



*The Land Trust of Deer Isle & Stonington, Maine*

*Fall 2015*

## *Conserving a Special Place*

Mary Anne Broshek is no stranger to environmental protection and mindful stewardship of land. For her, the value of land isn't about financial gain – though she well understands the hardships that drive some landowners to sell to developers – but about preserving what she loves for future generations. For Broshek this deep-rooted principle was born out of abiding love of the outdoors and of the beauty and peace to be found there. Preservation and conservation, for her, are serious concepts requiring thoughtful consideration and ultimately action.

And acting on those concerns has meant, among other things, creating several conservation easements. By the time she decided to create an easement here in Deer Isle, with Island Heritage Trust (IHT), Broshek had already created three others in her home state of New Hampshire, providing protection for agricultural land on her small farm there, and helping young farmers. She emphasized that we have to “protect what gives us life.” Putting her principle about land use into practice has also led to her being actively involved in the Andover Conservation Commission as its chair.

All this follows a challenging professional career, during which she served as director of the Division of Family Assistance (NH DHHS), supervising a staff of 450 who worked in 28 locations throughout the state. Advocating and providing for families and children didn't stop with retirement, as Broshek then lobbied on behalf of the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire.

Describing her first visit to Deer Isle in the 1980s, at a friend's suggestion, Broshek said she immediately thought

the island “was a magical place.” Soon she began looking for a cottage, a place of her own, recognizing that “some places just call to you.” She ended up buying land here in 1986, and for many years camped in a tent before she built her house, which was completed in 2008. Now she comes several times in summer and also rents out her home, “keeping the rent low so people can enjoy it.” Believing that “beauty nourishes people in some way,” Broshek added, “I've been lucky. I want to share that.”

To that end the conservation easement she created on her



Broshek protected shoreline Photo: Elke Dorr

property in Deer Isle, with IHT, protects the land from future development, provides wildlife habitat, and ensures access for commercial clammers. Her interactions with IHT during the process of creating the easement were “wonderful,” she noted. IHT has “done a great job,” she said and praised the Lily Pond acquisition as one of the best things the trust has accomplished. *Cont'd on page 7*





Kids playing and exploring at Settlement Quarry Preserve during a KIDS IN NATURE program Photo: George Linkletter

## From the Executive Director | Mike Little



As the year descends toward winter and I watch the rain lashing the office window here, in Sunset, I get a warm feeling thinking about what Island Heritage Trust has accomplished with YOUR help this past year. First, we increased the Lily Pond Beach Property

by 12 acres (200%). Thanks to two lead donors, the Davis Foundation, the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, Camden National Bank, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, and YOUR donations, the Lily Pond Campaign raised \$320,000 in contributions in only 18 months! THANK YOU! The Trust was able to purchase the property, even though the Land for Maine's Future Program, a source of some funding, is in distress. We also added Whig Island to our collection of publicly accessible lands. Again, thanks to a generous lead donor, the neighbors on Long Cove, and a bargain sale, the Trust was able to complete this campaign in less than one year! Next time you drive around the head of Long Cove, admire that undeveloped and now forever publicly accessible island.

If plans materialize, there will be more acquisitions next

year for all to enjoy. However, all these properties require management. This means making sure that trails are safe and enjoyable for all our visitors despite the damage the weather sometimes creates. Trails, bog-bridges, signage – all are part of IHT's responsibilities. In land trust language this is stewardship – managing land and resources so that you can experience and enjoy them without creating undue damage to the natural environment that attracted us in the first place.

It also means providing safe, but not too safe, places for children to interact with the natural world – places to catch frogs, to get wet and dirty, and just be in unstructured play. There is more and more research showing that children not only need to get out into green spaces more often ("nature deficit disorder") but that they need more opportunities for unstructured play. The woods, fields and shores of Deer Isle's preserves can offer endless opportunities for such play. In fact, play is good for parents and grandparents too. So many of us get a sense of renewal and release from breathing the balsam-scented air or contemplating a vivid sunset – isn't that what we want for everyone? Now that's a vision worth pursuing!



## On Stewardship

**D**o you have a treasured view on Deer Isle that you notice every time you pass, or a cherished island, beach, or trail? Many of these special places are protected by IHT, but before they are, they must first pass this basic test: they must provide broad public benefit. Some benefits are easily perceptible such as shore access for clambers, a lovely view, or a piece of island history. Many benefits, however, are intangible. We just know these special places allow us to find pleasure, joy, or wonder in nature. While we may not be able to see some other benefits such as water resources and natural habitat protection, we know what happens when such resources are left unprotected.

A land trust has two distinct ways of protecting land: owning it or holding a conservation easement. A Conservation Easement (CE) is a way to legally protect land owned by another organization or by a private individual or family. Currently, IHT now protects through its preserves and CE's a total of 1,320.2 acres, with 20.9 miles of shoreline, a decent amount of land on a relatively small island comprising some 24,000 acres. While all the Trust's holding provide public benefit, IHT bears the legal and financial burden, and the day-to-day management responsibility for being good stewards. The demands of managing preserves versus CE's are very different.

Of the 25 preserves IHT currently owns and manages, 16 were donated by individuals who yearned to see a treasured place set aside in perpetuity for the people of Deer Isle. All IHT preserves, including nine islands, are managed for public safety and enjoyment, while protecting the habitat from over-use. This means maintaining many miles of trails, information kiosks, parking areas, signs and brochures for 485.3 acres. Less visible to the public are tasks such as marking boundaries, repairing storm and winter damage to trails, trash and poop patrol, controlling invasive plants, repairing damage caused by vandals, and responding to the suggestions and concerns of adjacent neighbors. This all requires a large number of enthusiastic volunteers with a wide range of skills. Coordinating the training and efforts of these volunteers is the responsibility of our Stewardship Director.

Conservation Easements require a totally different management effort. Each CE, crafted cooperatively

between IHT and the owner, provides unique public benefits: perhaps protecting a view from the water or public roadway; perhaps protecting shore or bird habitat. By limiting development on 834.9 acres, CE's provide more open space on Deer Isle than IHT could ever hope or want to own. An additional 12.99 miles of shoreline remain in a natural condition. Moreover, the near-shore environment is protected from non-point source pollution.

A CE helps property owners realize their vision for the future of their property within a legal framework, applicable to both current and future owners. IHT accepts the responsibility of maintaining an open, collaborative relationship with owners/donors through annual monitoring visits to ensure that the purpose of the CE is secured. Being a CE monitor requires unique skills, but provides a wonderful opportunity to visit special places and interact with owners who love their treasured piece of Deer Isle. Again, it is the Stewardship Director who trains and coordinates these volunteers and their visits.



Photo: Susan Robinson

Clearly, stewardship, as Merriam-Webster defines it – “the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care – is a significant component of IHT’s responsibilities, one that IHT staff and volunteers strive year after year, season after season, to faithfully carry out.

For information about volunteering as a Preserve Steward, Friend of a Preserve, or Conservation Easement Monitor, please call 207-348-2455.



Camp Kooky swim lessons at the Lily Pond this past summer. Photo: Jo Sullivan

“My husband, kids, and I were talking about a camp over dinner one night. We were tossing around names and my daughter, Anne Billings-Foster, said ‘What about Camp Kooky? That sounds like a fun place to go!’ So Bobbi Billings recalled, explaining how the popular summer program for island children got its name.

Born in 2004, as a result of nearly a year-long effort by the Island Community Center to create a summer day camp for kids on the island, the four week camp has truly been a community project. The state-licensed camp began with 20 campers ranging in age from 5 to 12, for each of the four weeks of camp. IHT’s preserves provide ideal places for a multitude of activities that include swimming, exploring the woods and shore, playing games, singing, creating projects and, of course, making new friends.

Since its creation, Camp Kooky has been administered by the director of the ICC, currently Jeannie Hatch. With the help of an assistant, Joe Sullivan has managed the day-to-day operation of the camp from its founding. Although each camper pays \$125 per week, the actual cost in 2015 was \$261, clearly a significant difference, which community organizations generously help to offset.

In addition to IHT, other organizations that participate include The Island Medical Center and the Island Rec

Board, both assisting with funding. The Island Fisherman’s Wives and IHT help fund transportation costs, a major expense. The swimming program, taught by a certified YMCA instructor, is aided by the annual profits from Tide Chart Sales, sponsored by the Leslie C. Hicks Memorial Swimming Program (under the wing of the Fishermen’s

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*“What about Camp Kooky? That sounds like a fun place to go!”*

Wives). Additionally, substantial private support helps fund scholarships for the campers.

About Camp Kooky’s success, Bobbi Billings observed, “The program has changed over the years; it’s gotten better and better! More and more people know about Camp Kooky. More and more children attend and the program itself has gotten richer. The ICC is thrilled to be considering a 6-week program for next summer. That’s very telling.”

*(Thanks to Jeannie Hatch and Bobbi Billings for their help with this article. And to the Eleanor F. Stich Recreational Trust, who has generously granted funds to IHT to assist in the cost of busing campers to the Preserves weekly.)*



## New Faces at the Trust

Island Heritage Trust is pleased to welcome David Vandiver as its new Stewardship Director. David and his family live in Penobscot, and his wife, Marianne, works at Island Family Medicine. He brings us a wealth of experience and a passion for land conservation. For fourteen years – sometimes part time and sometimes full time – David served For Love of Children (FLOC), an outdoor education facility in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. At first working only in the summers, David says at the end of every summer he begged FLOC to stay for a few more days before he had to return to the city, reluctant as he was to leave the outdoor environment he loves. Eventually, they gave in and employed him year round.

FLOC occupies land which is part of a 1600-acre wilderness preserve owned and managed by the Rolling Ridge Foundation, a Virginia land trust which David also served. Realizing that this huge tract of land needed management, David made a proposal to the Foundation and was hired as its first conservation steward. For the next four years he worked to develop mapping, signage and a system for trail maintenance, which had previously been entirely lacking.

Explaining his devotion to the work of land trusts, David recalls a vivid childhood memory. He grew up in the White River Delta area of central Arkansas, where his grandfather, who supported himself by hunting and fishing, lived in a cabin in the midst of a large tract of privately owned land, fully wooded, susceptible to regular flooding, and adjacent to a large state owned wildlife refuge. When the land came up for sale, a group of citizens banded together to persuade the state to buy it and add it to the existing wildlife refuge. The state pleaded poverty, and the land was purchased by two brothers who planned to farm it. David's grandfather warned them all about the flooding. But the Corps of Engineers planned to build a levee, despite his grandfather's warning that no levee could be sufficient to stem the flooding. Nonetheless, reassured by the Corps of Engineers, the brothers totally stripped the land, burning all the wood. The community, David recalls, never got over it. Every Sunday afternoon folks would gather and watch the burning woodland in horror and dismay.



David Vandiver Photo: Woody Osborne

Thirty odd years later the land came back up for sale. It turned out the brothers had never been able to farm the land profitably – principally because of the flooding about which David's grandfather had warned them. With the timber long gone and after 25 years of fruitless plowing, some six feet of topsoil had been lost. The citizens regrouped. And this time, they were able to raise the money, together with support from the state, and purchase the land. They have begun replanting trees. But the consensus is that it will never be the same. The futile loss of luxuriant woodland is something that David has never forgotten.

Holding a master's degree in divinity, David spent a number of years as part time Pastor at the Brooksville United Methodist Church. His theological background, combined with his childhood experience in the White River Delta and his subsequent work for FLOC and Rolling Ridge Foundation, have instilled in him, he says, a passion for land conservation. The earth, he believes, "comes to us as a gift that we can never repay. We must care for it as best as we can."

Welcome, David Vandiver.

## Business Partners

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*Opera House Arts*

*Pilgrim's Inn/Whale's Rib*

*Spencer Insurance Agency*

*The Island Agency*

*The Periwinkle*

*Water's Edge Wines*

*Webworks Downeast*

## Kira Marzoli's Summer on the Trails

Ahh...my second summer working for Island Heritage Trust as the Stewardship Assistant. When I was re-offered the position for this summer, my first thoughts were: "Hmm...I'm not so sure I want to do this again. I was always so exhausted." I remembered all the times I was grumbling to myself because my arms were sore and the sun was beating down on me, and I kept getting the dang lawn mower caught on roots and rocks as I pushed it (that's right, not self-propelled) to the destination where I was mowing. I remembered the multitude of cigarette butts and fireworks scraps I had to pick up at the beaches and in the parking lots at the preserves. And the paint, dirt, and twigs I got in my hair and on my arms.

But then...I remembered how whenever I got home, I was exhausted, but the good kind of exhausted. I had done a good day's work, had been out in the sun and in nature, and was helping with a worthy cause. I was helping keep the trails and preserves maintained for everyone to enjoy, just as someone did for me. When I was growing up, my family always spent two weeks of



Photo: Marissa Hutchinson

each summer vacationing on the island. And although I was what most people would call a person "from away" or a "summer person," my soul always belonged in Deer Isle, there was no denying it. Now, I can gladly call Stonington my home. And I feel there are not many better ways to honor the place that holds my heart than giving back to the beautiful land that it encompasses.

Of course I did this job again this summer – how could I not? I get to be that person in the background – keeping the Lily Pond mowed and trash free, trimming branches in places such as Barred Island and Shore Acres, painting the trail blazes so no one gets lost, and constantly restocking Island Heritage Trust and preserve brochures. I get to give back to this place that I love so much. I get to know the ins and outs of parts of the island that most people aren't lucky enough to know.

It's been a wonderful opportunity for me – making money during the summer off from college while enjoying the place I call home. It's not always easy, but it's so worth it.



## Tidings



**Congratulations** to Andrew Rosenthal on receiving IHT's 2015 Rowan Wakefield Award, for his leadership in land protection on Deer Isle and elsewhere.

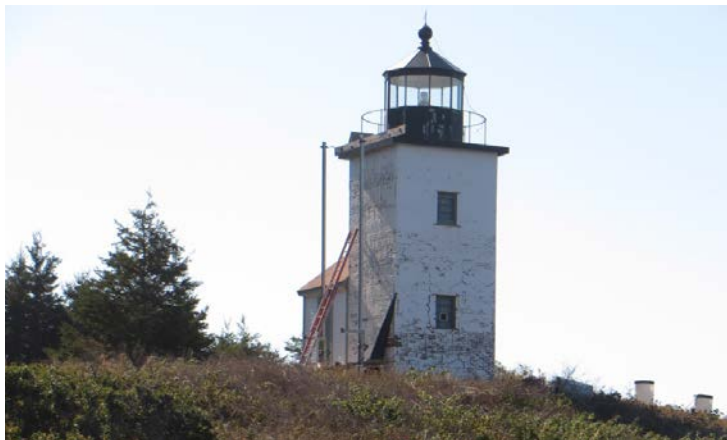
**Kudos** to Ken Crowell for being named one of five finalists for the Natural Resource Council of Maine's People's Choice Award. Ken was recognized for his long history championing land preservation; his scientific work with mouse populations; and his educational efforts through IHT Walks and Talks and school visits.

**Thank you** to IHT Summer Interns Amy Hardy of Deer Isle, and Lola Stevens of Brooklyn, NY! Their weekly monitoring and measuring with Martha Bell – of dissolved oxygen content, bacteria, and temperature at the Lily Pond; phytoplankton monitoring at the Deer Isle Yacht Club; mussel density at Causeway Beach, and Holt Mill Pond – was of great assistance. Data collected was important in determining the health of the Lily Pond (very healthy!), in identifying harmful algal blooms, and assessing the health of mussel beds and eelgrass around the island. Some of the collected data was shared with the Department of Marine Resources.

*Cont'd from Page 1*

She also loves the Walks and Talks, she said. For others considering creating an easement, Broshek advises walking the property and seeing how much you enjoy it. Then, she said, ask yourself, "What can I do to preserve such a special place?"

Gardening, hiking, growing much of her own food and studying permaculture are only some of Broshek's other interests. She also enjoys downhill skiing, owns two dogs and simply loves the outdoors. Broshek has acted on her belief that "the highest and best purpose of land is to preserve it," by ensuring that her own "special place" on Deer Isle will provide immeasurable benefits, that its beauty will continue to nourish others far into the future.



**Restoration of Mark Island Light** is underway to remove paint that proved destructive to mortar joints by trapping moisture. New, "breathable" paint, recommended by Maine Historic Preservation Commission, will be applied. Completion is expected by mid-summer 2016.

Photo: Elke Dorr



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### Newsletter

Elke Dorr

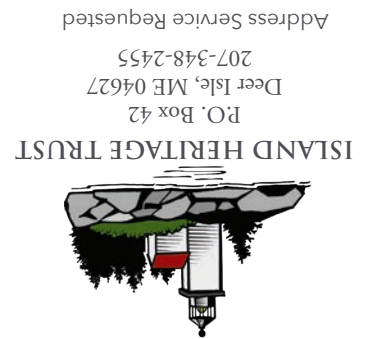
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Summer Interns Lola Stevens & Amy Hardy  
Photos: Martha Bell, George Linketter



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By signing up to give small amounts on a monthly basis, our 11 monthly donors raised their combined average yearly giving from \$1,903 to \$3,360 a year!

*That is a 77% increase, showing that signing up to give as little as \$10 a month can make a huge impact for conservation on Deer Isle.*

To join this great group and become a monthly donor yourself, go to [www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org). Click on the “DONATE NOW” button, and select “Monthly.”



Photo: Elke Dorr

Rachel Hutchinson of Stonington, a frequent visitor to IHT's preserves, is enthusiastic in her praise of the Trust's work:

*"I think Pine Hill is just wonderful and I love Settlement Quarry. I love it all! I think IHT is wonderful to make so much available for everyone to enjoy."*

A conscientious visitor, Rachel goes hiking with a trash bag so she can pick up any trash she finds and dispose of it.