



SHORELINES



SEEKING HARMONY

“Rather than a linear exchange, the sheep grazing at Scott’s Landing are part of a seasonal rhythm connecting land, sheep, and people.”

-Suzanne Norgang, Co-Founder of Woven Tide



Photo by IHT

A NEW PRESERVE, FULL OF LIVING STORIES

Over 30 Acres of Coastal Ecology & History at Carrying Place Preserve in Deer Isle

“Would you like to lead the Geology Walk again this year, Ann?” was a routine question asked when Springtime rolled around on the island. **“Well, sure!”** Ann would reply. And for years, Ann guided groups of curious minds along trails and deep into the layers of the Earth.

Geologist and Earth-Guardian, Ann Hooke, has been a friend, volunteer, and donor at Island Heritage Trust for nearly 30 years. On her guided walks, Ann would often begin by having the group count each step they took as one million years *backwards in time*, until finally, enough steps were taken to arrive at the starting point: ***the beginning of everything.***

And so it is with Ann; a courageous woman who is unafraid to ask big questions, teach big topics, and dream big dreams!

In 2023, at 82 years old, Ann handed the Geology Walk baton forward, and with it, 32 acres of coastal land on eastern Deer Isle which opened this year as IHT’s newest Preserve.

From 1937 to 1975, this property was part of a “French Camp” where girls could learn to speak French, sail, and hike over the summer. But the stories of human and land relationship held here go back much farther. Thousands of years farther.

The Preserve journeys along the bay at the east end of Long Cove, abundant with fish, clams, and birds. As “Carrying Place” eludes, Wabanaki tribes would frequent this cove for hunting and gathering, and portage across to the next for countless generations, before colonists stole the land just a few hundred years ago.



As you walk these trails, we invite you to contemplate the depth of history here, and its ongoing impact on this island and amongst Indigenous communities.

Traverse 1.5 miles of wooded trails along salt marsh shorelines, geologic wonders, and Bray’s Mountain – one of the highest points of elevation on Deer Isle!

Witness the remarkable give and take that occurs between diverse habitats in this coastal forest ecosystem. Offer depth of attention to the whispering trees, the scurrying wildlife, and the legacies that live on through the land for our collective learning and enrichment.



Carrying Place Preserve Grand Opening, August 15, 2024
From Left: Marnie Reed Crowell, Ann Hooke, Jean Wheeler

1.5 MILE TRAIL SYSTEM

Traditional Rating: Moderate – Strenuous

Accessibility Rating: Very Hard

Tight and difficult trails with lots of elevation change throughout the preserve. The Cove View Trail and Shoreline Trail are easiest to navigate and make for a relaxing out and back with water views.

Scan the QR Code below for Preserve Details & Trail Map.





Photos by Robin Cook O'Connor



HAPPY SHEEP, HAPPY FLORA AT SCOTT'S LANDING

BY SUZANNE NORGANG,
SHEPHERD & CO- FOUNDER OF WOVEN TIDE

Greetings, Reader. I write to you from deep September. As the days are crisping and shortening, a flock of five sheep are finishing up their work on a preserve nearby. **Have you seen the sheep grazing at Scott's Landing?** Since the first of September they have been working their way down the slope from the old Scott Family homesite toward the Eggemoggin reach. This project is a new partnership between IHT and Woven Tide, a local LLC operated by myself and Ariane Stewart.

Woven Tide's Mission is to grow healthy sheep on coastal pastures in a way that invests in, rather than depletes, resources. This concept is often referred to as "*regenerative grazing*" where the sheep thrive and the soil is enriched. And this is certainly part of what we are up to, but in its broadest scope, this project is bigger than that.

There is obvious reciprocity in the grass feeding the sheep and the sheep fertilizing the soil. But then there are the less apparent exchanges. When we set up a new grazing square every few days and allow the sheep to move to fresh pasture, I talk to neighbors and folks walking at Scott's. I hear about how much people enjoy having sheep in the local landscape. School groups have visited the site, delighted to find the flock there.

Rather than a linear exchange, the sheep grazing at Scott's are part of a seasonal rhythm connecting land, sheep, and people. It's an investment, with joy and satisfaction among the invaluable returns.

The season is turning. Soon the flock will leave Scott's and settle into their winter paddock at The Bay School in Blue Hill. Their wool will be shorn and the children will learn to work with fiber and care for the flock. When spring comes, lambs will arrive. As the ground at Scott's wakes up and begins to send energy back up toward the strengthening sun, the sheep will return and resume their work keeping the meadow open and fertilizing the earth they graze.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SHEEP AT SCOTT'S LANDING:

Q. What kind of sheep are they?

A. They are Icelandic Sheep, which is a “primitive” or “unimproved breed” (but don’t tell them I said so). Essentially this means that they are hardy and eat a wider variety of plants than pickier sheep breeds.

Q. Do they have enough to eat and drink?

A. They do! It was a dry September, so we refilled their water frequently. Part of the reason we move them so often is to give them access to fresh pasture to graze.

Q. Why move them? Why not just put a big fence around the whole meadow?

A. We rotate them every 3-4 days to mimic the way sheep would gradually move across a large open landscape. This prevents the land from being over grazed and keeps the sheep healthy by moving them on before they eat the grass down low to the point that parasites are ingested.

Q. Is the fence electrified?

A. Yes! The fence keeps the sheep in and predators out. Please take care near the fence and warn children not to touch the fence.

Q. How many sheep will be at Scott’s Landing next summer?

A. Depends on how many lambs are born in the spring. We are hoping to grow the flock to as many as 12.



To see photos of the sheep grazing at Scott’s Landing Preserve and follow them through the year, find @woentide on Instagram!

MORE THAN BEAUTY AT LILY POND PARK

A Community Effort to Help Local Forest in Need

When you walk the trails at Lily Pond Park, you have likely noticed the enchanting forest; leaves dancing in sunlight, branches swaying in the breeze. But have you noticed the dominant presence of one tree species - *Norway maple*?

Native to Europe and Asia, they were introduced as fast-growing shade trees who alter soil composition to best support their species growth. *"They shade the forest floor,"* local arborist, Broc Eaton shares, *"prohibiting growth of native species, and often, over a period of time, they take over an area - leaving ONLY Norway maple where present."*

With Eaton's guidance, it became clear that in order to improve the forest health, protect plant diversity, and maintain wildlife habitat, we would need to remove the Norway maples. Not doing so would result in a monocrop forest, creating imbalance with a large ripple effect, affecting the air and water quality of the Pond and thus, the Town of Deer Isle.

We know how challenging it can feel to see beautiful trees cut down. And yet, as stewards of land, we sometimes have to make difficult decisions to protect the health of an ecosystem. **It is our responsibility to look and listen beyond the surface, coming deeper into communion with both the life and death around us.**



As the Norway maples come down, we express gratitude while local artists receive wood for furniture making, volunteers receive wood to heat their homes during the long winter, and the diverse trees receive the environment they need to thrive in both beauty *and* harmony.

Your support has allowed IHT to further our care at Lily Pond Park by creating a haven to propagate native, climate-resilient woody plant species sourced from Deer Isle!



Photo by IHT





Photo by Matthew Litman

These plants will add diversity to each layer of the forest and replace invasive plants or species negatively impacted by invasive insects. Supported by local students, volunteers, and the Maine Forest Service Project Canopy Grant, **Lily Pond Park will be a leading example of relational forestry care.**



Photo by IHT

LAYERS OF CARE AT THE LILY POND NATIVE PLANT NURSERY



1 beehive

TENDED BY LOCAL BEEKEEPER, ASIA KEENE, TO ENCOURAGE POLLINATOR PRESENCE



5 garden beds

CREATED BY VOLUNTEERS, MARY ANNE BROSHEK AND SUSAN OSTERTAG, WITH SEASONAL POLLINATOR PLANTS



6 apple trees

DONATED BY THE PEGGY ROCKEFELLER FARM - COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC



20 oak saplings

PLANTED BY LOCAL STUDENTS



14 woody species

TO SUPPORT THE ECOSYSTEM



12 field trips

LED BY IHT'S ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATOR, MARTHA BELL



early emerald ash borer detection

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE



Photo by Matthew Litman



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UNITED BY COMMON THREADS

By Executive Director, Julia Zell



From the beginning of geologic time, to the new vegetation managers (sheep) at Scott's Landing, to renewed tree growth at Lily Pond Park; seemingly disparate activities united by the common threads of place, ecology, and community. This Island hums with excitement and opportunity. *Can you feel it?*

Our work has found harmony through the lens of our mission and by learning from the past to inform our future. Often, we are challenged to look beyond our lifetimes, such as seeing the steep, sloping hillside at Carrying Place Preserve as a glacial compass 20,000 years old. Or picturing a healthy, diverse forest at Lily Pond Park, shading the path to the swimming beach for our great-grandchildren. *Can you see it?*

Thank you for being a part of our story and for the opportunities ahead; your support helps us get there.

Photo by Matthew Litman

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