campaign Goal!

ON THE AFTERNOON of September 11, I drove over Caterpillar Hill. In the silence of shock and grief, I paused to take in the view on that sparkling, clear day. I noticed that there were other people there too, standing in silence letting the peace and beauty of that place provide its solace and comfort.

Who would have known that all our enthusiasm of the summer to protect this view would be so richly affirmed so soon? I am very grateful to all of you who volunteered to help, who donated money

and services, who bought raffle tickets, and who came to the lobster picnic. We have exceeded our campaign goal. As of October, more than 160 people have donated a total of \$85,000.

Ken Crowell and I attended the national convention of the Land Trust Alliance in Baltimore, MD, in October. We attended many workshops related to all aspects of land trust work and were pleased to find that, comparatively speaking, our small, largely volunteer land-trust has an excellent record both in amount of land protected

and in the size of our membership. Over the summer we were also pleased that many new volunteers came forward asking how they might help.

We are again interviewing for a new Administrative Director to provide professional assistance. This added staff strength will increase our financial needs but also our ability to further our mission as a land trust.

Thanks to you, our members, for your continued generous support and encouragement!

Ann Hooke

Shore Acres Preserve Opens After a Year of Dedicated Volunteer Work



PHOTOS BY ROGER HOOKE

Hikers gathered at Shore Acres Preserve admire the new sign made by Jeff Gammelin of Freshwater Stone.

SHORE ACRES PRESERVE opened officially on August 25, 2001. The donor of this land, IHT Trustee Judy Hill, was present to receive the first brochure and untie the blue ribbon opening the trail. Forester Max McCormack and geologist Roger Hooke then team-led a walk down the Stone Wall Trail to the shore. Max pointed out the unusually diverse number of tree species in this forest, and used a bore device to show how slowly trees grow on the thin glacial soils of Deer Isle. Within the following two weeks 150 people registered at the trail head, adding comments like, "Great addition to island trails," "Peaceful and inspiring," "Thank you, Judy," and

"Great work!"

Many thanks to Rick Weed who built the parking area, Tanya Taylor for the trail signs, Don Reiman for his illustrations in the brochure, Jeff Gammelin of Freshwater Stone in Orland for the impressive granite sign, Gordon Rittmeyer for construction of the registration box, and the numerous volunteers who worked with loppers, chain saws, and willing hands to clear the parking area and 1.5 miles of woodland and shore trails. It took a year to lay out and cut these trails from rough woods!

IHT's other preserves were as popular as ever. Barred Island had around 3000 visitors, which necessitated additional trail work and monitoring of the parking area. We urgently need people to assist steward Ken Crowell with various projects at Barred. Please let us know if you are willing to help (348-2455).

Many full bags of trash were removed from Millet and Wreck Is-



Judy Hill and Ann Hooke officially open Shore Acres Preserve.

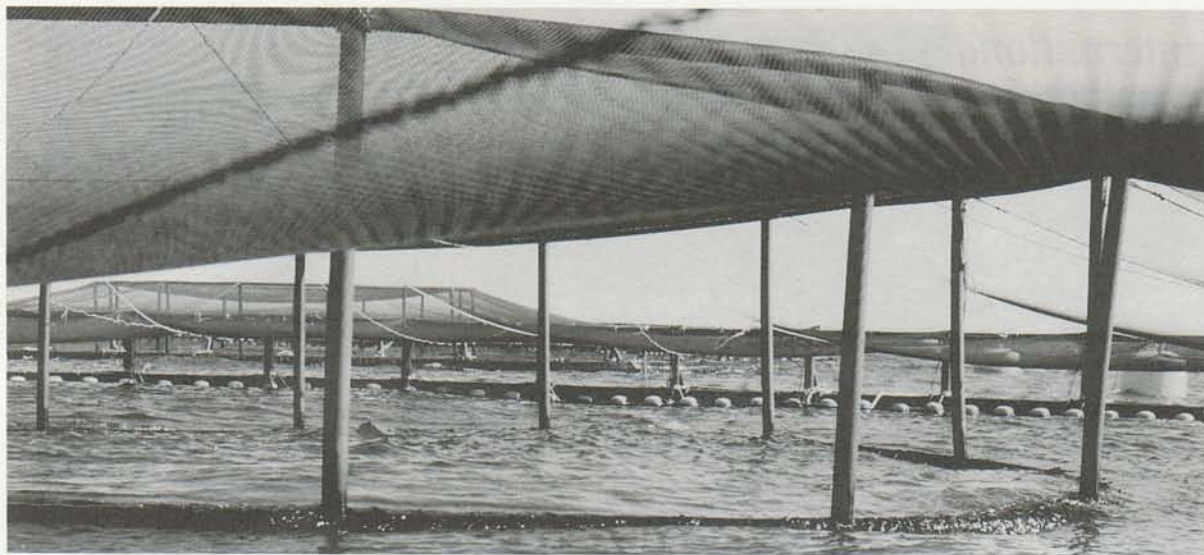
lands on cleanup trips this summer. Most of the debris comes from fishing and pleasure boats, not from island visitors, although it is taking a long time for visitors to learn that camping and camp fires are not appropriate on most of the islands in the Stonington archipelago.

Finally, the stewards of our 20 conservation easements visited each of the properties to reaffirm our commitment with the owners and enjoy the unique beauty and characteristics of these areas. People in the community are often unaware of the care and dedication of the volunteer stewards, who monitor our conservation easements.

Ann Hooke

IHT needs....

The summer office volunteers have requested two additions to make their work easier: a small bookcase and a desk to replace the present one that is too small. If you are willing to donate either of these items, please leave a message at the office (348-2455). We also have an old copier which is functional. Any takers?



*Salmon pen
off Swan's
Island*

Why Should A Land Trust Care about the Use of Navigable Waters?

LAND TRUSTS have always been concerned about water quality in lakes, stream, rivers, and underground aquifers. Protecting land in its natural state is one of the primary ways of protecting water quality. But the concern of land trusts for activities on the navigable waters of Maine's bays and coves is quite new.

Pressures for economic development and dwindling resources seem to be the driving force behind a new sort of "commercial sprawl" that is not land-based but seeks to occupy unclaimed open waters and its associated bottom. Some see aquaculture as having great economic potential for Maine, but an increasing number of critics are concerned about its adverse consequences.

The state of Maine owns the bottom of its coves and bays, and the federal government regulates the navigable waters above. Businesses make lease applications to the state for the exclusive use of the bottom land beneath an aquaculture operation. Projects in aquaculture vary significantly in scale and technique. Raising mussels and oysters on strings hanging below floating rafts can be relatively unobtrusive and have little or no environmental impact. Hundreds of thousands of salmon in pens spread across 20 or 30 acres of open water with attending barges, lights, and generators are neither unobtrusive nor without

significant environmental impact.

In remote areas of the coast the impact of these larger operations has gone unchallenged. But as the industry has sought to expand and looked for new sites in the more developed areas of the coast, their lease applications are being vigorously contested by the communities in which they wish to operate. The environmental impact of large fish pens is increasingly questioned. A clash of interests exists between those who see economic opportunity in the leasing of a public resource and those who are concerned about their consequences.

These industrial scale fish farms are financed by large international corporations; they produce relatively few local jobs. They are different from the traditional owner-proprietor fisheries of Maine. In fact, many local fishermen see these operations as directly interfering with their traditional activities. They see such large numbers of fish requiring tons of feed as sources of tons of concentrated waste that will threaten the marine environment on which their livelihoods depend.

Several years ago, there was an attempt to locate a fish farm in Blue Hill Bay. In response, "Friends of Blue Hill Bay" was formed, and was successful in defeating the project. This past spring an application was made for two 15-acre salmon pen sites in Penobscot Bay just west of

Little Deer Isle. With the advice and assistance of the Blue Hill group, the "East Penobscot Bay Environmental Alliance" was formed this summer. (For more information about their activities, contact them at 207-348-6074 or jmcccl@hypernet.com.)

The scale of this salmon farm operation and its proximity to seven properties protected by IHT, The Nature Conservancy, or Acadia National Park promptly drew our trustees into the broader debate over whether the application should be approved. The board concluded after careful discussion that given our mission of environmental and scenic protection and considering our legal responsibilities for protecting property in close proximity to the proposed sites, IHT should formally oppose salmon pens at this location. Letters have been sent to state and federal agencies stating our disapproval. In summary, we oppose the lease applications because: (1) they will directly interfere with traditional fishing and recreational boating; (2) they pose a threat to the wildlife resources of adjacent islands, water, and submerged lands; (3) they will significantly degrade the scenic and recreational quality of the area.

The approval process for these leases is a lengthy one. The debate concerning the risk and benefits of these large projects in our part of the state continues. Its outcome is uncertain. Stay tuned! *Stanley Myers*

IHT Hosts International Conservation Fellows

ANN HOOKE



Conservation fellows at a picnic on Polypod Island.

AT OUR ANNUAL PICNIC on Polypod Island in early August, we were joined by a group of six conservation professionals from Cuba, Brazil, Ecuador, Mexico, Trinidad, and Belize, who were

particularly interested in our stewardship activities. They were on a month-long fellowship sponsored by the Atlantic Center for the Environment, funded by the Quebec Labrador Foundation.

Don and Ginger Reiman, Chandler Barbour, Martha Green, and Ann Hooke provided enough boats so that this group could join us on Polypod. As they are all involved in land conservation in their home countries, including land trusts, they enjoyed having the opportunity to talk with several of our trustees, and to hear about our cooperative efforts with Blue Hill Heritage Trust and the Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

Later they were taken for a walk at the Settlement Quarry where one of them commented that in his country the activity of land trusts was initially opposed by the local people until they understood that the objective was to care for land that they valued greatly. It was a rewarding day of sharing many common concerns and solutions.

Ann Hooke



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Peter Friedell	John Peterson
Dan Hadley	Gordon Rittmeyer
Candace Hall	Diane Walker
Judy Hill	Jean Welch
Dan Hotaling	Jean Wheeler
Peg Myers	



IHT in the Schools

Peter Friedell at the Deer Isle-Stonington High School and Candace Hall at the Elementary School, two IHT trustees, are particularly interested in getting students to think about the natural environment that they live in. Peter organized a group of high school students last spring and supported them as they wrote a powerful play for Earth Day about our "throw-away" culture. He hopes to do this again this year. Candace plans to take students to nature preserves on the island to learn about our island's rich scenic and natural resources.

Myers Receives Wakefield Award

The Rowan Wakefield Award was presented to Stanley F. Myers at the IHT annual meeting. The award, first given to Rowan Wakefield in 1995 and named in his honor, is given to an individual who performs outstanding work promoting the mission of the Trust.

In her citation, President Ann Hooke cited Stan's service to IHT: "His vision, administrative and financial skills, and dedication have been essential to IHT's success. He has been an inspirational teacher and guide, and has helped to make Deer Isle a better place for present and future generations."

Stan, whose term as Trustee expired this year, served as Chair of the Land Committee from 1992 to this year and as President from 1995-1997. In most of the easements and IHT-owned land for which the Trust is currently responsible, Stan was the person who spear-headed these land protection efforts.



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Volunteers doing stewardship trail work (l. to r.): Ralph Seeley, Harriet Steinharter, Kathy Emerson, Roger Steinharter, Barbara Seeley, and Perry Hunter.

IHT Acquires Two New Easements in 2001, with Another Island Easement in the Works

IHT NOW PROTECTS or owns almost 880 acres and more than 21 miles of shoreline. In 2001, we acquired our first easement on Little Deer Isle – a 7.4 acre parcel with 550 feet of shorefront. It is a beautiful, wooded area looking out on Scott and Pickering Islands that will remain forever wild. Although public access is not allowed, it is a pristine area that is highly visible from the water on the well-traveled East Penobscot Bay.

We have completed an easement on Sheep Island, on the northeast end of the Deer Isle Thorofare, with 45 acres and a 7800-foot shoreline. The easement permits very limited development in addition to permitting limited pub-

lic access and camping. This island has been part of the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) trail and will continue to be enjoyed by many small boaters.

A third easement on a 10-acre island with 3300 feet of shoreline on Inner Harbor will be completed by the end of the year. This easement allows no development and will be kept forever wild. It will also offer protection to a salt marsh significant both to bird and marine wildlife. There is no public access, but the salt marsh and island are highly visible from the Oceanville road and the waters of Inner Harbor.

IHT now holds 20 easements and owns 8 properties. The growing level of interest in protecting the unique character of the Deer Isle area is most heartening. The Island Heritage Trust, through its publications, public events, storefront office, and dedicated volunteers has played and continues to play a major part in that growing interest.

Gordon Rittmeyer

Consider a Bequest to Island Heritage Trust

Leave a legacy for generations to enjoy. For more information call IHT at 207-348-2455, or write us P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627.

Are You an Amateur Photographer?

(or better yet, a professional)



IHT needs an amateur or professional photographer to help with documentation of existing and future easements. Part of the easement process is to acquire "baseline documentation" to show the state of the property and any existing structures at the time the easement is given. Photographs provide a reference point for future monitoring.

Can you help? If so, the Land Committee would welcome it. This is a good job for someone who's here only in the summer, and who wants a way to help with no time restrictions. Call Gordon Rittmeyer (367-5144), e-mail him (gordon@rittmeier.net), or leave a message at the office (348-2455).

Leith Is Lucky Winner of Lester Photograph

The lucky winner of Terry Lester's Caterpillar Hill photograph is another artist: Christine Leith of Sedgwick and Troy, NY. She and her husband have spent many summers in Deer Isle, and have admired Terry's work since the gallery was in a garage in Mountainville, where one had to step over the garter snakes in the driveway to get to the gallery. They commented on Terry's ability to capture the unique lighting of coastal and woodland scenes, which they particularly enjoy. When she saw the photograph at our IHT table at the Farmer's Market in Deer Isle, she eagerly bought 6 raffle tickets. The Leiths were almost speechless with joy when they heard the news and are eager to hang the photograph in the home they are currently building in Sedgwick!