

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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



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Fall 2009

The Lily Pond Beach Project

Say "Lily Pond" to any Islander or visitor to Deer Isle and chances are that you'll be on the receiving end of a nostalgic story, treated to a fond reminiscence likely to include memories of a first swimming lesson or of a brisk winter day spent ice-skating there. Lily Pond, a fixture in Island life for generations, has a place in many an Island memory and it is about to change hands.

A brief recent history: Randy Haskell and his family – owners of the Lily Pond Beach -- approached IHT in August 2008 with a proposal that the Trust purchase the six-acre property in order to preserve it as a community resource. Willing to forgo what might have been greater personal economic gain had they put the property on the market, the Haskells hoped that by offering IHT the option to purchase the property at a reasonable price, the Lily Pond Beach might continue to be accessible for many future generations of Islanders to enjoy. Following the Haskells' offer, an IHT committee was formed in the fall of 2008. Talks subsequently ensued, an appraisal was secured, and the Trust proceeded with an option to buy the property at the appraised price, rather than at a higher market price.

Now fast-forward to present time: Fundraising is in full swing, with the most notable of donations being two recent challenges, each of which will match all pledges up to \$25,000. As of this writing, the final goal of \$361,000 (see sidebar on p. 7 for financial details) has

not been fully met, but hopes for meeting that goal are high. Executive Director, Mike Little, is optimistic that IHT will ultimately own its first, non-conservation-designated property.

In a recent conversation about Lily Pond, Little emphasized that this acquisition represents "a community service" on the part of IHT. Lily Pond was "a community asset at risk [and] IHT stepped in



Photo – IHT

to save it," he said. He added that while the endeavor is a "huge financial undertaking for IHT," state resources -- including funds available through Land for Maine's Future -- will help pay for the cost of the project. In fact, said Little, approximately one third of the project's entire cost will come from the Water Access Fund of Land for Maine's Future.

Little credits Cioana Ulbrich, from Maine Coast Heritage Trust, for her significant advice on fund-

raising and other help with the project from the very beginning. She and long-time IHT member and benefactor, Ken Crowell, handled the negotiations with the Haskells. No action, Little emphasized, took place without the initial approval of the Board of Trustees. The Board's final approval will be required in November to "exercise the option to buy the property." Doing so will allow IHT another six months to raise the necessary funds. Little added, however, that donors may use the deduction this year.

In his own vision for Lily Pond's future, Little echoed the hopes also expressed by the Haskell family: to maintain the popular beach and fresh-water pond so future generations of Island children can continue to have a place to take swimming lessons, to ice skate and enjoy the pond's beauty throughout the seasons. He emphasized that a community committee, to include an IHT representative, will be established to manage the property, since it requires a very different level of management than the preserves currently under IHT's stewardship.

Little commented what a wonderful opportunity the Haskells have provided to both IHT and the Deer Isle community when they approached the Trust to save Lily Pond Beach for continued public use. Optimistic about the project, Little expressed confidence in the successful completion of IHT's fundraising efforts to secure the future of Lily Pond and its beach.



From the Executive Director

IHT and Island Community Housing have successfully collaborated on an Americorps grant for a one year position that will be filled by Marissa Hutchinson. IHT is providing office space and equipment, and one third of Marissa's time will be dedicated to helping with outreach and administrative tasks.

We are also teaming up with the Island Readers and Writers Program, the two libraries and the Island schools to support The Big Read during the month of February. Everyone on Deer Isle will be

invited to join in reading Jack London's classic *Call of the Wild*, and there'll be movie versions shown at the Opera House in Stonington. In the spirit of the "frozen north," our winter Walks & Talks will include igloo building, tracking and snowshoeing.

In other news, the Lily Pond Beach campaign is going well enough that Trustees are expected to exercise the option to purchase the property next month. Once that document is signed, we'll have six months to meet our fundraising goal of \$361,000. Thanks to matching pledges, donations made now are doubled in value. Donate \$100 and we

get \$200. There couldn't be a better time to give than right now. Mail a check or donate on our secure website, www.islandheritagetrust.org, where you'll find updates on the Lily Pond, as well as Walks and Talks offerings, volunteer opportunities, and lots more.

As we head toward the end of the year and the holidays, I want to thank you for your support of IHT. Your generosity with volunteer time and donations is spurring a very exciting time in the Trust's development.

Happy holidays and a prosperous new year,

Mike Little

Rowan Wakefield Award

Long time IHT supporters Ken and Marnie Crowell were honored with the 2009 Rowan Wakefield Award at the Annual Meeting on July 8, 2009. Named for one of IHT's most active and best-loved early presidents, the Rowan Wakefield Award is given "...to the individual, selected by the Trustees of the Island Heritage Trust, whose outstanding work has exemplified the mission of the Island Heritage Trust to conserve significant open space, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, natural resources, and historic and cultural features that offer public benefit and are essential to the character of the Deer Isle area."

In her presentation, President Linda Campbell spoke of the Crowells' many years of dedicated service to the Island: its people, natural resources and special places.



Photo - Cathy Hart

President Linda Campbell (center) with Ken and Marnie



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST NEWSLETTER

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.

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Powerful Partnerships Make Island Shellfish Program Work

Deer Isle is fortunate to have Virginia Olsen chairing its active shellfish committee. She has become a powerful advocate for protecting local clam flats, rallying Deer Isle clammers -- some 90 strong -- to manage the harvest through conservation. She says that ten or eleven years ago, "I started to help friends [involved in this work] and there was so much to learn and so much to do, I just wrapped myself around it." Now, in her growing expertise, on seeing a clam, she can identify its place of origin.

Citing the Department of Marine Resources (DMR), Olsen notes that historically, clams have provided income to more Mainers than any other marine species. She is a staunch advocate of traditional harvesting methods, which employ hoe and hand, a method first used by Maine's earliest Native Americans. In Maine, unlike other states, no mechanical devices are allowed.

The clamming industry was in serious trouble in the early 80s due to severe overharvesting. In response, the DMR passed the 2-inch clam law, making it illegal to keep anything smaller. Island clammers also took steps to manage their own shellfish beds by, among other things, establishing the shellfish ordinance. The committee determines the number of licenses available each April, including the percent available to non-resident clammers (currently 10%). The successful local program consists, moreover, of monthly meetings, coastal clean-up, driveway repair,



Photo – Barbara Southworth

Virginia Olsen—Chair of the Deer Isle-Stonington Shellfish Commission

hosting and attending forums to exchange information, and shellfish advocacy.

Reseeding is also a significant part of the program. Harvesting seed clams measuring .5 inch to 1.5 inches, from a densely populated area, and transplanting them to a more favorable area for re-population "has worked wonders for the clam flats on our island," Olsen says. "We have reseeded in over fifty coves." Reseeding helps boost productivity both in reseeded flats and in thinned-out flats, allowing the clams in the latter to grow larger.

Conducting scientific surveys that show evolving trends and problems is another important piece of self-management. In 2008, 75 acres of flats were surveyed, enabling comparisons with past survey data. The surveys are a harvester's insurance

policy. If a disaster were to occur in a surveyed area, lost value to the harvester can be established using information from the surveys.

Traditional harvesting has involved access from land, as not all clammers have boats. However, as shorefront properties are being developed, access has declined as homeowners have changed. IHT is working with the Stonington Shellfish Committee, homeowners and clammers to secure shore access. In some cases that may simply mean allowing clammers to cross a homeowner's land or to park on the property. Additionally, all parties are working on easements and right-of-ways to ensure access for clammers long into the future.

Besides working tirelessly to develop local clam and mussel management programs, and forging cooperation among state and local agencies, homeowners and clammers, Olsen operates her own clam-based seafood business with her husband, Blaine. According to Olsen, what makes this island unique is "our heritage, our work ethic, our pride in tradition and the willingness of neighbors to help neighbors when they need a hand."

Please visit <http://www.accessingthemaineoast.com> to understand your options as a landowner or waterfront user. To help secure access to the waterfront and continue traditional harvesting by working with IHT, call Mike Little at the Trust. To contact Virginia Olsen, call 367-5871 or oceanvilleseafood@hughes.net. Look for Virginia's IHT Walk/Talk on next year's schedule.

Public Sculpture Comes to Scott's Landing

In the coming months something exciting will be added to the preserve at Scott's Landing. As the result of a grassroots campaign on the part of Island residents, who formed an independent committee called the Island Granite Sculpture Project, and with the support of the towns of Deer Isle and Stonington, a sculpture created during the 2009 Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium will be installed at Island Heritage Trust's Scott's Landing site. Thanks to the committee's unstinting efforts to ensure Deer Isle was included in this year's seven week Symposium and to raise funds to meet local contribution requirements for participation, the new sculpture will capture the diversity of the Island with its unique blend of the arts, fishing, shipbuilding, and granite industries.

Tony Ramos of American Stone, whose quarry is located on Crotch Island off Stonington, donated the granite for the sculpture. It is the first time that the Symposium has used Deer Isle granite. The massive sculpture is the creation of French sculptor Attila Rath Geber and soars some ten feet. According to one of the Symposium's organizers, Jesse Salisbury, "the original stone weighed more than 14 tons and was the largest single block used at the Symposium." Mr. Salisbury explained that the breadth of the Scott's Landing landscape created problems of scale for the sculptor.

Rath Geber's goal was to design a simple form that had impact from a distance. Salisbury went on to explain that the only way to remove the large amount of material comprising the

stone's center was to channel drill all four sides. Rath Geber accomplished this by hand using a sixty pound rock drill drilling against metal bars to create a free channel. The artist finished the piece with hand chisels and a torch, which softened and smoothed the drill lines but left marks that reinforce the fact that the work was done by hand rather than by factory cutting machines.

The result is a window of gray and pink Island granite, the angles of which follow the line of the Deer Isle-Sedgwick Bridge. Its placement at Scott's Landing will provide a frame for the bridge and the waters of Eggemoggin Reach as seen from the preserve. In the final days of the Symposium, the Rath Geber piece proved to be the most interactive of the six sculptures created. Its shape and design encouraged visitors to climb on it, to test its echo effects, and generally to relax in its welcoming shape. At Scott's Landing the dramatic sculpture is intended to make a dramatic statement about the depth and richness of the Island's culture and heritage.

This year's Symposium is the second of five biennial symposia. In 2007, its first year, the Symposium installed sculptures in pub-



Photo – Anne Sigmund

Ann Hooke, Liz Zentz, Kathleen and Charles Osborn, Elena Kubler; seated Stephanie Lee

lic spaces in Ellsworth, Milbridge, the Schoodic Section of Acadia National Park, Southwest Harbor, Steuben, Sullivan, and Winter Harbor. In addition to Deer Isle, this year's sculptures will go to Franklin, Gouldsboro, Machias, Bar Harbor, and Lamoine. In the subsequent three symposia it is hoped that as many as eighteen sculptures will be added to the mix. The goal of the Symposium's organizers is to create a "Downeast sculpture trail" of monumental public art that attracts visitors and pays tribute to Maine's granite industry.

Wish List

Bookcase for the office
Outdoor thermometer
Utility trailer

Lily Pond Beach: Project Finances

1) Land	\$ 236,800
2) LP Beach Fund*	119,390
3) Start up costs (signage, trails, etc.)	5,100
Total	\$361,290

*dedicated fund for ongoing maintenance expenses

As of this writing,
\$131,000 is still needed.



Photo: Robin Rhys

Broad Support for the Lily Pond Beach Project

"The Lily Pond beach has become an invaluable resource and gift for our community. We strongly support the Island Heritage Trust campaign to purchase this property. . . ." Island Recreation Board

"The Island Fishermen's Wives strongly support the efforts of Island Heritage Trust to pursue the purchase of the Lily Pond Beach. Lily Pond is the only fresh water swimming area that allows access to the public." Rebecca Emerson, IFWA Co-President

"We, the Selectmen of Deer Isle wish to express our support of Island Heritage Trust's effort to acquire the Lily Pond Beach for the use of this community. With Island Heritage Trust owning the property for the purpose of public access such traditional uses as swimming, picnicking and ice skating will be protected." Neville Hardy, First Selectman; Twyla Weed, Second Selectman; Lew Ellis, Third Selectman – Town of Deer Isle



Photo – IHT

"Island Heritage Trust is a responsible, hardworking organization who will take good care of the [Lily Pond] property. . . ." John Robbins, Chairman; Richard Larrabee Sr., Christopher Betts, Evelyn Duncan, Stephen Robbins III – Town of Stonington

I want to help preserve the Lily Pond Beach for the community

Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation

\$500 \$100 \$50 Other

Name _____ Telephone number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Summer address _____

Email _____

Thank you for joining this effort!

Please mail to: Island Heritage Trust / PO Box 42 / Deer Isle, ME 04627

Keeping Clam Flats Open

Successful harvesting of Maine's shellfish beds requires active water quality monitoring programs to recognize occasional outbreaks of dangerous toxins.

IHT Executive Director Mike Little and President Linda Campbell have joined small teams of trained volunteers, organized by Maine's Department of Marine Resources (DMR) to collect water samples from around Deer Isle clam flats in order to monitor two persistent environmental threats: bacterial and phytoplankton. Their efforts help keep more clam flats open because they monitor more sites than state resource capabilities would allow. Often their results demonstrate remediation in areas that were once contaminated, and show clean conditions in areas that would otherwise



Photo – Barbara Southworth

Devon Olsen with clammer's tools

have been condemned under wider, blanket closures.

Little, Campbell, Anne Williams and Lee DeWoody collect samples five times a year, from May to October, from



Photo – IHT?

Settlement Quarry was the scene for *Q2: Habitat*, this year's preview of a work-in-progress produced by our friends at Opera House Arts. Look for the full performance next summer.

about 50 island sites in nine areas. The Mill Pond is one of the areas Little monitors for bacterial contamination, as it affects Northwest Harbor. Little measures *E. coli*, associated with contaminated runoff from land and most pronounced during rain events.

Phytoplankton monitoring is done weekly from May to October to detect Alexandrium and other species that can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP), also known as red tide. The samples collected by Anne Williams, Mary Howe and Little are added to offshore sampling conducted by the DMR. Relative to other areas in Maine, Deer Isle's shellfish sites have experienced fewer closures.

Volunteer

Office/Nature Shop

Greet visitors, answer phone, sell shop items, assist with office tasks

Land Stewardship

Serve as a steward for a conservation easement or preserve, ensuring compliance with the easement term or with management goals.

Youth Education

Help create meaningful experiences for Island children through our Adopt-a-Preserve program or other hands-on

Preserve/trail maintenance

Clear blow downs and dead fall, mark and maintain trails, pick up trash, make signs

For more information, contact Mike at 348-2455, or mlittle@islandheritagetrust.org

Keeping the Light

Island Heritage Trust is now an official passport stamping location in the U.S. Lighthouse Society's passport program. Like birders intent on adding to their life list, passport-carrying lighthouse enthusiasts are eager to add another stamp to their collection, which can number in the hundreds. IHT's Mark Island is now on the Society's list of more than 400 lighthouses in 28 states.

This summer the Deer Isle-Stonington Chamber of Commerce created a year-round Lighthouse Trail featuring eight lighthouses located within 12 miles of our shores. Those on Pumpkin Island, Eagle and Mark can be seen from Deer Isle. The remaining five: Isle au Haut, Brown's Head, Heron Neck, Goose Rocks and Saddleback Ledge, can be viewed or visited by sea. Several island boat operators are now selling and stamping passports to interested passengers, and all eight can be seen by air, thanks to Penobscot Island Air. Passports and stamps for Pumpkin Island, Eagle and Mark Island are available at IHT.

Each time a passport is stamped anywhere along the Island's Lighthouse Trail, a donation of \$1 is made and those proceeds go toward the maintenance of Mark Island Lighthouse. The light and horn are maintained by the Coast Guard, but the building and the grounds became the responsibility of IHT in 1998. At that time, as the Coast Guard began to tear down and sell off lighthouse properties that it could not afford to keep up, local efforts to save these symbols of maritime heritage were rapidly launched. Fortunately, IHT joined this rescue operation. In

keeping with its mission to "conserve historic and cultural features... that are essential to the character of the Deer Isle area," IHT ownership of Mark Island and its lighthouse ensures proper preservation of this icon for generations to come.



Photo—Elke Dorr

On September 12, for the first time ever, the public had a chance to visit the lighthouse as

part of a statewide Lighthouse Day event. As steward for this IHT property, Walter Reed periodically visits the island and checks on the buildings, which must be kept to historic preservation standards. On Lighthouse Day he ferried people to the island where they got a chance to climb the iron spiral staircase and look out on the seascape that was home to generations of lighthouse keepers for more than 140 years. Today, the lighthouse serves as a beacon for vessels entering the Thorofare from the west and, with a prevailing southwesterly, the horn can be heard over most of Deer Isle.

IHT has recently reprinted *Mark Island Light* (29 pp) by Marnie Reed Crowell. This commemorative booklet, full of photos and recollections, tells the story of Mark Island and the remarkable people who "kept the light." Proceeds from the sale of the book, which retails for \$12.50, are dedicated to the maintenance of the lighthouse.



Photo—Ellen Rowan

Shore Dinner 2009—despite a torrential downpour, a capacity crowd supports Island Heritage Trust

SAVE the DATE—Shore Dinner 2010—July 31

A Community Effort – Saving the Lily Pond Beach



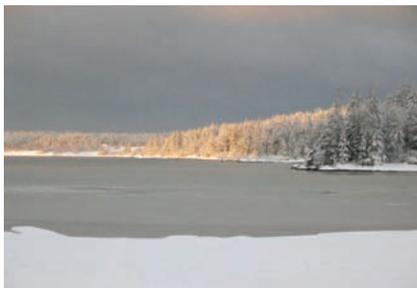
Photo – IHT

Join us in keeping this resource open to all



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Winter dawn at the Tennis Preserve