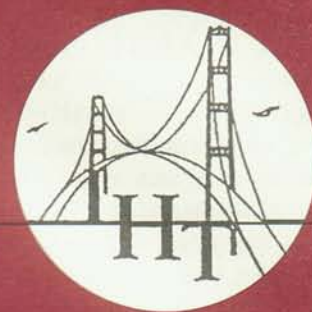


ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



Volume XIII, No. 2

Fall 2003

A Special Gift to the Island: Reach Beach at Grays Cove!

On a sunny afternoon in July your reporter had the fun of taking her granddaughter to Grays Cove. We parked and walked along the shore of the Reach Beach. It was lovely looking across Eggmoggin Reach to the mainland shore and the mountains of Mount Desert beyond. As we explored the beach for shells and beach glass and waded in the water, we observed that others were enjoying the beach, too. Two men were launching a small boat. Beside a couple of parked pick-up trucks, the drivers were chatting together at the end of a workday. All of us were using the beach as it has been used for generations. At the time we did not know that this beautiful stretch of sand would



PHOTO BY DICK PAGET

A family enjoys the Reach Beach on a sunny summer day.

come to IHT as a gift.

Thanks to Elizabeth Compton, the Island Heritage Trust is now the owner of the Reach Beach at Grays Cove. This crescent stretch of sand beside the Reach Road, at the narrow neck leading to Oak Point, has long been used by islanders for picnics, wading or swimming, launching kayaks or small boats, and enjoying a marvelous view of Mount Desert Island to the northeast. Across the road from the beach is a marsh protected by a conservation easement, a destination for birds where one can spot herons, plovers, and the like. The beach and the marsh to the south form a popular spot for birders to watch ducks in winter and shore birds in migration.

In making this wonderful gift it is Elizabeth Compton's wish that the beach continue to be used by the public in these traditional ways, so

she has stipulated that IHT maintain the beach as one with public access. The Trust has been pleased to accept the gift with that stipulation, to be able to ensure that this stretch of shore will be accessible to all into the future.

The issue of shore access has been one of concern in recent years, as waterfront has changed hands and fewer owners provide the access that a smaller, traditional community afforded. It has been part of the mission of IHT "to conserve open space...for public benefit," and this includes, where possible, preservation of access to the shore. Like the other properties that the Trust owns, including the Settlement Quarry, Shore Acres, and several offshore islands, the Reach Beach will be open to the public for its use and enjoyment.

Continued on page 4

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.

Tax Exemption and Public Benefit

What do a small pizza, a week's coffee, or a six-pack of beer have in common? Each costs the average Deer Isle taxpayer about the same as the hypothetical property taxes that make possible having natural areas such as the Settlement Quarry, Shore Acres, and the Reach Beach.

There are many valid property tax questions. There is a need for property tax reform at the state level. Many wealthier towns purchase open space, but because ours cannot afford to do so, your community land trust does it instead. Island Heritage Trust owns nine properties and manages Barred Island Preserve. We are proud to be in partnership with the towns, the churches, the Grange, Masons and Eastern Star, the Island Nursing Home, Haystack, and other tax-exempt entities to add to our island's quality of life. We believe these diverse contributions sig-

nificantly enrich our community.

The fact that IHT is tax exempt does mean that you pay a little more in taxes. Tax-exempt status is granted by state law for providing

For the cost of a small pizza, the average taxpayer helps make possible a prudent investment in the future of our area.

public benefit — open vistas, watershed, habitat for wildlife, access to shore for clammers, and open space where you and your family can go to walk, picnic, and swim. These areas are also important to our tourist economy, to the inns, restaurants, and bed-and-breakfasts, and to anyone who earns income in any aspect of the service or recreation industry or by renting out their camp or cottage. It is because of our natural beauty that both visitors and new residents come to the island.

All the island conservation lands are open to the public free of charge.

They were donated by public-spirited individuals, and are managed largely by volunteers. The total of all protected properties on the island, including the state park lands, is about 1400 acres. Of this, Island Heritage Trust owns 288 — just over 1% of the island's total area. We have never asked either town for support.

Although we are not obligated to pay any taxes, IHT contributes over \$1300 to the towns for services such as road maintenance and fire protection for these natural areas. The "cost" of these tax-exempt preserves is less than one half of one cent of your tax dollar, or \$7.25 on a property assessed for \$100,000. Surely that is a prudent investment for today and for our future.

Ken Crowell

Bill Haviland Has Written Two New Books on the Indians of Deer Isle and Their Travels

Retired archaeologist and North Deer Isle resident, Bill Haviland, led three popular Walks & Talks events this summer that reflect his interest in the history of Indian and European settlement on the island. Now he has written two books, *Deer Isle's Original People*, and *Safe Passage to the Sea: An Ancient Canoe Route at Deer Isle, Maine*. Both of these books are of great interest to all who are interested in local Indian history.

In writing these books, he commented that he wanted to "focus less on objects than on what these objects tell us about how people lived; less on what they made, and

more on what they did." In *Deer Isle's Original People*, he explains how, when, and why Indians came to this section of the coast. The color plates of various objects are beautiful.

The ancient canoe route across Deer Isle allowed Indians to stay in more protected waters as they traveled between the settlements on the Bagaduce and the large summer settlement on Naskeag Point. The pattern of Indian shell middens across Deer Isle follow these canoe routes.

Both of these books are now for sale at the IHT office in Deer Isle.

Ann Hooke



Island Heritage Trust NEWSLETTER

is published twice a year by
Island Heritage Trust
3 Main Street • P. O. Box 42
Deer Isle, ME 04627
Telephone 207-348-2455
e-mail: IHT@prexar.com

Ann Hooke, Executive Director

Newsletter Committee

Ann Hooke
Peg Myers
Harriet Steinharter
Jean Wheeler

Trustees of IHT Jean Wheeler, President

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Education Committee Report: Popular Walks & Talks and Outreach Work

IHT initiated its educational efforts with the Walks & Talks program in 1999. The events are planned for adults primarily, though several families have enjoyed participating on the walks. Since 2002, the Education Committee has been working to expand our educational efforts to serve more young people. We are very pleased that IHT naturalists are now working with students and teachers, both in the classroom and in the field to study marine biology and geology.

Work with children's programs

Over the summer, IHT collaborated with the Island Community Center's Camp Kooky staff, to provide guided trips for the 27 campers to Barred Island, Holt Mill Pond, the Settlement Quarry, and the Southwest Harbor Beach. Hedda Steinhoff, the Island Institute Fellow, organized a very successful treasure hunt at the Settlement Quarry with the children using hand-held GPS units. During the school year, we hope to become involved in the Community Center's After School Program.

From May to October, the Walks & Talks program has provided 30 educational opportunities covering island natural history, archaeology,



PHOTO BY KEN CROWELL

Roger Hooke pointing out a geologic feature at the Settlement Quarry to the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School's fifth grade students and teachers on a spring field trip.



PHOTO BY KEN CROWELL

Bruce Bulger explains sketching techniques to interested fifth grade students on the Settlement Quarry field trip.



PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

Joy Kleeman waving as she and others take a cool dip on the Polypod Island Picnic.

and history for more than 375 participants. Participants included visitors, new residents, and long-time residents from the island and peninsula towns. Thanks to all of our leaders who are both volunteers and highly qualified in their areas of expertise.

IHT is also collaborating with Bill Haviland in the publication of his booklet, *Safe Passage to the Sea: An Ancient Canoe Route at Deer Isle, Maine*. This booklet and Bill's *Deer Isle's Original People*, can be purchased at our office in Deer Isle.

Ann Hooke

Letter from the Executive Director

With the increased responsibilities and activities at the Trust, the job of the executive director continues to expand. The director supports all the behind-the-scenes work that allows the Trust to maintain 330 acres of public preserves, to protect significant habitat with conservation easements on an additional 680 acres, to provide a year-round variety of Walks & Talks programs, and to create an informative newsletter twice a year.

It is clear that for the Trust to continue to flourish, we need to move toward hiring a full-time executive director. Can we afford to take this giant step?

In the last 5 years:

- The number of acres protected has increased 60%
- The Walks & Talks program has increased 100%

Reach Beach

Continued from page 1

The Trust hopes and expects that the public will continue to use the Reach Beach responsibly, taking care to pick up trash, to build picnic fires below the high tide line, and to park along the road rather than on the sand. "Leave no trace" continues to be the watchword for those enjoying properties open for public use. It is this ethic that will ensure that this piece of the natural world remains available for the enjoyment of those who come tomorrow.

We are grateful to Elizabeth Compton for her gift to IHT, as it is really a gift to the island community. You are encouraged to visit, to enjoy, and to respect those who come after you, so that they may also enjoy the Reach Beach at Grays Cove.

Peg Myers

Become an IHT Member

Interested in IHT membership? Contact us at 207-348-2455 or P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle, Maine 04627 to volunteer, or contribute.

- The number of volunteers has increased by 110%
- Our budget has doubled (now \$60,000)
- Our membership has increased 65% (now 413)
- Our donations have increased 65%

These facts show clearly that during these years, the activities of the Trust have greatly increased! This is reflected in the success of the Caterpillar Hill Campaign of 2001, the increased number of visitors at preserves, and increased participation in Walks & Talks programs. This year our 65 volunteers have served as trustees, as committee members, as trail and easement stewards, Walks & Talks leaders, consultants, and office volunteers. We are enormously grateful for the

time, energy, and initiative of these people, without whom we would be unable to fulfill our mission.

The 100% increase in our operating expenses reflects our increased reliance on staff to assist with various projects, including grant writing. We want you to know how important your annual contributions are to the work and success of Island Heritage Trust!

Ann Hooke

Consider A Bequest

Leave a legacy for generations to enjoy. For more information call IHT at 207-348-2455 or write to us at 3 Main Street, P. O. Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627.



MAP COURTESY OF ROGER HOOKE

President's Letter

Summer always seems to pass too quickly, whether one is a schoolchild savoring the freedom of vacation or an adult who relishes the time on the water, the shores, or trails. The arctic birds are arriving and the trees are brilliant with the shortening days that let us know that it is time for winter projects.

Each week this summer we had new visitors to the IHT office, and we heard that people are becoming increasingly aware of our work on the island. Many enjoyed our Walks & Talks programs or were delighted by time spent at one of the public preserves. They learned of our efforts in the local news, in school presentations, or at the Lupine Festival where we had a display board that is now in the office.

Four new trustees welcomed

Our annual meeting in July was filled to overflowing, with a slide talk on the archaeological work done

on Deer Isle by Dr. Steven Cox. The Rowan Wakefield Award was presented to our Deer Isle Code Enforcement Officer, Hubert Billings, in recognition of his knowledge and love of the land and people of Deer Isle. Pat Gross, whom we all appre-

We are preparing to launch a Capital Campaign to address key issues in preserving the beauty of our coast.

ciate for her faithful office support, was presented with a Terrell Lester photograph.

We also thanked outgoing trustees, particularly Gordon Rittmeyer who served with dedication as a past president and chairman of Land and Nominating Committees. We were pleased to welcome new trustees Molly Felton, Josephine Jacob, Melissa Skelton, and Chick White.

This is a critical time on this incomparably beautiful coast, and we at IHT feel a keen sense of responsibility to do what we can to preserve the unique wonders and lifestyle of this area. We are now preparing to launch a Capital Campaign to raise funds for a full-time executive director who will manage the nuts and bolts aspect of our Trust and collaborate with our board to be as creative as we must be for the future.

Proposed purchase of Carney Island

We will be asking for your help in the purchase of Carney Island, an important wildlife habitat and part of the causeway basin of Deer Isle. Purchasing Carney Island and a small parcel on the Little Deer Isle end of the causeway will lessen the impact of development on the surrounding mudflats that are necessary for waterfowl, shorebirds, shellfish, and as shore access and a recreation area for island residents.

We invite your questions and ideas, and acknowledge your support with appreciation.

Jean Wheeler

News from the Woods and Sea

The Barred Island eagle family raised their eaglet successfully! IHT volunteers enjoyed acting as nature guides for visitors coming to the shore to view the eagle family. Thanks to the volunteers, and thanks to the public, for respecting the eagles' needs.

Our trail and island volunteers have been busy this summer too. A hearty crew of 12 worked for a couple of hours on Wreck Island in late August and collected 300 pounds of trash. The trash was found above the high tide line, particularly in cracks, and in the adjacent woods. Some trash seems to come from boats (including 75 buoys, 8 oil containers, 25 bleach bottles, 75 foam cups, 88 rope bits) and some from island visitors (26 glass bottles, charcoal, lobster bands, toilet paper, lighters, gun shot caps, a mattress, and 2 firecrackers). The high num-



PHOTO BY CATHY HART

Ann Hooke and Dick Paget with some of the trash picked up on Wreck Island.

ber of buoys sadly reflects buoy lines being cut following entanglement with boat propellers. Should this need arise, one should record the registration number and color of the buoy and submit that to the Harbor-master, to repay the fisherman for the damage or loss of his gear. The gear attached to one buoy is worth \$150 on average.

The Stewardship Committee would also like to thank the people who alerted us to the campers on Wreck Island, where overnight use is not permitted. IHT greatly appreciates members and visitors who comply with the rules, pick up trash voluntarily, and take the initiative to report to us activities not in keeping with IHT Use Codes. *Ann Hooke*

Protecting Prehistoric Archaeological Sites on the Maine Coast

Most of you who have walked Maine shorelines have seen the telltale white trail of clam shells eroding out of the bank — often the sign of a prehistoric site, but unfortunately also an indication of site loss, as more and more of the site falls into the sea. There are close to two thousand known prehistoric Native American archaeological sites on the coast of Maine. It is quite possible that within the lifetime of people alive today, every single one of these sites will be gone, the victims of rising sea levels and coastal erosion.

Archaeologists today are engaged in a race to save at least a small amount of information from this irreplaceable record of thousands of years of Native American occupation of the Maine coast, but we are hampered by the small number of qualified people, virtually no funding, and the added threat of site destruction by human agencies. Time and again we arrive at a site that looks interesting only to find it pock-marked with artifact collector's holes, shell strewn all over the surface of the site, the integrity of the site destroyed.

Often the attitude of people who dig in archaeological sites is "if the sites are being destroyed by erosion anyway, why shouldn't I go ahead and dig them and recover the artifacts?" The answer is that to the archaeologist, it is not the artifacts



PHOTOS BY STEVE COX

Archaeology students point out a woman's boot in a square dug to illustrate the disturbance of the site by pothunters.

themselves that are important, but it is their context, their position in relation to each other and to other finds in the site that tell us what was happening at the site. Most professional archaeologists have no quarrel with people who collect artifacts off the beach — these eroded-out pieces have already lost most of their scientific value.

There is a race to save Native American sites thousands of years old.

The sites themselves may represent thousands of years of occupation. If we excavate carefully, recording the position of everything, we can often determine when in the sequence of occupation a particular tool was dropped. We can see that a particular arrowhead was associated with a hearth containing charcoal that can be radiocarbon dated. We can find animal bone within the hearth that tells us not only what the people were eating, but also what season of the year they were

there. All of this information and more is lost forever when the site is disturbed.

How can landowners protect archaeological sites on their property from the small minority of people who actively dig sites? Unless there is specific evidence of digging, posting a site probably would simply draw attention to it. If there is evidence of digging, in our experience, "No Trespassing" signs often do more harm than good, alienating people needlessly. Often more effective are specific instructional signs such as "No Digging, Please." Asking the local clam warden to keep an eye out can also be effective — these people of course know a great deal about what's going on along the shore.

Finally, we urge you to contact an appropriate institution or professional archaeologist if you believe you may have a site on your property. We have no interest in infringing on your property rights, and most of us would be very happy to discuss with you what the site might represent, and how it might be best protected.

Dr. Steven L. Cox, Maine State Museum and Jane C. Clifton, University of Maine



View across the Asbornsen site during the Maine State Museum Summer Field School dig in June.