

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



Volume XIV, No. 1

Spring 2004

Causeway Beach – a Community Success Story

Late last fall, a small group of concerned Deer Isle residents decided, after many months of discussion and investigation, that it had become crucial to secure public access to our Causeway Beach. The property had been on the market for a few years and with each passing season of record sales of waterfront property, the threat was clearer. The owners had generously allowed public access for generations, but



PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

Bill Haviland leads a group down Causeway Beach during a summer Walks & Talks program.

this access was potentially at risk with new ownership.

The Causeway Basin, the gateway to Deer Isle, is a popular site for family gatherings, for swimming and other recreation, and is significant habitat for birds and other wildlife. The mud flats host historically important clam beds that have had outstanding success in recent reseeded efforts. The warm shallow waters serve as a nursery for a suite of fish including cod, pollack, white hake, and alewives. The beach property has been the subject of discussion for IHT as long as it has been on the market. We saw the risk of loss of public access. We have wished to preserve this treasure of a sandy beach for the community, but we were faced with the predicament of a sale price higher than our appraisal and our commitment not to be an active par-

ticipant in the escalation of property prices on the island. It is difficult to place a price on such a piece of property since there are no similar beaches for comparison and the value to the community is priceless.

The Causeway Beach Network was formed by a group of citizens to purchase the beach when it became apparent that IHT could not make the purchase but could serve as subsequent guardians. The Network worked creatively to raise funds to cover the purchase that was completed in late January with a generous loan. The Indoor Beach Party and auction in March was a marvelous example of community ingenuity, generosity, and spirit. There has been gratifying support from off-island as well as from Deer Isle and Stonington individuals and businesses. People have designated donations in memoriam and

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PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

Rowan Wakefield Award recipient Hubert Billings, page 4.

The Eagle Family Returns to Nest on Barred Island

In the blustery storms of last December, the eagle nest on Barred Island blew down. Still, eagles lingered near Stinson Point through the winter and we wondered whether the eagles would rebuild on the island come spring. In fact, they have built a new nest farther south on Barred Island, out of view from the land side of Barred Island Preserve. The young are expected to hatch in early May. The nest is at mid-forest level on the southeast side of the island and not easily seen.

Please do not attempt to view the nest using small boats to approach the shore. The eagles will be disturbed by your presence long be-

fore you can spot them, and driving the adult eagles from the nest area can expose the young to predation by gulls or ravens. In consultation with Charlie Todd, Wildlife Biologist for Endangered and Threatened Species, we will determine

what closures are necessary to protect this year's eagle family. We thank all of our visitors to the Preserve for respecting the family needs of these magnificent birds during the past two years.

Ann Hooke



Barred Island eagles

PHOTOS BY R. CHADBOURNE AND T. LESTER

Island Heritage Trust Hires Full-Time Executive Director, Mac Herrling

For the first time in its 17-year history, Island Heritage Trust has hired a full-time executive director to guide the land conservation group through the next several years.

Mac Herrling was hired December 1, 2003. A resident of Orland for the last 16 years, he has extensive management experience in the public sector through his work in school programs in Bucksport and Searsport.

Ann Hooke served as part-time, interim executive director for the last year in an important transition process bringing the Trust from an all-volunteer group to one that is

PHOTO BY JEAN WHEELER



New Executive Director Mac Herrling visiting Wreck Island last April.

professionally managed.

"I am excited to be coming aboard with the Trust at this time in their history," said Herrling. "We have much to accomplish working together with the community in the coming years. I look forward to continuing and expanding the dialogue that Island Heritage Trust has begun with all islanders."

Born and raised in Boston, Herr-

ling graduated from Bates College in Lewiston and then Antioch University with a master's degree in Organizational Development.

He has family roots in Auburn and western Maine and connections to coastal Maine through his interest in hiking, rock climbing, and camping. His ancestors worked in quarries and fished in Rockport, Mass., where he spent many summers.

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.

President's Letter

Awakenings, rebirth, new beginnings – we think of all of these when spring appears on the ground, in the trees, and in the air. We see snow in the shady woods but the eagles are nesting again on Barred Island and, on a boat trip the other day to check the state of some of our Merchant's Row islands (in very cold seawater...), we spotted not only sanderlings and sandpipers on the rocks, but loons in summer plumage!

The Island Heritage Trust is growing, in awareness, in responsibilities, in stewardship commitments, and in constructive communication and response to our unique community. We have hired our first full-time executive director to collaborate with the Board in fulfilling our mission and to help us with the increased load of the "nuts and bolts" of our daily operation. We have carefully put together a Strategic Plan with the satisfaction that several of our objectives have already been accomplished. We are working and talking with other land trusts in the state. We are continuing to expand our outreach programs in the schools and the community at large. We are striving to listen to our fellow islanders with our minds and with our hearts.

There is work to be done on guarding what is special about our

PHOTO BY JEAN WHEELER



Two happy clambers

island in the face of the rapid changes along our magnificent coast, and we have pledged to do what we can. Our natural resource-based economy needs help – in protecting our clean waters and substantial wildlife habitat, in keeping working waterfront accessible, in maintaining local control over our resources, and in finding ways to have affordable housing and a reliable job market. All of these are key to the health of our island culture and the survival of our heritage.

We hope to see you at our Annual Meeting on July 21st when our guest speakers Kathleen Billings, Ted Ames, and Marnie Reed Crowell will be addressing the relevant subject of Marine Resources of the Causeway Basin.

A happy summer to us all!

Jean Wheeler

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.

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.

Causeway Beach

Continued from page 1

honour of parents, siblings, children, former summer residents, marine-related businesses, and even a boat and a dog! The Island Institute included an article on the project in the February *Working Waterfront*. A third grade teacher from Steuben offered help from her class as a Maine issues learning project, an indication of recognition of the challenges we face together along our coast.

The Causeway Beach has been transferred as a gift to IHT. We are working on long-term logistics of ownership and stewardship as we hold the beach in trust for the people of Deer Isle. If you are interested in joining our community stewardship effort, we would like to hear from you. Do stop to visit the beach when you come on island!

Jean Wheeler



Island Heritage Trust NEWSLETTER

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Mac Herrling, *Executive Director*

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Hubert Billings: *My Vision for the Island*

At the IHT 2003 meeting I was asked to make a few comments. I asked all of us to stop and take a look at where we are and where we are going. Do we take enough time from our busy lives to see what is taking place around us?

Most of us know there have been a lot of changes on the island in the last 25-30 years. The economy has changed, the jobs have changed, but most sectors of the economy have been good. Lobstering is up, urchins and fin fish are down, the construction industry has had a large increase, retail sales up based on tax figures, tourism is up based on Blue Hill area figures. This all seems good if it continues.

The towns of Deer Isle and Stonington, although different local governments, are so bound together economically, socially, by school systems, health care systems and many other ways, that some town issues need to be considered island issues. The 2000 census indicates a small loss of population for the Town of Stonington and an increase of 37 people for the Town of Deer Isle over a 10-year period. What does this mean for the island if it continues? The demographics show an older population, either from young people moving out or retired people moving in. Due to the high prices of land and houses it is difficult for young people to buy or build a house on the average income. If the young people cannot afford to live here, who will service essential jobs like the nursing home, fire department, ambulance corps and others that make up the commu-

nity? Most young people who go on to tech schools and college move to where the higher paying jobs are. There is a lot of seasonal work but not enough workers to fill positions as people need full time jobs to meet living expenses. We see articles on affordable housing and we definitely need to address that issue, but I think we should fo-

Do we take enough time from our busy lives to see what is taking place around us?

cus on not just affordable rent or subsidized units but affordable ownership of land and houses that make people feel more like working and improving things they have a stake in, and be more concerned with what is taking place around them.

The town of Deer Isle is in the process of preparing a comprehensive plan that will provide information on our resources, comparing information to the two previous plans and giving an indication of the population trends such as commuting for employment and what effect development may have on water resources, wetlands, and recharge areas. If these plans are analyzed, we should be able to get some idea how to promote responsible growth and adapt to the conditions that affect the island economy and environment. There should be citizen involvement and sharing views on the

future of the island. Many times we know what is taking place but feel unable to do anything about it. It is hard to compete for land and houses on the average island income, but there are opportunities, most that take hard work and long hours to be successful.

Some state and local land use laws and regulations, along with public land acquisitions, have caused bad feelings and suspicions among developers and others. These issues should be openly addressed.

Most of us are aware of the amount of trade and involvement we have with the Blue Hill/ Ellsworth area. The Hancock County Planning Commission has had symposiums on planning for prosperity for Hancock County. These should be reviewed to see what they may indicate for us.

The state requires the town to submit their comprehensive plans to the state planning office for approval if state money is involved or grants applied for. Ordinance enforcement is also tied to the plan. The state usually finds some fault with the plan, and their guidelines are vague and don't seem to fit every town the same way. It does seem to me that now is the time to move ahead on some of these issues.

Hubert R. Billings

Editor's note: Deer Isle Code Enforcement Officer Hubert Billings received the Rowan Wakefield Award from IHT in July 2003 in recognition of his love and knowledge of the land and the people of Deer Isle.



2004 Spring and Summer 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**

Sat. June 12 Birds and Bird Calls for Beginners. Led by Diane Walker. Held at Holt Mill Pond Preserve (park and meet at Island Medical Center) at 8:00 a.m. Rain date Sunday June 13.

Sat. June 19 LUPINE FESTIVAL. Visit the Island Heritage Trust and Conservation Commission displays at the Deer Isle-Stonington High School.

Sun. June 20 Woodland Ferns and Flowers. Led by Sally Rooney, 9:00 a.m. at Shore Acres Preserve (Greenlaw District Road). Rain date Thursday July 1.

Sat. June 26 Common Trees of Deer Isle. Walk led by Max McCormack at Shore Acres Preserve. (Greenlaw District Road in Deer Isle). Meet at 9:30 a.m. If you wish, you may bring twig & leaf samples of your own trees about which you would like to learn more.

Wed. July 7 Crossing the Bar: the Causeway Basin Through the Ages. Talk by Bill Haviland, retired archaeologist and Deer Isle historian. Held at the Sunset Parish House at 7:30 p.m.

Thur. July 8 Points on Deer Isle's Ancient Canoe Routes. Led by Bill Haviland. Meet at Deer Isle. Stonington High School parking area at 9:00 a.m. Trip will include visits to Caterpillar Hill, Causeway Beach, the Carrying Place, and the Settlement Quarry. Rain date Friday July 9.

Fri. July 9 Care and Culture of Your Small Woodlot. Talk by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. Held at Fellowship Hall of the Deer Isle Congregational Church in Deer Isle (across from old elementary school and Town Hall) at 7:30 p.m.

Sat. July 10 Care and Culture of Your Small Woodlot. Walk led by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden opposite Sunset Post Office at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon, or bring lunch and participate in further observations and discussion.

IHT ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

Community of Christ Fellowship Hall, Wed. July 21, 7:00 p.m.

Guest speakers Kathleen Billings, Chair of the Island Clam Committee,
Ted Ames of the Penobscot East Resource Center, and naturalist Marnie Reed Crowell.

All welcome!

Sat. July 24 Old Quarry Charters Boat Tour and Picnic for IHT Members. Boat tour of islands and island easements with picnic provided. Depart 11:00 a.m. and return 3:30 p.m. Cost \$30 (includes lunch). New members welcome! Rain date Sunday July 25. RESERVATIONS NECESSARY: call 348-2455.

Sat. July 31 Oyster Aquaculture in Long Cove. Led by Danny Woods. Meet at 10 a.m. at Mariners Memorial Park (off Sunshine Road). Rain date Monday Aug. 2.

Mon. Aug. 2 Annual Polypod Island Picnic. Meet at Polypod Island for a picnic around noon. High tide: 12:45 p.m. Rain date Tuesday August 3.

Thur. Aug. 5 Migrating Shorebirds of Deer Isle. Meet at parking area across from Sunset Parish House at 9:00 a.m. Led by Chip Mosely and Ken Crowell. Extra binoculars available. Rain date Friday August 6.

2004 Spring and Summer Walks & Talks

Sat. Aug. 14 Kayak and Canoe Fish Creek. Led by Ann Hooke. Meet at Reach Beach at Grays Cove (Oak Point – east end of Reach Road in Deer Isle) at 9:30 a.m. Rain date Aug. 16.

Wed. Aug. 18 Sand Beach and Mud Flat Ecology. Talk by marine biologist, Bob Knowlton. To be held at Sunset Parish House, just south of Post Office in Sunset at 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 20 Sand and Mud Flat Walk. Morning low-tide walk led by marine biologist, Bob Knowlton. Come rain or shine. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Deer Isle-Stonington High School parking area. Wear knee or hip boots. RESERVATIONS NECESSARY: call 348-2455.

Fri. Aug. 20 Rejuvenating Our Coastal Spruce Fir Forests. Talk given by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. To be held at Sunset Parish House, just south of Post Office in Sunset at 7:30 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 21 Spruce-Fir Forest Walk. Walk led by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden opposite Sunset Post Office at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon, or bring lunch and participate in further observations and discussion.

Mon. Aug. 30 Kayak Holt Mill Pond. Led by Diane Walker. Meet at south end of Deer Isle Bridge at 10:30. High tide 11:51 a.m. Rain date Tuesday August 31.

Sat. Sept. 11 The Unique Vegetation of the Spruce Fir Maritime Forest. Led by botanist Fred Olday. Meet at Whitman Cove entrance of Crockett Cove Preserve at 9:30 a.m. Rain date Sunday Sept. 12.

Tues. Sept. 14 Shore Clean-up of Wreck and Round Islands. Meet at 9:00 a.m. Return by 2:00 p.m. Meeting location to be determined. Rain date Wednesday Sept 15. RESERVATIONS NECESSARY: call 348-2455.

Be a Volunteer Steward

If you visit our preserves, including our island preserves, and are willing to remove sticks from the trails, pick up litter, or report problems to the office (348-2455), you are doing the work of a volunteer steward. Your responsible attention is greatly appreciated by our Stewardship Committee and other visitors. It helps if you know (and can inform others) that IHT's preserves and islands are open from sunrise to sunset (no camping), the use of camp stoves is permitted (no open fires), and that, if dogs are permitted, they must be on a leash.

If you notice behavior, which might potentially damage a pre-

serve as by fire, or if you notice anti-social activity, which threatens the safety of others, contact the IHT office (348-2455). On weekends, problems on offshore islands should be reported directly to the Marine Patrol Headquarters at 207-667-3373. They can then contact the nearest Marine Patrol officer in our area. There were two occasions last summer when the timely reporting of problems on the islands allowed us to act to address the problems promptly. Thanks for taking the initiative. Many hands make light work.

Ann Hooke



A New Logo for IHT

In recognition of changes in the Island Heritage Trust, our own Mark Island light, a part of our history, is now used as our new logo.

Don't Miss

The IHT Annual Meeting
Wednesday July 21, 2004 at 7 p.m.

Honoring the McGuire Family of the Settlement Quarry

During the summer of 2003, modern granite men from Freshwater Stone in Orland brought the Settlement Quarry back to life as they brought in heavy equipment to erect benches to honor granite men of the past. The Quarry now has three handsome granite benches honoring three brothers and a family's sixty years of dedication to the granite industry on Deer Isle. It all started when Frank McGuire

moved to Deer Isle in 1903 to manage the cutting shed at the Settlement Quarry, owned by J. C. Rodgers. Frank and his wife then raised their five children here. Frank came from a long line of granite men. The family emigrated from Ireland in 1840's and worked in Concord, NH, another important center for granite. As American cities rapidly grew, there was high demand for granite to build roads, bridges, and buildings. Capable granite men like the McGuires became managers and engineers for the quarries and building projects. In 1922, Frank and his two brothers, Thomas and James McGuire, bought Crotch Island and founded the Deer Island Granite Company, Inc. They later acquired the Settlement Quarry.

After the deaths of the founders, three sons of Frank were among the family members who carried on the business. They were Francis ("Nick"), 1907-2002; Robert, 1909-1969; and Thomas McGuire, 1912-2002. The three memorial benches commemorate these brothers. There are many other McGuire family relatives who still live and work on the island and are proud of the family heritage here.



Jeff Gammelin and crew from Freshwater Stone and Brick Work lever Tom McGuire's bench into place at the Settlement Quarry last summer, downhill from Nick and Robert McGuire's benches.

Both islanders and the McGuire family are proudest of two achievements at the Quarry. First, the granite used for the Kennedy Memorial in Arlington National Cemetery was prepared here in

1963. Secondly, the building blocks and Corinthian columns for the New York City County Court House came from Deer Isle in 1922 despite unusually heavy snows that winter. Many current island residents will also enjoy knowing that the business office for the Deer Island Granite Company was located in Grand Central Terminal in New York City for nearly 50 years. Each of the benches is placed carefully to provide a unique angle on the beautiful views of the Thorofare and Isle au Haut for us to enjoy today, as these three brothers did in earlier years.

Ann Hooke

New Seeds Being Planted

IHT Communication and Outreach Committee is involved in a wide variety of projects. Committee Co-Chair Josephine Jacob serves as a VISTA volunteer with the Healthy Peninsula Project, engaging youth in community action.

IHT is providing classroom and field experience as part of the 5th and 8th grade science curriculum. The Field Guide Friends, a group of school and IHT volunteers who assist with school field experiences, provide much-appreciated support to the teachers.

To facilitate the field experiences, IHT has created a Resource Guide for use by all the teachers. The Guide provides information on our preserves, educational opportunities that each preserve provides, and a list of natural history resource people living in the community. IHT volunteers will act as na-

ture guides for youngsters from the Island Community Center's summer camp, Camp Kooky. The Walks & Talks Program continues to grow with the focus this year on marine habitats as they relate specifically to the fishery issues of the island.

Ken Crowell

Millet Island Added to MITA Trail

Millet Island has now joined Round and Wreck Islands as islands featured in Maine Island Trail Association's Guidebook and Trail. While there is no good deep-water anchorage nearby, Millet is easily reached by kayak and it has granite ledges for picnicking. We hope you have a chance to visit Millet for a wonderful day trip this summer.

DONORS 2003-2004

On behalf of Island Heritage Trust, we thank each and every one of you for your generous support of our work. We have listed Donors whose gifts were received between January 1, 2003 and April 15, 2004. If we have omitted your name, please let us know so we can correct the error.

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 Mr. Hal Reynolds
 Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rittenhouse
 Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Rittmeyer
 Ms. Sally Rooney
 Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rosenfeld
 Mr. and Mrs. Zachary Rosenfield
 Mr. Andrew Rosenthal
 Mr. Robert Roth
 Ms. Roberta Ruff
 Ms. Mary Alice Rylands
 Captain John Foss
 Mrs. Marilyn Schroer
 Dr. Marcia Scott
 Mr. and Mrs. John Seater
 Mr. Ralph Seeley
 Mr. and Mrs. George Seiler
 Mr. and Mrs. Herb Seltz
 Mrs. Barbara Seymour
 Ms. Ellen Shapiro
 Mr. J. Shaw and Ms. E. Shockro
 Mr. and Mrs. John G. Shaw
 Mr. William Shaw
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Sheard
 Dr. and Mrs. Gardner Smith

Ms. Hilary Smith
 Mr. and Mrs. E. Paul Sorensen
 Ms. Barbara Southworth
 Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Spalding
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael Spock
 Ms. Ruth Stalley
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron Stegall
 Mr. and Mrs. Roger Steinharter
 Mr. Thomas Stevenson
 Ms. Sallie Strong
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Stroup
 Mr. R. Strouse and Mr. F. Cresson
 Dr. and Mrs. Charles Summerall
 Sussman Family Foundation
 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Szal
 Mrs. Timothy R. Talbot, Jr.
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Tedford
 Ms. Josephine Teverow
 The Reach Community Club
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Thomas
 Ms. Louise Towns
 Mr. and Mrs. George Trask
 Mr. and Mrs. David Treeson
 Ms. Diana K. Turner
 Ms. Susan Turner
 Mr. and Mrs. Winston Turner
 Mr. David Tyree, Jr.
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas V. Urmey, Jr.
 Ms. Elizabeth Van Vleck
 Ms. Judith Vanderkay
 Arie van Everdingen and Donald McKenzie
 Mr. and Mrs. Ian Walker
 Mr. Andrew Walkling
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Walkling
 Dr. and Mrs. Julian Waller
 Ms. Joan Weber
 Mr. and Mrs. Frank Weil
 Dr. and Mrs. I. Bernard Weinstein
 Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Weirs
 Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Weiss
 Ms. Jean Welch
 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Welch
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard Weston
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wheeler
 Mr. and Mrs. Barry G. Whitaker
 Mr. & Mrs. James W. White
 Mr. William Whitman
 Mr. and Mrs. D. Elliot Wilbur, Jr.
 Ms. Anna Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. Luke Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. Doug Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. John Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wilson
 Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Witte
 Ms. C. Wixson and Mr. P. McFarland
 Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Wright
 Mr. Thomas Yoder
 Mr. George York
 Mr. and Mrs. George Zentz
 Mr. David Zucker

...Thank You

Mark Island Lighthouse to Be Repaired This Summer

From most places on Deer Isle, the haunting sound of the Mark Island horn can be heard with favorable winds. Hearing the horn brings to mind the image of our stalwart little light that welcomes mariners to the Thorofare. When the island was transferred to IHT from the Coast Guard, we took over responsibility for caring for the lighthouse structure. The Coast Guard maintains the actual horn and light. At the time of the transfer, many people in the community contributed about \$4000 to a special fund for maintaining the lighthouse. Now the lighthouse needs major repair work and painting that will be completed this summer. Additional funds need to be raised to cover these repair costs. Contributions are always welcome. (Send to Island Heritage Trust, P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627.)



Picnickers cruise past Mark Island light.

We also need volunteers to help with scraping and painting under the supervision of lighthouse repair

specialist, Dan Foss. If you are interested, please call Mac Herrling at the office, 348-2455.

Letter from the Executive Director

Sharing a Passion for the Land and Sea

As I stepped onto the soft snow of Barred Island Preserve this winter, I heard a sound that we all long for: silence.

Without any distraction, I was able to notice tracks of deer, chipmunk, raccoon, and small birds that had crisscrossed my path. Then standing on the eastern beach, my ear caught sounds of people at work: lobster boats chugging into a cove, a chain saw buzzing, and traffic moving nearby. One sound cannot exist without the other. Our task is to keep them in harmony. The sound of work can blend with the song of the mourning dove and seagull and the silence of the woods and land.

In the course of my work day, I meet dozens of people who are passionate about island life, a life and a beauty they want to pass on to

their children and grandchildren. They represent fishermen and clammers, mechanics and innkeepers, artists and retirees, store clerks and parents, summer residents and year-rounders – all of us who keep this island humming with energy.

We are asking you to share that passion for the land and the sea as we embark on exciting projects this coming year:

- Expand education collaborations in and outside the classroom;
- Secure water access for recreation, fishing, and clamming;
- Build our capacity to be a key partner with island community groups for a long time to come;
- Involve many new members and volunteers in our work.

Whether it is educating and greeting the public in the office,

working on the trails, debating issues on committees, or pitching in for fund-raisers, we value your strong commitment to conservation.

I look forward to meeting all of you in our summer season and throughout the year. See you soon!

Mac Herrling

We want to know what you think

As part of its new, long-term Strategic Plan, the Trust is sending out a short survey with the newsletter to all members. The IHT survey asks 19 questions about land and program priorities, stewardship, fund-raising, and membership.

We need your opinions and comments to shape our current and future planning. If you have not already done so, please return the survey today. Thank you for your participation!