

# ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



Volume XVII, No.1

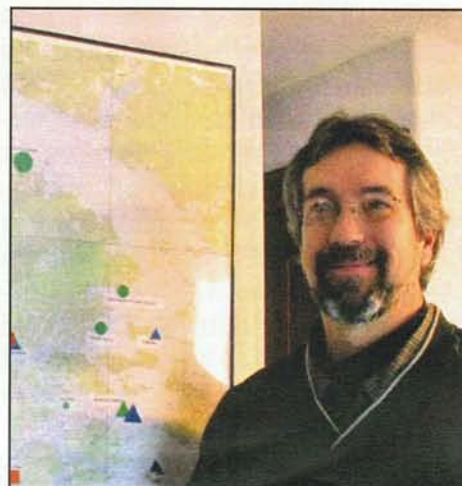
Spring 2008

## Grants For Part Time Staff

Last summer you may have met Michele Dur handing out programs and granite chips at Quarryography performances at Settlement Quarry with young volunteers, the three Carter sisters. Or perhaps your children met her at Camp Kooky. Once again we are applying to community funding sources to underwrite Michele's work.

wings are available for trying on at Heritage House. Joan Roy, who made these wings for us, is well known for her costumes for school and Cabin Fever theatre productions.

Robert McCloskey's daughters Jane and Sal have made a gift to IHT of their father's books so children can read them at headquarters. Before IHT even



**George Fields of Sedgwick** has joined us as Stewardship Coordinator. A Maine certified geologist who has lived here since 2004, George brings considerable field competence as well as mapping experience with Geographic Information Systems. He also serves as Administrator for Friends of Blue Hill Bay and has collaborated with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Bagaduce Watershed Association and the Lower Penobscot Watershed Coalition.



*Penfold family at play—a wing size for each.*

This summer Michele will be on hand at Walks and Talks and at Heritage House for special programs with an emphasis on children, the next generation of trust supporters. Be sure to check the schedule for activities on our web site, [www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org). The pictured life-sized bird

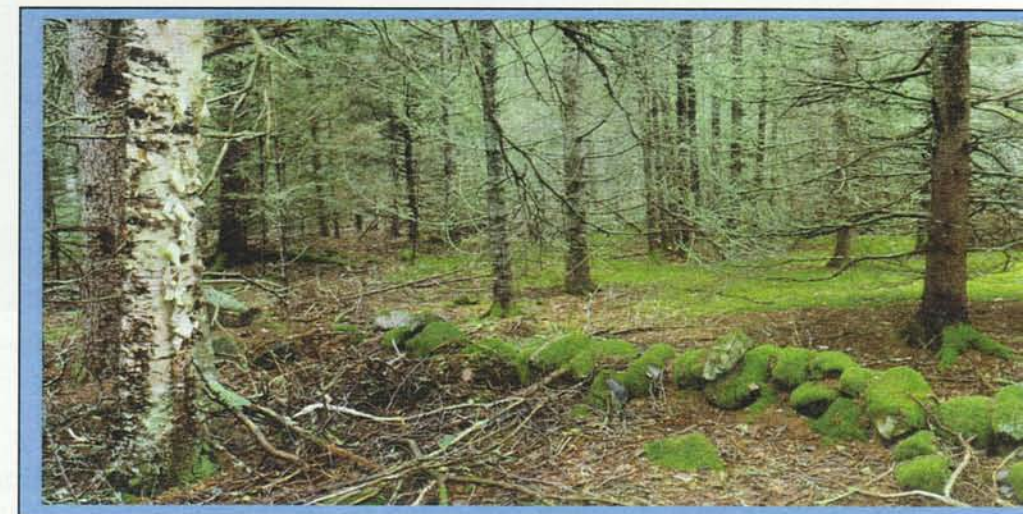
existed, Robert McCloskey gave The Nature Conservancy one of the very first conservation easements in the area. The McCloskey sisters will be offering a family singalong on August 14, 2008. They will share insights into what it was like growing up in that household.

IHT had 35 applicants for this now somewhat expanded position, made possible by an anonymous donor and endowment from the Stewardship Fund. George will be tending to paperwork for our conserved properties or be out with his chainsaw maintaining trails.

# The Trust is Land AND People

Barbara Southworth's stunning photograph of Shore Acres greets visitors at the door when they come into Heritage House. The handsome four foot long photograph makes a powerful statement to our visitors: IHT's mission is to conserve land here in this exquisite region of Penobscot Bay. Barbara has led photo-workshops for the Smithsonian Institution. The Smithsonian's Renwick Museum Tour is planning a July visit to Deer Isle with stops at the Historical Society and at Heritage House to see works by IHT members Siri Beckman and Doug Wilson. Their show, *Artists Speaking on Behalf of our Environment*, will be featured for the Annual Meeting on July 8th.

Islanders have always been speaking on behalf of our environment. We heard from some of those who started this trust at our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations last summer. One of those interviews was with Lloyd Capen, who passed away this April. Lloyd returned to his Island home to start an orchard, High Meadow Farm, after a career as an elementary school principal in Essex, Massachusetts. He, Ruth Harris and Rowan Wakefield are prime examples of how knit together our small community is. Ruth created the data base on which IHT's membership is founded, and at once they shared that information for supporting the Island



Medical Center and Memorial Ambulance Corps. Lloyd will also be remembered as one of the founders of the Island Nursing Home.

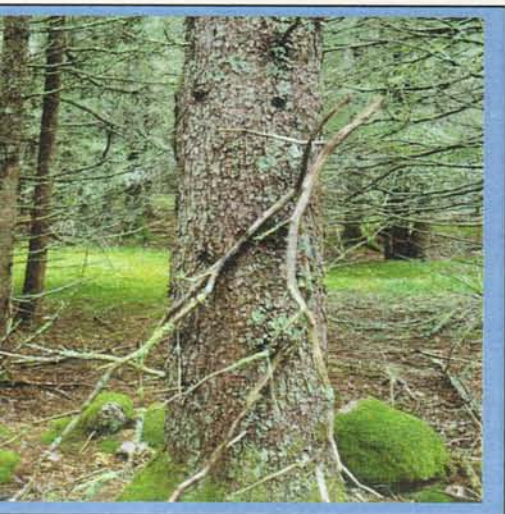
"We just did what was expected of us in our time," Lloyd said modestly. Lloyd credits everyone who has settled here and worked for the preservation of natural areas, recognizing that our heritage is also cultural and historical. "There is no prettier seaport than Stonington. Our beautiful islands are essentially a welcome to people to come and spend whatever time they can to enjoy the land and the people. It is the community we have created here together that is our heritage. I always feel a thrill when I come over the Causeway and see folks enjoying the beach and the bar where I used to clam as a kid."

## Activities and Thanks

When we look back over our list of winter activities and forward to those activities planned for the summer, we recognize a number of volunteers who are carrying on that tradition.

Jo Jacob, Diane Compton and Peg Zembruski led school children to Reach Beach in the fall and to Scott's Landing in December—on snowshoes. Charming drawings made by the students are on display at Heritage House.

**IHT co-sponsored the Deer Isle birding festival *Wings, Waves and Woods* May 16-18,** with the Deer Isle-Stonington Chamber of Commerce, Downeast Audubon Society and Bar Harbor Bank & Trust. Prints by famed wildlife artist Persis Clayton Weirs were featured. (See her work at [www.wildwings.com](http://www.wildwings.com).) Persis donated several prints and an original painting for the raffle. (Our print highlights the Eagle Watch bulletin posted at Heritage House.) Persis's husband Pat is also well-known for his work here with Partners in Monitoring, the volunteer effort which has been so successful at providing data used for red tide warnings and assessing successful cleanup of sewage pollution. Ken Crowell and Lee Fay once again led eagle watching at Causeway Beach. Almost all the eagle pairs



currently nesting around Deer Isle are on IHT preserved land. They seem to know something!

**The story of Island Heritage Trust** is featured in the spring issue of Gulf of Maine Times, [www.gulfofmaine.org/times](http://www.gulfofmaine.org/times). Marnie Reed Crowell is interviewed about her work with photographer Ann Flewelling. The Gulf web site links to ours and you can hear Marnie reading her poems online. The book *Beads and String, a Maine island pilgrimage* by Marnie and Ann is coming out this summer, with the profits going to Island Heritage Trust. Ann's lovely preserve photographs are on display in our new shop at headquarters. Her work was chosen for the state exhibit, Maine Photographers of 2008.

**Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society members**, President Tinker Crouch and IHT president Bill Haviland, himself a DI-SHS board member,

organized on a moment's notice the transport and storage of museum cases last summer, cases now installed in the Indian and Marine Exhibitions at the Historical Society, and in the Granite Museum. Yet another cooperative venture will occur when the historical societies of the peninsula present their July 26 & 27 *Touring Through Time* weekend. Heritage House will feature a Victorian Flower Table created by Bonita Poitras and Marnie Crowell in response to Marnie's March talk to the Evergreen Garden Club on flowers for butterflies, moths and other pollinators.

**Some 80 scientists from around the world visited Settlement Quarry and Pine Hill** as part of a June conference on Serpentine Ecology organized by College of the Atlantic professor Dr. Nishi Rajakaruna, looking at how plants have evolved to deal with the special demands of heavy metals. In the Pine Hill quarry you can see lovely shining green serpentine rocks and the special but tiny plants. You may also want to come see the rock displays in our new shop at headquarters and pick up Roger Hooke's book and a map of Deer Isle's bedrock geology.

**Archaeologist Dr. Steve Cox** is once again organizing his professional colleagues to lead us in a dig at Scott's Landing

June 25 to 30. Penobscot Nation archaeologist Bonnie Newsom, former Historic Preservation Officer, will be giving a talk at 7PM, Saturday June 28 at Heritage House.

**IHT Trustee Linda Campbell** and her fellow Memorial Ambulance corpsman Stan Ingram led the way this spring refurbishing Heritage House along with invaluable help from Richard Buxton, Herman Kidder and Hal Burdo. Sandy Ward, Wally Fifield, Brian Clough and Jo Jacob pitched in as well. High school students Kevin Eaton and Ethan Brown gave us some community service time, everything from wielding a paint brush to folding newsletter mailings. A new sign painted for us by Richard Lindloff proudly identifies our new headquarters.

It's clearly interwoven cooperation that is key to the culture here on the Island. Island Heritage Trust and its people want to be a part of that. The generous donations that keep coming in as a result of our Annual Appeal tell us that we must be doing something right. (Of course we need to see an increase!) Bob Resta got it right when he said "Where life, freedom, and joy intersect; that's what preserves are all about, and we want to share that with the entire community."

#### WALKS AND TALKS

All talks are at IHT's headquarters, Heritage House, 420 Sunset Rd, Sunset, next to the Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society. See our website for current details and August through October schedules.

JUN 7, Birding By Ear, Diane Walker, Settlement Quarry, 9AM  
JUN 21-22, Lupine Fest.

JUN 26-29, Scott's Landing Archaeological Dig  
JUN 28, Penobscot Bonnie Newsome, Archaeology talk, HH, 7PM  
JUN 27, Indian Deer Isle Boat trip. Reservations. Old Quarry Ocean Adventures, \$60, 10-3.  
JUL 8, IHT Annual Meeting, HH  
JUL 10, Barred Island Preserve Walk, Ken and Marnie Crowell, 9AM

JUL 11, Pine Hill Walk, Ann Hooke, 9 AM.  
JUL 16, Scott's Landing Walk. Ann Hooke, 9 AM.  
JUL 17, "The Geology of Deer Isle" Roger Hooke, HH, 7 PM  
JUL 18, Geology Walk, Roger Hooke  
JUL 18, IHT Members Annual Boat Trip/ Picnic  
JUL 25, Indian Deer Isle Boat Trip, Reservations.  
JUL 26, *Touring Through Time*

## President's Message:

The Island, Islanders and the Trust  
By Bill Haviland

Thinking back I realize how critical my childhood summers spent on Deer Isle were to who I became later in life. Family friends were members of old Island families who represented a way of living then almost 200 years old that we admired greatly. Many, like Monty Haskell and Grover Small, had followed the sea and some, like Monty, Elmer Hardy and Charlie Scott, had been members of the celebrated all Deer Isle crews that defended the America's Cup. Others stayed ashore to tend family farms. Many, in fact, did both, moving back and forth between sea and land. To a small boy, it seemed that Islanders were capable of meeting any challenge, or doing just about anything.

Up until the 1950s, there were still five working farms near us (including Scotts Landing), and I remember helping to get in hay and raking blueberries. It seemed we had complete freedom to go anywhere, and with island friends, we would row to places like Carney Island for picnics, to clam or play pirates on the abandoned vessels there. Or we would walk to places like Pine Hill, where we climbed the

cliffs. In Stonington, we'd explore the Settlement Quarry, or go out to Mark Island to ring the fog bell.

Little did we realize we were living at the end of an era. By the 1960s, few islanders were going to sea, although fishing was a major occupation. Farming was pretty much over and land that had been in families for generations was increasingly divided and put up for sale. As a consequence, the 200-year-old mix of seafaring and farming was giving way to fishing and catering to vacationers and other people from away. Many of the places and practices important to the island's heritage were in danger of being lost.

Islanders rose to the challenge, founding (in 1959) the historical society, dedicated to preserving artifacts and documents of importance for the Island's historical and cultural heritage. Later, Island Heritage Trust was established, to protect lands of significance for the Island's natural and cultural heritage. In this, Islanders again played a key role, among them Lloyd Capen, Barbara Pressey (wife of early IHT President Rowan Wakefield), Ruth Harris (a Small descendant) and Jean Shepard Welsh. And let us not forget Judy Hill, whose father, Clark, many years earlier

served as First Selectman of Deer Isle and whose mother Marjorie was Chase Emerson Memorial's librarian.

A board member until shortly before her death, Judy worked with the Crowells to bring about the establishment of IHT headquarters on what amounts to a single campus with the historical society. The two organizations complement one another; one focusing on the records and objects, the other on the places important for the Island's heritage. It was her wish, as it is mine, that this will promote cooperation between the two organizations for many years to come.

Speaking personally, I am grateful that IHT has preserved so many of the places that were important to me in my youth, and that are here for others to enjoy, and remind us of the Island's rich heritage. It has been a privilege to serve as your President, a position I would never have accepted but for my belief in the mission of this organization. Nor could I have handled the job without the assistance of an extraordinary group of people on the board and in the office – a group made up of a magical mix of people with old as well as relatively recent ties to this special island. As its original inhabitants would say: welwlehne (I thank you.)

### Mission statement

The mission of the Island Heritage Trust is to conserve significant open space, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, natural resources, historic and cultural features that offer public benefit and are essential to the character of the Deer Isle area.

### ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST NEWSLETTER

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