

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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Autumn 2005



Clearing the Way – Trustee Lee Fay consults with (left to right) Junior Stewards Anna Childs and Ali Carter during trail work at Barred Island Preserve this summer.

Photo by Ken Crowell

McCloskeys win Wakefield Award

“We can change the way we live”

With her sister Sally at her side, Jane McCloskey didn't hesitate to use the occasion to deliver a challenge to her audience - “We can change the way we live to make a difference in the health of the bay and its fisheries.”

The Island Heritage Trust Board of Trustees chose Sally and Jane for the Rowan Wakefield Award because of their passionate environmental work over the last several years.

Outgoing President Jean Wheeler presented them the award at the 2005 IHT Annual Meeting. She cited their efforts in founding East Penobscot Bay Environmental Alliance (EPBEA) to successfully fight two proposed 14-acre salmon farms. Jean remarked, “They have been moving forward to encourage the state to use a holistic approach for the management of our beautiful bay.”

In accepting the award for she and her sister Sally, Jane said, “Jorn Vad has gone back to Norway and my sister looked up the title to his house. He has sold it so he's probably gone for good!”

Speaking of the continuing mission of EPBEA, Jane said “ We can reduce our lawn size and reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers on our lawns in order to reduce runoff into the Bay... Dirty water closes clam flats and high nutrient levels from fertilizer and sewage tend to cause algae blooms.”

“ We can collect our hazardous waste so it doesn't end up in the ecosystem...Don't get me started!” she said.



Giddy with History –

Eighth-graders Jeff Schmidt, Marissa Billings, Anika Powers, Audra Eaton, Alicia Young, and Bethany Oliver pose on the Glacial Erratic Trail at the Settlement Quarry during a 2005 school field trip. For many of them, it was a time to renew a connection to grandparents and uncles who worked the quarry in its heyday.

Photo by Mac Herrling

IHT given Bradbury, Sheep

After several years of negotiating, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has donated Bradbury and Sheep Islands in East Penobscot Bay to Island Heritage Trust. In addition, TNC will contribute \$20,000 to IHT's Stewardship Endowment Fund to help preserve the islands. 160-acre Bradbury Island sits west of Dow Point in Deer Isle and south of Pickering Island while five-acre Sheep Island is off Blastow Cove in Little Deer Isle

“We thank TNC for their generous gift,” said IHT President Dick Paget. “We plan on continuing TNC's tradition of protecting these wonderful islands so that generations of islanders will enjoy their natural beauty.”

Stewardship Chair Ann Hooke and several other trustees visited both islands in September courtesy of Trustee Bill Haviland and The Cormorant. Bradbury Island was briefly inhabited in the 19th Century, but it has remained undeveloped since then. Steep cliffs frame its shore while the interior is covered with a hardwood and spruce forest and dotted with bogs and old fields. Islanders often used Bradbury Island for pasturage and berrying. Frederick Littlefield of Brooksville bought it in 1934 and TNC acquired Bradbury Island in 1973. Strong currents make it a challenge to land on the island.

Smaller Sheep Island has never been inhabited but it has been used extensively as sheep grazing land. The island has thick spruce forest on the east and scrub brush and exposed rock on the west. According to long-time steward Susanna Leigh, osprey and eider ducks nest on the south and west side of the island. Acadia National Park has land preservation agreements on Sheep and Bradbury Islands to protect their cultural, and wildlife resources. The islands are open for day use, but no camping or fires are permitted.

Mac Herrling



We will dance here – Opera House Arts Executive Director Linda Nelson, Co-Artistic Directors Judith Jerome and Carol Estey confer with Pilobolus Artistic Director Alison Chase at the Settlement Quarry to prepare for next summer's “Quarreography” dance festival. The one-time August performance will precede a larger festival in 2007.

Photo by Mac Herrling

What you're saying about the Quarry

Here is an interesting sample of comments from the Settlement Quarry 2005 summer logbook:

“A reminder of the rock on which all life is built.”

“Nice hike and yummy blackberries.”

“My grandfather worked here in the 1920's”

“Thank you for keeping this open to the public.”

“As geologists, we loved the view and granite.”

“The best things in life are not things.”

“Great picnic at viewing platforms.”

“Wonderful and haunting.”

“I feel blessed to have experienced this beautiful place.”

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.



There they go! - Bird watchers on Causeway Beach use their spotting scopes and binoculars to watch the adult and young eagles try out their wings on Carney Island. IHT sponsored several mid-summer eagle watches.

Photo by Ken Crowell

Eagles steal the show again

While there were some great performances around the island this summer, once again, bald eagles and their offspring stole the show for many members and visitors.

A flock of bird enthusiasts stood and stared from Causeway Beach as two Carney Island eaglets and their parents fished, “swam,” and soared over the Basin and headed for a wider world. More than three-dozen people attended four eagle viewings in July from Causeway Beach. Lucky birders at one program watched in amazement as an adult eagle dove to take a cormorant and “swam” with it to shore. Not to be outdone, the Barred Island pair again produced an eaglet that fledged in early August. The parents were attentive and were still feeding the eaglet in September. An adult perched in Burnt Cove swooped down and took an immature Black Guillemot and headed for Barred. The Barred eaglet has a distinctive white blotch on its chest that may aid in identification this fall. We welcome fishermen and boaters to report any sightings of this eaglet as it ventures to nearby islands. By the end of September, the island was opened to the public again even while the eagle and eaglets still visited occasionally.

Islanders should be justifiably proud of the area’s eagle nesting success - ten active nests. The eagles’ ability to thrive here is clearly due to favorable environmental conditions and the respect that islanders and visitors have for their protected habitat.

Lee Fay

Remembering Jackie Binnian

Those involved with the Island Heritage Trust for many years will fondly remember Jackie Binnian, who died in May of this year in New York State.

Jackie was passionately committed to environmental concerns and worked tirelessly for conservation both on Deer Isle and at her home on the North Shore of Long Island, N.Y. She was one of many recruited by Rowan Wakefield in the early days of IHT when the organization was first developing. Among other activities, she coordinated volunteers to staff the IHT office at several locations in Stonington, including a small space backstage at the Opera House and at what is now The Dry Dock’s annex.

Jackie and her husband, Bill, had a lovely house in Sunset looking out across Penobscot Bay to the west, where she on occasion hosted gatherings for IHT supporters and friends. Jackie was quick and energetic, full of ideas. Her lively spirit of enthusiasm and her commitment will be sorely missed by all who knew her.

Peg Myers

Visit our website

We are complementing our shorter newsletter by posting more news on our website at islandheritagetrust.org. We will save money and you will have two places to catch up on IHT news. Read about Summer Intern Peter McGuire’s experiences, donor and volunteer recognition, and the new Cooper Farm trail. Check the website for the spring Walks and Talks in 2006.

Campaign enters final stage

In early 2006, IHT will purchase a portion of the Scott’s Landing property as the Campaign for the Gateway winds down. As indicated previously, a magnanimous conservation buyer is purchasing the entire 22-acre Scott’s Landing property and giving the Trust an opportunity to purchase some or all of it. The September 30 closing between the conservation buyer and the seller, Nathan Pitts, was postponed until January, 2006 at the seller’s request. In January, IHT will purchase a 4.5-acre portion of Scott’s Landing property. To date, the Campaign has secured almost \$800,000 towards Gateway goals. IHT has already purchased Carney Island and Bowcat Overlook and the 4-acre Ranga Kennel property across from Causeway Beach. IHT accepted donation of Causeway Beach in 2004. In addition to land purchases, the Campaign has raised \$20,000 for its Stewardship Endowment Fund and over \$30,000 to support the Executive Director position for four years. IHT is focusing on outside sources and foundations to raise a good deal of the remaining funds needed to finish the Campaign in 2006.

Scott’s Landing offers rocky and sandy beaches, fields and woods for walking, bluffs overlooking the Reach for picnics, and small boat launching. The Scott family operated the Eggmoggin Reach ferry to the mainland from this land for over 200 years. Trustee Ann Hooke and the Campaign Committee orchestrated several neighborhood parties and two successful events this summer. Trustee Chick White and her committee produced Art Auction & More at Edgewood Farm that raised more than \$19,000 for the Campaign. Musicians Stewart Pierson, Bunny Reardon, Delight Immonen, and Joe Bryan produced another delightful chamber music concert at Ron and Lael Stegall’s home where many supporters gathered. Look for updates on the web site and in the Island Ad-Vantages over the winter. We will have a complete Campaign report in the spring newsletter.

Mac Herrling



Success! - Auction volunteers (left to right) Judy Millon, Cathy Hart, Martha Dane, Ann Hooke, Chick White, Joy Kleeman, and Ellen Rowan celebrate the success of this year’s Art and More Auction that raised more than \$19,000 for the Campaign for the Gateway.

Photo by Mac Herrling

Stewards navigate a wedding, mud wallows

From witnessing a beach wedding to help clammers defeat a proposed mussel farm, the life of a steward had its moments of bliss and frustration this summer! Many people noticed how active the Causeway Beach was – in part to view the Carney Island Eagle family but also just to enjoy the beach. One day a volunteer was cleaning the beach and witnessed a wedding party taking their wedding photos on the Beach by the water. After taking the photos, the bride delicately lifted her long dress, kicked off her shoes, and waded in the water! Another day, Eddie Davis delivered a load of gravel to fill a large mud wallow at the start of one of the Tennis Preserve trails. The clam warden arrived later and was dismayed at first to see this presumed blocking of the road for clammers to access the shore. She was relieved to hear that the plan was to spread the gravel to protect the road so that the clammers could park and walkers could pass without wading through the mud wallow. It is crucial to protect shore access as traditional routes are closed. During the early summer, IHT stewardship staff had a chance to fly over our properties. The photos from this flight proved very useful in convincing the state that permitting the development of a mussel farm in inner Greenlaw Cove was destructive of the very rich clam flats which support many Island clammers.

With increased stewardship responsibilities and costs, IHT encourages you to express your support of the conservation work of IHT through your contribution to the Annual Appeal for operating funds. With income donated to the Stewardship Fund, we ensure long-term care of our lands. Another way for you to support our efforts is to join the dedicated 40+ stewardship volunteers. Their tasks range from maintaining trails or serving as preserve stewards to assisting with education and island and beach clean-up projects. **Huge thanks to all of this year’s volunteers for their efforts!** If you would like to join this great group of people, call Mac at the office (348-2455) to volunteer.

Ann Hooke



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