Little Deer's Pine Hill now protected by IHT

Behind Saunders Memorial Church on Little Deer Isle, there is a bold rocky hill variously known as Pine Hill or "the serpentine quarry." For generations, islanders have climbed the hill for the spectacular view from its top of Deer Isle and the Reach, and, in the 30's, rock was quarried there to line the causeway when it was built. Fortunately, the most recent owners, Pat and Kurt Fairchild, recognized Pine Hill's allure and significance, and have generously donated seven acres, including the hilltop, to IHT. "We are donating this landmark to Island Heritage Trust so that all islanders can continue to enjoy it," the Fairchilds said. "We wanted it to be permanently protected for future generations. We are doing this in memory of Pat's parents, Monroe and Emily Wiegand, because of their love of this island. It was their desire to keep the island as they found it in 1967."

To scientists, it is a very exciting place as it contains a key piece of Maine's geological and botanical heritage. The rock type is known as serpentinized peridotite. It may be a chunk of seafloor caught up in the huge tectonic collisions of 400-500 million years ago. In turn, the soils that develop on serpentine host unique plants. There are 63 lichen species growing here, including three that are not known anywhere else in Maine!

Currently, access to the hill is via an old track off the Blastow Cove Road.
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The Quarry ready to rock

Pilobolus Dance Theater returns to rock the Settlement Quarry after a four-year hiatus with two oversized performances featuring giant puppets and mechanical excavators as dance "partners." IHT and Opera House Arts team up again for what many hope will be the first of biennial dance extravaganzas.

Mark your calendars for the weekend of August 19 and 20 as renowned Pilobolus Artistic Director Alison Chase and Brooksville colleague Mia Kanazawa debut "Quarryography." After a week of workshops, two evening, in-process performances will encompass community and professional dance ensembles and feature the music of Atlantic Clarion Steel Drum-band in the Quarry's spectacular amphitheater.

Following up on the 2002 Pilobolus collaboration, this event promises a preview of a larger Dance Festival in 2007. "What's so dramatic for me (about the quarry) is that it demands a brand new scale over what we normally apply to imagery," said Chase recently.

Both IHT and Opera House Arts are looking for families to host dancers for a weekend volunteers to work over the weekend. Call IHT at 348-2455 for details.

Look for updates and final details of the performances in the Island Ad-Vantage and on IHT's website at islandheritagetrust.org.
Recalling Wavenock wreck

In blinding snow, the schooner struck hard on Fogg Island...

McGlathery Island, the largest in the IHT chain, shelters many a cruising boat in its protected anchorages. Day-use visitors picnic on its pleasant beaches and hike through its timbered terrain. However, life around this jewel of an island has not always been so hospitable for its maritime visitors. It also harbors the wreck of the three-masted schooner, Wavenock. Built in 1907 in Rockland at the end of the schooner era, she was hailing granite curbing to New York in January of 1910. Its troubles began when it struck Green Ledge off Isle au Haut but was freed by the Cranberry Isle Coast Guard crew. It then took refuge by York Island as a fierce winter storm set in. When it became apparent to its captain, Andrew Anderson, that this site was too exposed, he tried to make way to a more protected anchorage. With the blowing snow and near zero visibility, the Wavenock struck Fogg Island where its crew of eight abandoned ship. During the night, it was swept northwest across Merchant Row and into the rocks of McGlathery.

After lobsterman Pearl Hutchinson found her the next day, its owner, the Snow Marine Company, salvaged much of the ship and its cargo. When the steam lighter, The Sophie, owned by Snow's, failed to pull the Wavenock off the rocks, Pearl and his brother, Capt. Delmar Hutchinson, lined her off for security and made a shelter of one of its sails on the bank until the remainder of the cargo was removed. The hull itself, however, was left to time and the elements. Today, the remains of the keel can be seen wedged among the rocks on the south side of McGlathery Island with drift pins protruding, betraying its location to the vigilant visitor.

Walt Reed

Sailing to New York - The schooner Wavenock cruises along the coast.

Kids flocking to Preserves

Every class at the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School has signed onto IHT’s new Adopt-A-Preserve outreach program. Members of the Communication and Outreach Committee have worked closely with teachers at the school to guide students on visits to one or another of the island’s public preserves. “It is a great hands-on natural history experience for the children to understand, observe, and record the many cycles that island animals and plants undergo each year,” said IHT Executive Director Mac Herrling.

Key volunteers helping out are Josephine Jacob, Peggy Zembrusky, Ken Crowell, Lee Fay, Acting Stewardship Director Ann Hooke, Roger Hooke, Sally Rooney, Marnie Reed Crowell, Stan Ingram, Cathy Hart, and Heather Barton-Lindloff. Classes have performed trail clearance, tabulated plant and animal species, logged animal tracks, and created exhibits at school about their preserve. “The Adopt-A-Preserve field trips have been excellent,” said Don Sargent, parent of kindergartener Amber Sargent. “The IHT field guides are great with the kids and hands-on teaching. My daughter Amber walked away with a new sense of place that she did not have before.”

Here are the classes and the places they have adopted: Kindergarten—Reach Beach; First and Second Grade—Causeway Beach; Third Grade—Mariners Memorial Park; Fourth Grade—Shore Acres; Fifth Grade—Settlement Quarry; Sixth, Seventh—Scotts’ Landing; Eighth—Tennis Preserve. Visit the Trust’s website at islandheritagetrust.org, for complete coverage of the school program in stories and photographs.

LDI peak donated to Trust - cont. from pg 1

The stewardship committee will be preparing the area for public use. The quarry has become a place to party, paint graffiti, and dump refuse so there is clean-up work to be done. Meanwhile, geology and botany students will continue to visit the quarry, particularly those from the College of the Atlantic working under Professor Nishanta (“Nishi”) Rajakaruna.
President’s Column

With your help, we are meeting our challenges & moving ahead

Thank you for your continuing support - it is heartening as well as crucial. All of us receive many competing appeals and we know that sometimes it is difficult to decide which organizations will receive our donations. However, we believe that IHT’s Mission is truly important, even urgent, given the various pressures on the island’s natural resources. We are grateful to all of you who put IHT on your list for our Annual Appeal.

As I wrote to you in December 2005, we were confronted with a difficult transition, as well as a daunting financial situation, but we decided to deal with it forthrightly, and to get back on track. And then, as you know, suddenly, one of our major challenges was solved by a group of anonymous donors, together with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, with the result that Scotts’ Landing will become an accessible public benefit sometime this year and for many years to come.

The Trustees, our Executive Director, Mac Herrling, and many committee members are working toward our goals of full compliance with the national Land Trust Alliance’s revised 12 Standards and Practices. These are “the ethical and technical guidelines for the responsible operation of a land trust... to uphold the public trust and to ensure the permanence of its conservation efforts.” The Board of Trustees adopted the revised Standards and Practices and is committed to complying with them.

It’s fun to work with a united, smart, dedicated crew of Trustees and other volunteers, and Mac, our skillful ED, toward our common goals. So come join us. I can guarantee you’ll feel energized and rewarded!

Diane Walker
Nine active nests

Eagle chick population booming on Carney, Mark, Second Islands

As of the first aerial survey on April 12, we have nine active nests around the island! Four more look promising, and possibly will begin incubating later. When the state biologist, Charlie Todd, does the June survey to count chicks, we may know more. Of those nests we are watching for Charlie—Carney, Mark and Second Islands—Carney was the earliest, with two chicks hatched around April 20th. Mark chicks have hatched and Second Island ones hatched around May 11th, but it will be a while before we can see chicks at such distance (observing from Sand Beach Road).

The best viewing site is still Causeway Beach. The first-grade class recently visited the beach as part of the “Adopt-a-Preserve” program, and they all lined up at the scope for a view of mother eagle feeding the babies! We will have special viewing days on Sat, June 10 and June 17 (Lupine Festival weekend), but check the Walks and Talks schedule at our website, islandheritagetrust.org. There you can click on our links to two eagle cam sites to learn more about nesting behavior. The biologist’s journal on the Maine site has invaluable information and the pictures are incredible.

Spring, Summer Walks & Talks now posted on IHT Website

If you are looking for the Spring and Summer Walks and Talks schedule, visit our Website at islandheritagetrust.org. Take note of a new series of Walks and Talks geared just for families and children from Wiggles and Giggles! to Arrowheads and Atlatls!

See the new School Outreach page with photographs and stories featuring Deer Isle elementary and middle school students involved in trail cleanups and fieldwork at various preserves.

We will be updating our Website monthly with stories and photographs of summer events and special history and science features as well as biographies of our new trustees.