

ISLAND
HERITAGE
TRUST



FALL - WINTER
2023 NEWSLETTER

SHORELINES

COURAGEOUS CONSERVATION

“These protected islands will continue to be a place where migrating species can seek refuge from climate change.”

Dr. Ken Crowell



LOVING & LEARNING THE LAND

Inspiring the future of conservation

Environmental Education with Martha Bell opens a doorway into a world of wild and meaningful experiences for growing minds. These experiences inspire relationships of wonder and love with the land!

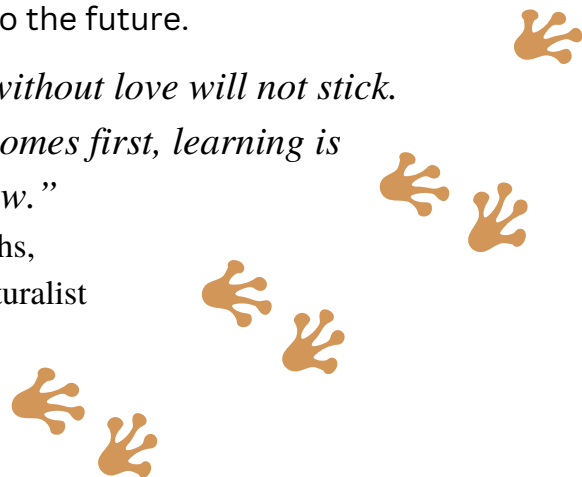
On adventures with Martha, kids are encouraged to use *all* of their senses, creating memorable interactions with the Earth. In the photo above, a group of kids are about to use nets and the gift of sight to explore a lush meadow full of insects at Shore Acres Preserve.

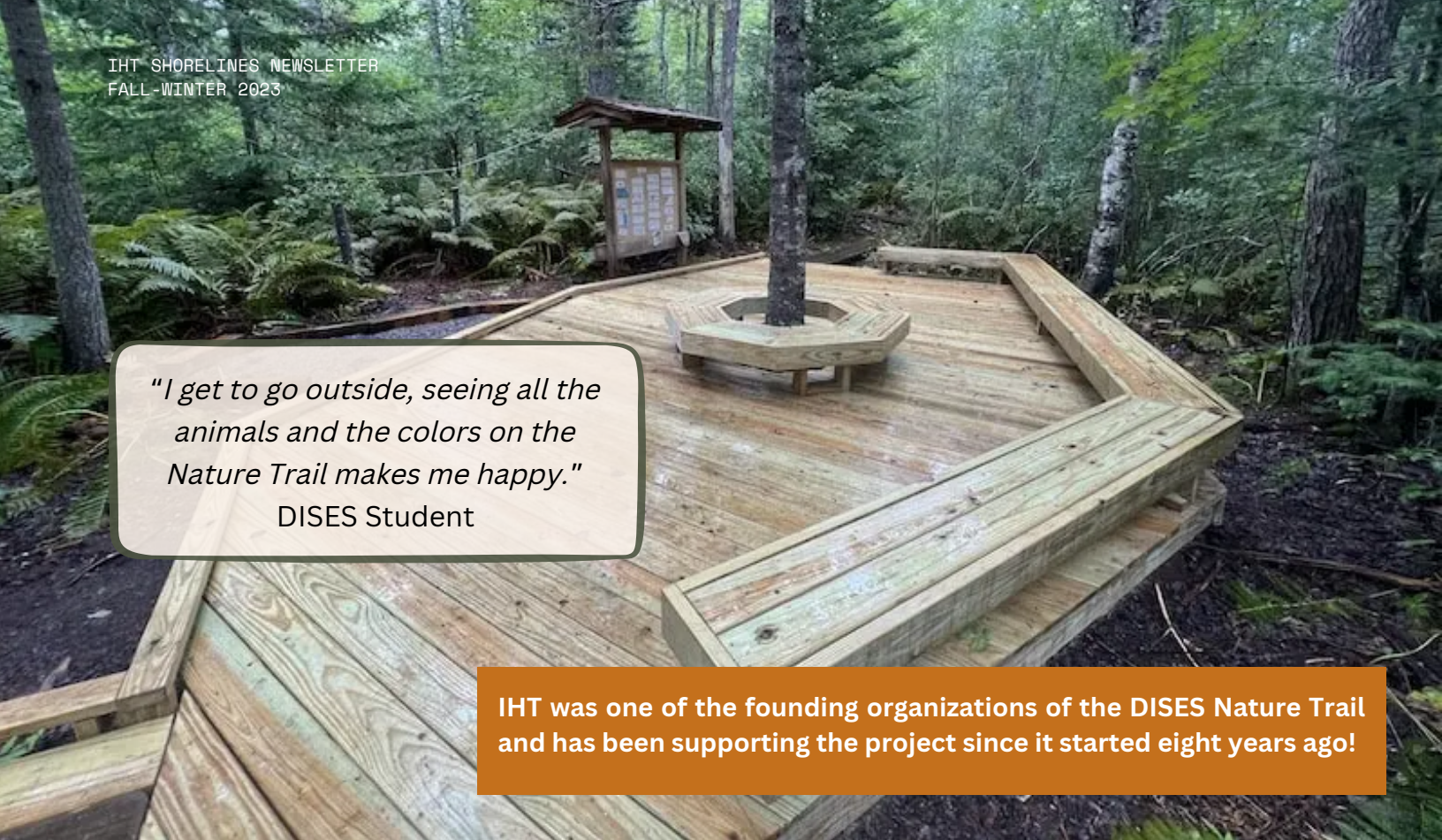
Moments before, they were trekking through the woods and getting to know the different kinds of trees by using only their sense of touch. Eyes blindfolded, they traced the strange textures and shapes, feeling the damp bark on their fingertips.

While this is only one of the experiences Martha provides local kids, it represents the support of people like you who make it possible to extend local classrooms to the outdoors. Helping children feel that they belong in Nature instills in them a desire to protect, love, and learn the land well into the future.

“Learning without love will not stick. But if love comes first, learning is sure to follow.”

John Burroughs,
American Naturalist





"I get to go outside, seeing all the animals and the colors on the Nature Trail makes me happy."
DISES Student

IHT was one of the founding organizations of the DISES Nature Trail and has been supporting the project since it started eight years ago!

Local Educator and IHT Board of Trustees Secretary, Mickie Flores (on the right), has been an instrumental part of creating, and recently expanding, the Nature Trail at the Deer Isle - Stonington Elementary School. This ADA Accessible, interactive boardwalk through the woods makes daily outdoor learning possible for all. The impact of spaces like the School Nature Trail cannot be underestimated!

Mickie shares, *"When the children begin to value the outdoors surrounding the school, they are learning to value the outdoors everywhere else - in the surrounding community and beyond."*

With both local and global stresses affecting our community, you are making a difference by ensuring safe spaces and life changing experiences for children that support their wellness and inspire a lasting love for the land.



VISIT THE DISES NATURE TRAIL:
249 N. Deer Isle Rd, Deer Isle

Enjoy a 0.3 mile interactive boardwalk trail with two outdoor classrooms and seating. Wheelchair access begins at the tennis court entrance. The boardwalk can be slippery when wet.

Directions: Access from the Deer Isle-Stonington high school or elementary school, parking at either facility.



EMPOWERING ACCESS AT OLIVER'S POND

Conserved Land Helps Community Well-being through Workforce Housing Partnership

We are aware that historically, conservation has left many people behind.

From shortages of farmland and housing to displacement of indigenous people, we have seen how conservation without consideration of the vulnerable among us can cause harm.

Many of our friends and neighbors are working together to create solutions for the housing crisis on the island, and we are inspired to be a part of the response to the inequities around us.

This year, we are celebrating project partners, Island Workforce Housing, as they have opened the doors to affordable housing units at Oliver's Ridge. With your support, IHT collaborated with IWH to acquire 27.5 acres on Sunset Crossroad in Deer Isle for the Oliver's Ridge project.

The upland portion of the land (13.4 acres) is being used for year-round rental housing for people who work here on the island, while the pond buffer (14.1 acres) will be in conservation to be enjoyed by the general public, with almost 2,500 feet of frontage on Oliver's Pond! It is a strong and inspiring start - and more is needed.

"Working with IHT made this project possible," said IWH Board Member, Maggie Kirsch. *"Land conservation and affordable housing is a mutual partnership that can really help our community thrive."*

We are seeing more conservation and housing collaborations across the country and here in Maine, as the vulnerable in our communities need access to more than scenic hikes. For example, The Jones Marsh housing project with Island Housing Trust is underway in Bar Harbor, with the support of Maine Coast Heritage Trust.

We are inspired to dream together about ways that the common ground we share can provide for all our needs while creating balance, and we continue to seek opportunities to serve our community through open spaces, open minds, and open hearts. With your ongoing support, our community can continue to receive empowering access to the land we love.



photo by Island Workforce Housing

The new housing at Oliver's Ridge creates a community and relationship among island workers, Oliver's Pond, and local wildlife.

"For every problem in the community, conservation can be part of the solution..."

Marc Smiley, Solid Ground Consulting

DID YOU KNOW...

protected islands are a safe haven for migrating birds?



Great Blue Heron



Yellow-rumped Warbler



Common Eider

You might be familiar with the island nesting of larger birds such as bald eagle, osprey, common eider, terns, gulls, and cormorants. There are at least two advantages: protection from predators and access to resources. But what about songbirds? Many migrants from the tropics nest on or near the ground. They too benefit from absence of nest predators such as raccoon and skunk, though mink are common throughout the archipelago.

Almost any island large enough to have shrubbery has a pair of song sparrows. Most IHT-protected islands are forested in lichen-draped white spruce and balsam fir. Swainson's thrush, a neotropical migrant, one species which favors maritime boreal forest and is found on many islands of a few acres in size. Several warbler species common to Deer Isle, notably the parula, yellow-rumped, and black-throated green, are even found on small islands.

How will climate change affect our islands and their fauna? See www.mainenaturalhistory.org. Their project of specially designed songbird recorders will help us better understand the importance of island habitats for wildlife. With your enduring support, these protected islands will continue to be a place where migrating species can seek refuge from climate change.

By Dr. Ken Crowell, Ecologist & IHT Volunteer

This summer, Island Heritage Trust closed on a new conservation property, Sheep Island and the Hub (pictured right). A conservation-minded group of friends donated Sheep, making 22 offshore islands under IHT's stewardship. This island was one of the first private islands to be added to the Maine Island Trail Association (MITA). It will continue to be a part of the trail under permanent conservation by IHT.



December's Geometry

by Marnie Reed Crowell

*Man is indeed the measure
of angry, jealous, wrathful ways,
eager for authority, and in love
with all his symptoms of despair,
familiar with desire for the first word,
the only word, the last word.*

*But stepping out of doors
into the silent snow
to watch the falling flakes
catch on my dark sleeve
I sense another way of being.*

*Hearing grand vibrations
as the elephant and whales do,
seeing written on white flower throats
the lines bees see,
reading starlight as the ancient
horsehoe crabs can*

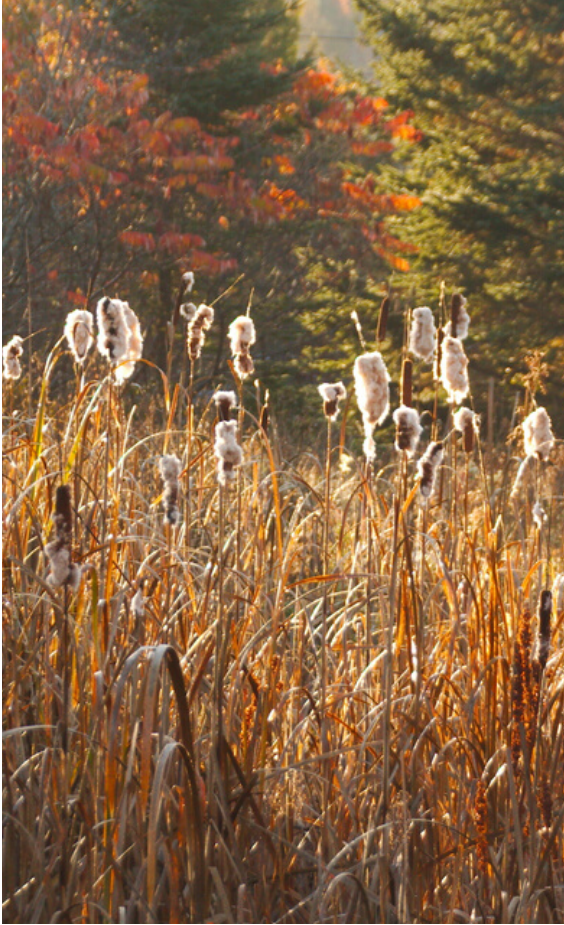
*I acknowledge that I do not comprehend
the force which orders precious planes
of being for all the flakes of snow
now and ever on and back.*



LOVE THE TRAILS? *Thank these folks!*

Every Tuesday, volunteers join us in clearing trails, building bridges, and cleaning up shorelines. Led by Stewardship Director, Alex Drega, our volunteers are behind so much of what we do. Interested in joining the crew on Tuesday mornings? Contact us for more info: iht@islandheritagetrust.org





Island Heritage Trust
P.O. Box 42
Deer Isle, Maine 04627

MAKE AN IMPACT EVERY MONTH.

Our monthly donors help us respond to evolving landscapes and educational needs every day.

Joining the Luna Society is an easy and convenient way to show your love for the land, shore, and people of Deer Isle - Stonington. A donation of any amount makes a difference. A \$50 monthly donation could fund two environmental education field trips each year!



To join the Luna Society, go to islandheritagetrust.org/donate-now and select "MONTHLY" Recurring Donation, or contact Jacob McCarty for more information at jmccarty@islandheritagetrust.org

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