



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

The Land Trust of Deer Isle & Stonington, Maine

Spring 2017

Little Deer Isle's Newest Preserve

On a day in early December, when icy snow covered the trails of IHT's newest donation, members of the Stewardship Committee explored the property now named the Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve. To their utter surprise, committee members found the terrain and wildlife habitats to be remarkably diverse. The 40-plus acre gem on Little Deer Isle contains steeply wooded hills and ravines, bubbling brooks, a bird-watcher's gold mine in a large white cedar swamp, and a high, rocky knob with views of the water, known historically as Spinney Ledge. Subsequent visits revealed that the preserve holds an entire watershed originating from a small spring high on the hillside. It feeds a stream that flows through several wetland areas and onward to the ocean. There is even access to a 100-foot long gravel beach on Blastow Cove, providing water access for launching kayaks and other small boats.



Images from the new LDI property

memories of being together here each summer enjoying the beauty and abundant wildlife of their land. Wanting to protect their beloved property as a nature preserve and

maintain it for public use, the family generously donated it to IHT. And because a much loved daughter, Lisa Tolman Wotton, is buried here, they asked that the preserve be named in her honor. Stacie Wolgalter said of her cousin, "Lisa loved roaming through the fields, picking blueberries, walking through the woods, building forts, walking down to visit her aunt at the shore and swimming off Big Rock. She had such an adventurous spirit and the biggest heart."



Photos: Marissa Hutchinson

Besides the Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve, four other preserves have come to IHT recently: Whig Island, Crystal

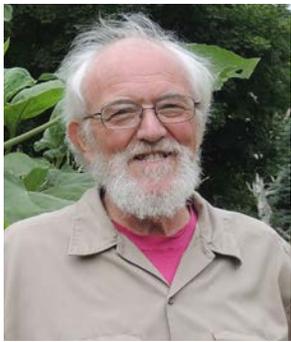
For many generations the property has been treasured by the descendants of Sherman Eaton, himself descended from Major William Eaton, one of Deer Isle's earliest English-speaking settlers. Although the current generation of the family has moved off-island, they have fond

Cove, Gross Point in Oceanville, and the expanded Lily Pond Park. Add to these a greatly enlarged Shore Acres and the Church Lands, which are both in the final process of being transferred to IHT. Such expansion in the Trust's holdings seriously challenges stewardship staff and volunteers, particularly since the needs of each of these conserved areas are unique. *(continued on page 3)*



Shoreline of the new parcel of land at Shore Acres Preserve Photo: Woodley Osborne

From the Executive Director | *Mike Little*



In 2014, the owners of the property next to the Lily Pond Beach offered it to Island Heritage Trust at a bargain price. Thanks to two very generous lead donors, the people of Deer Isle, and the Land for Maine's Future (LMF) fund, the campaign was short and sweet. Then things unraveled a bit. On the

day that IHT should have received a check from the LMF fund, the governor halted all LMF project payments. More than a year would pass before the governor changed his stance. Meanwhile, IHT purchased the land from the eager sellers, using money intended for Stewardship.

Why am I telling you this? Partly because I want to explain why nothing has been happening on the Quaco Road parcel that IHT owns, and partly because I want to emphasize how important "Stewardship" dollars are. Without the dollars that were withheld by LMF, the Trust could not create any improvements to the property. Since IHT owns the property, you are welcome to visit, but there is no place to safely park, no comfortable trail to the beach, no facilities. These all cost money.

Stewardship is the bugbear of land trusts. Everybody wants to give to a great project, but once the Trust owns a property, there

are no costs. Or are there? When launching a campaign to buy a property, such as Scott's Landing and each Lily Pond parcel, the Trust includes estimated funds for improvements and ongoing maintenance in its goal. The money raised above the purchase price is used for improvements, and the rest is invested until it is needed. What happens when someone donates a property? Often these folks do not have the means to also give a cash gift, so the Trust must raise the funds to pay for any improvements (signs, parking, bog bridges). Even with the help of dedicated volunteers, materials, paints, gravel, fencing – all still must be purchased. While occasionally the Trust can find a grant to help pay for these improvements, more often than not the money comes from your generous donations. But that money first has to pay to keep the lights on and the staff employed.

This winter and spring, we have been blessed by the generosity of several families who have donated approximately 133 acres of land, including one island. These properties comprise what will become one expanded and three new IHT preserves offering wonderful places for islanders to walk and explore nature – once IHT gets some trails built and safe parking installed. 🌿

Gift Doubles Size of Shore Acres Preserve

Generosity is a word we use a great deal at the Trust and always followed by another word – gratitude. Generosity comes to us in many forms, from donors who help fund our economic health, to those helping transform our big ideas into realities; from volunteers maintaining the safety of trails, to those staffing the Nature Shop; and from donors of construction materials to those who give gifts of land. Most recently generosity was made manifest again with another gift of land to the Trust. Without fanfare or self congratulation, and with her gift of some 35 acres, Mary Offutt of Litte Deer Isle, has nearly doubled the size of IHT’s Shore Acres Preserve.

“I’m a practical person,” she said modestly during a recent interview. When the property adjacent to Shore Acres came on the market, Mary worried about it being developed. In her view it seemed “a no-brainer” to acquire the property and prevent its development, particularly since it sat cheek-by-jowl next to Shore Acres. While she has retained a parcel for herself, Mary donated nearly half of the property to IHT, a parcel that includes some unique features. Among them is a vernal pool that for years the Trust has been allowed to use for visiting school children. A unique type of wetland, a vernal pool is an ephemeral, temporary pool providing habitat for a number of distinctive creatures, including wood frogs and salamanders. While they often dry out some part of the year, vernal pools are at their fullest in spring, hence the term vernal, relating to or occurring in spring.

The property also includes a stand of locust trees, several existing trails, an open meadow and the foundations of a house and barn, testament to the land’s history as a farm. Moreover, as a result of the donation, Shore Acres will now have approximately a half mile of shorefront, an asset that saw plenty of use when travel along the coast from one place to another was primarily accomplished by water. According to Mary, three generations of the Benjamin Cole family farmed the land that orininally had been acquired as a land grant. In yet another reminder of that farming history, Mary found an ox shoe with the help of a metal detector. She also noted the discovery of a milk can, testimony to the cows that once were housed in the barn and grazed in the meadow.

In reflecting on IHT and its work, Mary praised the Trust’s volunteers and gave high marks to Executive Director Mike Little for all his efforts. She also praised IHT’s partnerships with the schools and its many programs, singling out Martha Bell, IHT’s Environmental Educator, for her remarkable ability to spark students’ interest in the natural world. A self-proclaimed “nature lover,” Mary has acted on that love with uncommon generosity. The Trust, on behalf of all the visitors who will come and enjoy her gift in the years to come, offers its gratitude in return. 🌿



4th Graders at Shore Acres Vernal Pool

Photo: George Linkletter

(continued from page 1) For example, the Lisa Tolman Wotton property alone requires developing trails and parking areas, building bridges to cross streams, and creating brochures. An additional, but vitally important component of opening a new preserve is building a rapport with neighboring property owners by listening to their suggestions and concerns. Not only new properties, but all IHT’s preserves, require planning for different forms of use, such as walking, nature observation, and water access, all of which demand ongoing, thoughtful, and creative solutions. Efforts such as these, while sometimes extensive, are a routine part of IHT’s practice of good stewardship.

Despite the many tasks to be completed, the Trust hopes to have public access to the Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve – the largest IHT property on Little Deer Isle – ready this summer. With its impressive stands of white cedar, its streams and wetlands, and rugged topography, the preserve promises to offer visitors a unique opportunity to experience and observe a rich diversity of wildlife habitats and exceptionally varied terrain. 🌿

Excellence Grant received, Accreditation Next

Over the thirty years since its founding in 1987, Island Heritage Trust has been evolving from an all-volunteer organization of Deer Isle residents working to protect against development pressure that threatened both shore access and traditional land usage. Today, the Trust employs a full-time Executive Director, Mike Little, a Development Director, Marissa Hutchinson, an Environmental Educator, Martha Bell, and a Stewardship Director, David Vandiver. It owns and manages 24 separate properties covering over 600 acres, including Lily Pond Park, Scott's Landing Preserve, Shore Acres Preserve and the Settlement Quarry Preserve. In addition, the Trust monitors some 29 conservation easements that protect another 835 acres. Besides its conservation and stewardship efforts, the Trust provides a wide range of environmental education offerings, both on its own and in the island's schools.

Now, supported and encouraged by an "Excellence Grant" from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and with the unanimous support of its Board of Trustees, IHT has embarked on a process aimed at achieving accreditation. In his remarks regarding the Trust's acceptance into the Excellence Program, Warren Whitney, Maine Coast's Land Trust Program Director, observed that IHT's "acceptance ... is a strong indication of your commitment to land conservation and your maturity and strength as an organization." As described by the Land Trust Alliance, accreditation is a mark of distinction, showing that a land trust meets high standards for land conservation. It sends a message to landowners and supporters: "Invest in us. We are a strong, effective organization you can trust to conserve your land trust forever." Accreditation also makes a land trust more attractive to donors, according to the Alliance, especially to foundations, and provides additional assurance to land owners that the land trust "will be able to carry out their conservation vision." Moreover, it makes a trust stronger and less risky to insure, resulting in lower rates.

In order to achieve accreditation, a land trust must demonstrate to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission that it complies with the Land Trust Standards and Practices, Ethical and Technical Guidelines for the Responsible Operation of a Land Trust, promulgated and maintained by the Land Trust Alliance. A Washington based organization, the Land Trust Alliance represents and supports over one thousand land trusts across the country. Its Standards and Practices covers the whole range of a land trust's responsibilities – from governance practices, fundraising, and compliance with the laws relating to tax-exempt organizations, to the core of a land trust's responsibility, the acquisition and stewardship of land conserved through easement or ownership.

IHT is not alone among Maine's 84 land trusts seeking accreditation. To date, 25 have achieved accreditation and another eight to ten are, like IHT, in the process of seeking accreditation. To assist in the process, the Trust has retained a consulting firm, Paul and Maureen Hoffman of Newcastle, Maine. As a first step, Board members and staff will be providing the Hoffmans with information regarding IHT's current practices. With this information, and in accordance with the terms of our agreement with Maine Coast, the Hoffmans will prepare an organizational assessment, measuring IHT against the Standards and Practices. Working with the Hoffmans, the Trust will "develop a work plan ... designed to fully prepare [it] to apply for land trust accreditation."

Recognizing the process is time consuming and demanding, and that it will engage the attention of the entire Board and staff for a couple years, IHT is confident that it will achieve accreditation and that it will be well worth the effort. Like other land trusts that have gone through the process, IHT expects that it will be a stronger organization still when accreditation is achieved. 🌿



Tim Henderson and his son taking advantage of the wide open spaces at Settlement Quarry. While hiking, birding, resetting the brain, and checking out the views are the typical reasons to visit a preserve - some lend themselves to other fun (low impact) activities.

Settlement Quarry Preserve
Photo: Tim Henderson

Island Blacksmith Joins IHT Board

Doug Wilson believes his “enthusiasm and reverence for walking in the woods” when his “head often fills up with ideas,” and he becomes acutely aware of just “how special IHT’s preserves are,” led to his initial interest in joining IHT’s Board of Trustees. A couple of friends finally persuaded him to dive in. Despite having lived full-time on the island since the late ‘80s, and having long volunteered for IHT, Doug modestly insists he has a “huge learning curve” as a new board member. He is quick to praise his 14 colleagues’ collective ethos, observing that members have a “high regard and respect for one another,” and that they “listen carefully to each other,” essential components to creating an effective organization. He also applauds what he sees is a “great deal of expertise” among members and a well-balanced division of labor on the board.

As its newest member, Doug says he hopes that he “can contribute to the future” of the Trust, by helping to ensure its longevity and shape its direction. While extolling IHT’s essential role as protector of open spaces for public use, he believes the Trust must continue to increase its exposure to the public and more extensively involve the local community in its work. Some of this, he feels, can be achieved through directed programming.

He’s particularly excited about the the Trust’s invitation to local artists to create new cover art for its preserve brochures. Citing the abundance of “artistic talent on the island” and the vital presence of the arts community to island life, he says he hopes the project will draw new talent and interest in the Trust. “One of our ongoing challenges,” he says, is finding ways to “involve and attract new supporters and donors.” This project, he feels, is a meaningful way to both enlarge interest in the Trust and include the public in its work. The health of any organization, he emphasizes, depends on recruiting a continuing cadre of new supporters.



Doug Wilson

Another area of interest for Doug is IHT’s current effort to become an accredited member of the Land Trust Alliance. He fully supports such an undertaking and believes the exacting, time consuming and not inexpensive process is “worth the effort,” and will confer significant credibility on the organization.

Despite his new role, Doug hopes to continue his work on the Program Committee in which he’s volunteered for a number of years. Not content to simply discuss ideas, he has conducted drawing workshops in which he enthusiastically leads and encourages participants to observe both the minuscule and the majestic in the Trust’s preserves. He is also responsible, through his skill as an artist in ironwork, for the sign at Heritage House as well as the substantial base and frame of the Settlement Quarry sign. Moreover, Doug has made his property available for many years for IHT’s annual observation of migrating salamanders to vernal pools.

For Doug, moving from one volunteer role to another has allowed him the opportunity to serve the community he loves by helping to celebrate and protect its natural world. ❧

2016-2017 MEMORIAL GIFTS

Island Heritage Trust is honored to have received donations in memory of the following individuals:

Matthew Asbornsen	Ruth Harris	Nancy Seltz
John Boyer	Lawrence & Tina Howe	Skip Smith
Barbara Brannen	Alexander Kasparian	Roger Steinharter
Beverley Cairns	Susan McClure	John D. Sullivan
William B. & Ruth McLaren Dayton	Francis McGuire	Ann Van Buren
Charles Grobe, Jr.	John H. Peterson	Rowan Wakefield
	Jennifer Russell	David Waite



SATURDAY, AUGUST 5TH, 4:30 PM

2017 ANNUAL SHORE DINNER & BENEFIT AUCTION

From My Perspective: Scott's Landing | *Emily Wendell*

When I first moved to the island, another island held my heart. I had spent five summers on MDI getting to know Acadia in a way only an under-employed kayak guide can. On arriving on Deer Isle I consulted my Gazetteer and discovered Barred Island. I went on to explore the Tennis Preserve, enjoying the mossy forests and boulder-strewn shores. I liked visiting the island preserves, but I was always searching for longer, more challenging trails. I discovered Scott's Landing last because I had been overlooking its shorter trails. I wanted to summit peaks not meander along seaside paths. Then I had kids. Suddenly a preserve with lots of short trails, none of which were far from the parking area, seemed ideal. My toddler could lead the way and when her energy lagged, I could carry her back to the car. Over time Scott's Landing, especially its long, treasure-filled beach and rich history, has become a favorite. There's always time for a quick hike to the beach, and we usually like to take the "long" way through the aspen grove.



Emily, Lilia, & Bay Wendell

This year I decided to make Scott's Landing the focus of a project with my 1st and 2nd grade class at DISES. We've made monthly visits to the preserve learning about the land, animals, and people who've lived there. We're hoping to make our findings into an educational video available to hikers and visitors. The students are getting to know a piece of their island they might not have had the opportunity to visit. I asked them to reflect on their experiences and here is what they said: "When I am at Scott's

landing I feel amazed how it is beautiful." "My favorite thing about Scott's Landing is seeing different kinds of animals." "My favorite thing is when it's in the summer and you go to the beach and it's very warm and I go swimming and collect sea glass." One little hiker really caught the magic of being surrounded by nature when she wrote, "My favorite thing about Scott's Landing is the dragon fairy." If you're like me you might be returning again and again to this little gem of a preserve searching for the elusive dragon fairy. 🧝



A big thank you to Sonny Stinson, who just deeded an easement to IHT for Shore/Clammer access. This trail easement is on a piece of land he purchased in 1967 specifically to preserve traditional pedestrian access to Crockett Cove. As long ago as that, some folks were already seeing the changes that cut the public and fisherman off from the shore. Thanks to far-seeing individuals like Sonny there will continue to be some public access to the clam flats.

NATURE SHOP



Don't miss this great little shop! We have educational and fun, nature-based items for all ages.

- ◆ Island & Trail Maps
- ◆ Children's Books
- ◆ Bluebird Houses
- ◆ Binoculars & Field Lenses
- ◆ Notecards, Postcards & Posters
- ◆ Educational Games, Puzzles & more...

& our specialty - **Field Guides** covering everything from the stars and birds to amphibians to lichens.

Tidings



Environmental Education donation - The Trust is excited to share the news of a three-year, anonymous donation of \$25K/per year in support of our Environmental Education program. This generous donation will help sustain and considerably enhance our student-focused programs.

Lily Pond Park Phase II Update: Our Land for Maine's Future funds will be in hand by the time you receive this newsletter! It has been a long wait. This means work will begin on the gravel, 10-car parking area, trail, & toilets at the Quaco Road entrance this spring/summer! Woohoo!

Our First April Vacation Nature Camp took off this Spring with six students, Martha Bell, and high school assistant, Jess Trainor. The kids had a blast hiking and exploring a different preserve each day, learning about nature through games and crafts, and cooking with Edible Island. Big thank yous to the Campership Sponsors and Maine Community Foundation's Bary Lyon Small Fund for supporting this spring break camp suggested by our Community Advisory Board.

Walks & Talks and Preserve Work Parties: Save and check out the included 2017 Walks & Talks Brochure. It includes our summer programs open to all, as well as a list of the upcoming Preserve Work Parties - which is a call for you to come out on the trails and have fun helping us get them ready for the summer.

Volunteers are the backbone to all the Trust's work. If you are someone who loves nature, Deer Isle, and ensuring the Trust serves the community well, come talk to us about becoming a volunteer. We have many different ways you can contribute time & skills that make a difference and are fun. And if you have a friend that might be interested - let us know about them too. Contact Marissa at marissa@islandheritagetrust.org or 348-2455.

WALKS & TALKS "SUGGESTED DONATIONS" SUPPORT 2 GREAT PROGRAMS THIS SUMMER

The Island Heritage Trust Program committee is excited to bring James Francis and Jennifer Neptune to the island, and to collaborate with seven area organizations to bring Tom Wessels to Blue Hill this summer. Donations from past summer events have made these two events possible.

TUES, JUNE 20 DEER ISLE THROUGH A PENOBSCOT LENS: SPACE, CULTURE, & CRAFT

7 pm Opera House, Stonington

We are excited to bring to the island a Native American program about the intersection of space, culture, and craft. James Francis, Penobscot Nation Tribal Historian, and Jennifer Neptune, Penobscot artist and anthropologist, will combine an evening basket-making demonstration and slide lecture with an emphasis on elements of Penobscot culture that promise to offer us a different sense of place about Deer Isle. The two will lead a Solstice Ceremony at sunrise the following morning. Entry fee: \$5; 17 years and under are free. Solstice Ceremony: June 21, 4:30 am; location to be announced.

WED, JUNE 21 CO-EVOLUTION: NATURE'S MODEL FOR SUSTAINABILITY

7 pm Emlen Hall, Bay School, Blue Hill

Tom Wessels, terrestrial ecologist and professor emeritus at Antioch University, will explain co-evolution and offer examples drawn from nature as models for creating human systems that can not only sustain themselves, but also thrive. Collaborative Sponsors: Island Heritage Trust, Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Downeast Audubon, Great Pond Mountain Conservation Trust, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Native Gardens of Blue Hill, and Wild Seed Project. Suggested donation of \$10. Students & Seniors, \$5. Everyone welcome!



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST STAFF

Michael Little, *Executive Director*

Marissa Hutchinson, *Development Director*
/Volunteer Coordinator

Martha Bell, *Environmental Educator*

David Vandiver, *Stewardship Director*

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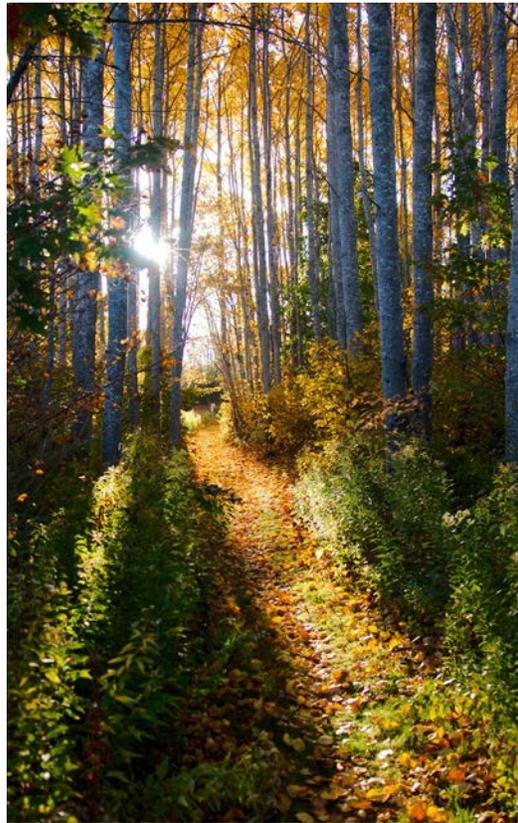
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ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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Scott's Landing Preserve Photo: Tim Henderson

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WINGS, WAVES & WOODS FESTIVAL 2017

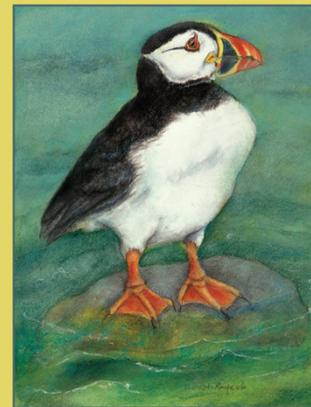
Check out one event or the whole weekend of events. With 30 options there is bound to be something to catch your and your family's fancy!

Events range from eagle spotting, night sounds, guided shore and daily warbler walks to a live owl demonstration, and birding for kids • 15-minute "birds eye view" flights over the island will be provided by Penobscot Island Air • Catch a book reading or drawing workshop with Rebekah Raye. • Learn how professional landscapers create a wildlife- friendly backyard • Those with an eye for art can see a found object sculpture demo, take a brush painting workshop with a Master Brush Painter or try making an applique puffin tote • Ocean excursions feature a trip to Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge to view pelagic birds, especially puffins; a trip to Swan's Island; and a guided cruise in the Deer Isle Thorofare • Linda Welch, biologist for Maine Coastal Island National Wildlife Refuge, will offer an insider's view of the challenges facing Maine's seabirds and their prospects for the future.

**Check out www.islandheritagetrust.org
for schedule & registration form.**

Wings, Waves & Woods

Birding by land, by sea and by art



May 19-21, 2017

Deer Isle - Stonington, Maine

Eagle Spotting
Warbler Walks
Birding for Kids
Art Show & Reception
Landscaping for Wildlife
Maine Seabirds - Linda Welch

Art Workshops
Live Owl Demo
Shore Bird Walk
Bird's Eye View Flights
Guided Puffin Boat Trips
Birding on Swan's Island

Workshop/Reading with Rebekah Raye

www.deerisle.com

Sponsored by: Deer Isle - Stonington Chamber of Commerce, Downeast Audubon Chapter, Island Heritage Trust, & Penobscot Bay Press

