



The Land Trust of Deer Isle & Stonington, Maine

Fall 2017

Caterpillar Hill Collaboration

In a reprise of their collaborative effort some sixteen years ago, Island Heritage Trust, Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust have joined together to preserve a thirty-two acre tract of land at Caterpillar Hill. Caterpillar Hill is one of the most magnetic locations in the state, drawing visitors and residents alike to its spectacular views out across Penobscot Bay to the Camden Hills. As Mike Little, IHT's Executive Director, recently put it, "Caterpillar Hill is the place where weary islanders returning from away or just from Ellsworth first catch a glimpse of this little bit of paradise."

With this additional acquisition, the view to the northwest will be significantly expanded, while also protecting the land from development, opening additional trails and fully securing and expanding the public beach front on Walker Pond. The new parcel is adjacent to the Cooper Farm preserve, acquired in 2001, and runs down to the shore of Walker Pond. It is presently privately owned and susceptible to development, so its preservation is particularly important. An adjoining piece that also runs down to the beach at Walker Pond is owned by the towns of Sedgwick and Brooksville. It is anticipated that the lower portion of the new parcel might be transferred to Sedgwick and Brooksville,

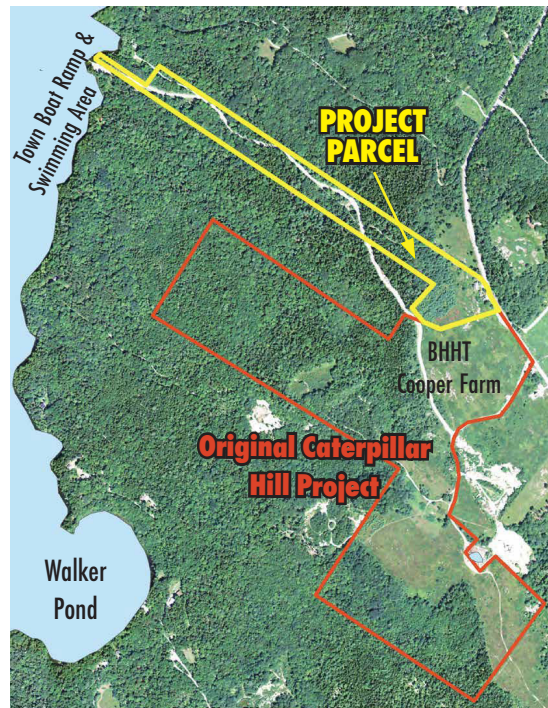
enabling the towns to expand the public beach. Both towns enthusiastically support this preservation effort, as do the towns of Deer Isle and Stonington.

The new parcel has several small and deteriorating buildings visible from Route 15. The most prominent recently served as an art gallery, previously as a restaurant and earlier as an ice cream store. It is also anticipated that these buildings will be removed to clear the view and make way for an expanded turnout.

Blue Hill Heritage Trust will be the ultimate owner of the new parcel. It has an option to purchase the land that expires in September of 2018. The three trusts have divided fundraising responsibilities and goals and are confident that the September deadline will be met. IHT has already raised its share, but will continue to help Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust with grant applications and other fundraising efforts.

All three trusts are delighted and excited over this opportunity to collaborate once again in

the preservation of a unique property, a location of incalculable value to the island and peninsula and to those who treasure it. 🌿



Caterpillar Hill View

Woodley Osborne



Lily Pond Woodley Osborne

From the Executive Director | *Mike Little*



Fall in New England is beautiful, and nowhere more beautiful than on this island where the forest meets the sea. This beauty also extends to the apples that are ripening all over the island, gifts from the past that keep on generation to generation adding to our health and well-being. As I reflect how the apple trees planted so long ago keep on fruiting and bringing joy to children and adults year after year, I like to think of Island Heritage Trust – going on long after I am gone, long after your children's children are gone – bringing the joys of nature and the healthy out-of-doors to islanders far into the future.

Your land trust is just that – YOUR land trust. IHT can only become what its loyal supporters want it to be; it is almost completely dependent on your annual gifts for its operations. Trails and parking lots; programs and hikes – all are a reflection of your support and encouragement.

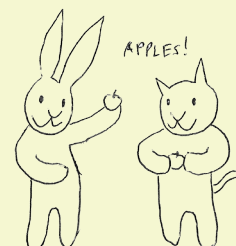
The leaves are falling, and we are about to enter another season of beauty here on the island – winter with its cold charms. Island Heritage Trust does not go dormant like the apple trees, but we do quiet down and prepare to burst forth in the spring (like the apple trees) bringing another year of Nature to the residents and visitors to this island.

All the blessings of this winter season of renewal to you and your families.

PINE HILL LETTERBOXING QUOTES:

"Climbed this as a teen in the 60's. We were run off by someone that night shooting a rifle. Glad its in a Trust now." -Jim

"I Love Pine hill. I climbe it every time I go to Little deer Isle. I Love the huge rocks."
-Evan Lloyd, MA (kid)



- From TENNIS PRESERVE LETTERBOX

Bill Wiegmann Joins IHT Board



Ann Hooke

Bill Wiegmann first sailed into Stonington in 1991, and fell in love with the rocky shores, the conifer studded islands, and the down-to-earth people. It wasn't until 2007, after taking early retirement from a career in corporate financial law in New York, that he was at last able to move here full time. But many years of adventures on the water preceded that move.

Raised in New Jersey, Bill enjoyed weekends fishing with his Dad off the Jersey coast. Later, shifting to sailing, as fishing populations declined, he began to sail ever farther downeast. More challenging sailing adventures followed. While working first in Frankfurt and then in London for six years, he arranged with his employer to allow him to sail his boat across the Atlantic. When his work in Europe concluded, he once again undertook a trans-Atlantic sail, this time back to North America.

On a fateful trip to the island some time following his European sailing adventures, he was concluding a conversation about buying a house near Pressey Village, when he happened to be watching a splendid, full-sky sunset from a mooring in Deer Isle's Northwest Harbor. As he watched a seal pop out of the water he was convinced that this island was the perfect place for him to settle. Fortuitously, the house he was negotiating to buy just happened to have a 3-car garage, which has become Bill's boat-building workshop where, over the years since his move, he has built or repaired a sailing skiff, a motor launch, a kayak, and an ice-boat, which he sailed on Walker Pond! These days, when he's not building another boat, he is often out on the water in his 34-foot yawl, which he sailed one summer to Newfoundland and back. He also enjoys sharing his love of Deer Isle and Penobscot

Bay during summer visits with his sister, her husband and their family.

Following his move to Deer Isle and given his love for forests, rocky shores and seascapes, Bill discovered IHT and has been a member since 2007. In addition to recently joining IHT's Board of Trustees, Bill also serves on the Land Committee. Asked what he hopes to contribute to the Trust's mission, he answered, "I hope to bring my passion for Maine's seascapes and my legal background to bear on the challenges facing IHT."

Aside from his work for the Trust, Bill is a dedicated volunteer at Memorial Ambulance, serving as a driver since 2014. Currently he's also serving as president. Both organizations benefit from his skills since they involve detailed record-keeping and an understanding of the laws governing the organizations. Bill remarked that he finds the camaraderie, dedication and energy of his fellow volunteers admirable. He added that he hopes to take an EMT course when it is next offered on the island.

Recognizing IHT's good fortune in having Bill join the board, we heartily welcome him! 🌿

YOU Made Great Things Happen This Year!

Generous donations of time, land, and money have made it possible for more trails, updated signage, and more!

THANK YOU!

DONATIONS CAN COME IN MANY FORMS:

LUNA SOCIETY | Monthly Giving Program

STOCK GIFTS | Transfer appreciated stocks to IHT

REAL ESTATE | Donate for Conservation or for IHT to sell

LIFE INSURANCE or RETIREMENT ASSETS | Name IHT as a beneficiary of a policy or plan.

BEQUEST in WILL | Designate a specific dollar amount or percentage of your estate to IHT.

CHECK in MAIL or DONATE ONLINE | Make a donation with a check/credit card by mail or a credit card online.

Contact us with any questions you may have regarding these options.

Check out www.islandheritagetrust.org

Daily Collaboration in Schools Strong & Growing

Martha Bell, IHT's indefatigable environmental educator, often seems to be everywhere at once – working with first graders in the Nature Club, leading a group of 8th graders in eradicating invasives, or monitoring Maine Skippers' projects at the high school. For Deer Isle-Stonington students, she has quite literally become the face of the Trust, introducing, in addition to her many other tasks, young islanders to IHT's preserves and helping them appreciate and understand the diversity and value of our open spaces.

Working alongside teachers, administrators and volunteers, she has helped create and implement many new programs in which students learn through relevant projects, ones that include the kind of hands-on experiences that are directly connected to their own lives and their island world. In her work with 7th and 8th graders, for example, Martha, along with Island Institute fellow Dana Mark, assists science teacher Mickie Flores, in conducting a "chemistry in nature" project in which students study the chemical components of such familiar plants as poison ivy and sphagnum moss, or Maine maple syrup. Despite the familiarity of the subjects under study, however, students are required to use a strictly scientific approach: collecting data, photographing specimens, and recording all information using computer programs.

Aside from leading 8th graders in their stewardship tasks at Scott's Landing removing invasive bittersweet, Martha is also helping them with a phenology project developed by the Schoodic Institute. Defined as "the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to the climate, plant and animal life," phenology allows study of particular relationships between subjects. For their project, students observe the berries of various plants at Scott's Landing as well as the birds that visit them, to determine what effect seasonal shifts may have on berry ripening and consequently on the birds' adaptation to that process.

When she's not in the field with binoculars or wielding pruning shears, Martha may be toting a hammer as she works with students in their construction of a boardwalk on the school campus nature trail, yet another of the various hands-on projects with which she is involved. For 7th graders, meanwhile, she helps with a program that has students theorizing and making predictions. Using survey tools, students project effects on the causeway and beach based on sea level rise. Aside from outdoor activities, Martha also helps Mickie Flores in the classroom by assisting students in their lab

experiments.

As if all that weren't enough to keep Martha more than busy, she is in the high school daily, dividing her time between the Maine Ecology class and the Maine Skippers students. She helps the ecology students identify tree species and set insect traps outdoors to collect specimens for close observation. In the Maine Skippers program – initiated, designed and still administered by the Maine Center for Coastal Fisheries – Martha assists students in developing their projects. Required to focus on or address "sustainability in the local fishing industry," they are a central component of the program. And lest we forget, Martha continues to take school classes to the Trust's preserves throughout the year, and still manages to find time each week to run the elementary school's Nature Club for grades 1-4.

From its founding over 30 years ago, IHT has made environmental education a significant component of its mission. That focus has enlarged and evolved as the Trust itself has grown, and nowhere is this more evident than in Martha's work with DIS students. Describing the job she's doing as "simply amazing," IHT's Executive Director, Mike Little, noted that Martha is "connecting both kids and teachers to Nature and the outdoors, making real what the Trust does in conserving and protecting open space for all." ❧



School Nature Trail Boardwalk Construction



Nature Club



Tennis Preserve Elke Dorr

Poetry & Nature as Medicine

Just five years ago, Tara Broderick oversaw 19 health centers and an \$11 million budget as the president and chief executive of Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio, a pressure-packed position she held for 12 years before retiring in 2012.

She's still dedicated to improving people's health, just in a different manner. Now, Tara helps folks improve their well-being through the power of poetry. As a poetic medicine practitioner, she believes poetry is a valuable therapeutic tool through which people can explore and express their emotional responses to all sorts of events in their lives.

"Once you start writing poetry, you experience the healing power for yourself," says Tara, 64, who has been coming to Deer Isle for more than 20 years with her husband, Kevin McMunigal, a law professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Deer Isle, she says, nurtures her deep connection to the natural world and her belief that "we can learn about ourselves through studying nature."

This past summer, Tara conducted two three-hour poetry workshops through Island Heritage Trust, as part of IHT's expanding Walks & Talks series designed to promote participation in our natural environment. In "Writing our Relationship with Penobscot Bay" and "Deer Isle and a Sense of Place," participants read poems by two of Maine's Native American poets, Carol Dana of the Penobscot Nation and Carol Willette Bachofner, of Abenaki descent, as inspiration for their own poetic creations.

A student in the "Sense of Place" workshop, Bonnie Nelson Schwartz, an international producer of theater, television and concerts, who summers in Stonington,

wrote in her poem, "The Little Brown House":

*I am called to dreaming by the low moaning sound
from a long way off/Pulling the covers of fog around
me*

In the Penobscot Bay class, in response to the question, "How does the bay speak to you," IHT Board Chair Woody Osborne wrote:

*The bay lifts me beyond myself.../ The rise of sea
smoke in winter merging with clouds in spring
glistening with light all year.*

The objective in each workshop, Tara explains, was for the writers to "communicate their love of the bay and the island in a way that was meaningful to them." Indeed, the workshop proved to be a "beautiful revelation" for Bonnie. "Tara has an amazing ability to bring out the 'inner poet' in her students," she says. "By sharing her favorite poetry and her own work, Tara spoke to something in us we didn't know we had- an interior life inspired by our connection to the Island."

A lifelong poet, Tara discovered poetic medicine when she and her husband signed up for a week-long retreat in northern Arizona with the Institute for Poetic Medicine. Poetry workshops at Deer Isle's Haystack Mountain School of Crafts also helped hone her craft.

While the natural world is where Tara finds her deepest connections, she recently held a joint workshop in Cleveland devoted to "Poems of Witness," with her mentor John Fox, founder of the Institute for Poetic Medicine, to help people cope with current political events by giving them an outlet for their feelings.

"Listen to yourself and what's inside of you," says Tara. "You will often be surprised by what comes out because you allow the time and space for it to emerge." ❧

Lily Pond Park Progress

The Lily Pond, one of Deer Isle's most treasured and popular natural resources, is now better – and more accessible – than ever.

Two years since acquiring a 10-acre parcel stretching from the Quaco Road to the shores of the pond, Island Heritage Trust this past summer created an inviting entranceway that provides for the first time a permanent public parking area for Lily Pond visitors.

A gravel lot provides space for up to 10 vehicles, while adjacent grassy areas could accommodate another 10 vehicles. A wide and easily navigable pathway to the beach was constructed. The expansive tree-lined trail makes it easy to bring kayaks or canoes to the pond and allows for wheelchair-access, as well. Other amenities to come include a trailside toilet/changing room facility.

The improvements to the site honors the intent of Clara Pickering and her family, who generously offered the property to IHT at a price below appraised value so that the public could continue to enjoy open access to the pond, a privilege that had been long enjoyed under an informal arrangement with the family. In addition to the funds raised by IHT, Maine Coast Heritage Trust helped secure a \$120,000 grant in 2015 from Land for Maine's Future, which had been delayed by Gov. Paul LePage until this year.

The new acreage complements another Lily Pond parcel IHT owns from the Deer Run Apartments parking lot to the shore. Parking has long been allowed at Deer Run as a management courtesy but it's not guaranteed.

"Generations of parents have taken their kids to the Lily Pond to swim and picnic and roam the beach and run through the woods, in the process gaining an enduring appreciation of their environment," said IHT Board Chair Woody Osborne. "The Trust is pleased to be able to ensure that this resource will remain available to the community with its access improved."

With the new acreage, the community is already using the pond in new ways. This past August, Girl Scout Brownies in troop 1739 earned their outdoor adventure badge at the Lily Pond one afternoon by learning to set up tents, roll sleeping bags, light fires, and play water sports.

"The Lily Pond was really a perfect spot for us to do all the badge requirements in one area," said Troop Leader Katy Hardy. "The girls had a blast! We were really glad the Island Heritage Trust let us use one of their properties." ❧



New Path Entrance, Sign & Parking Area Marissa Hutchinson



Girl Scout Brownies Troop #1739 Katy Hardy



Sack Race from this summer's Ice Cream Social Woody Osborne

Tidings



Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve Cattails Tim Henderson

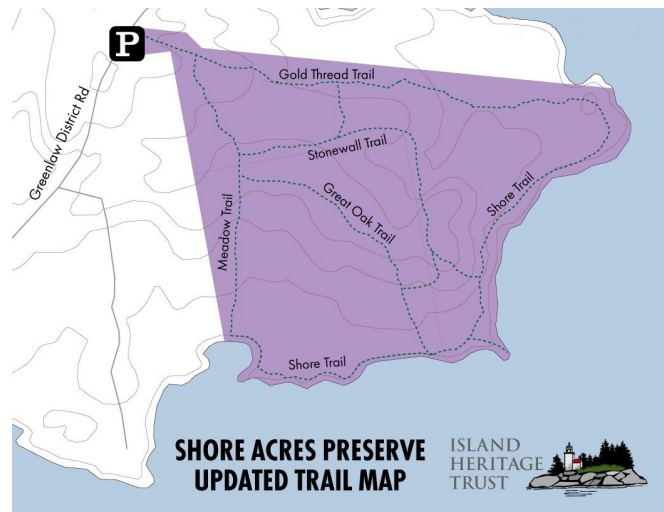
A Big THANK YOU to Ready by 21 volunteers who upgraded the path along the north side of the Lily Pond with a beautiful new boardwalk through the muddy section just off the beach!

Settlement Quarry Updates: Thanks to the generosity of donors this year we were able to tackle much needed updates at Settlement Quarry Preserve, our first preserve. The parking lot was resurfaced; a new roadside sign hung; new interpretive signs are made and soon will be mounted; new directional signs are in the works. And last, but far from least, Ian Walker built a beautiful new boardwalk over the stream that crosses the Grout Pile Trail. *Thank you for such a strong year of support, you really make a difference!*

Parking at Lisa Tolman Wotton Preserve - Until we have a parking area in, please remember to only park in the driveway with the barrel or along the roadside out of the way. There is a driveway right before LTW's; please be sure NOT to park there.

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 to make a difference. If you have a friend that might be interested - let us know about them too. Contact Marissa at marissa@islandheritagetrust.org or 348-2455.

Two NEW TRAILS at Shore Acres Preserve are ready for you to walk and explore! There are also a couple new connectors between trails and the end of the Stonewall Trail has been rerouted. The new Great Oak Trail follows an old road offering a lovely, root-free section to walk to the shore, with the new Meadow Trail bringing you through a beautiful open field with towering locus trees down to a sweet, little cove.



SATURDAY, JULY 28TH, 4:30 PM
2018 ANNUAL SHORE DINNER & BENEFIT AUCTION



Shots from the 2017 Shore Dinner Inese Moore



**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*

Board of Trustees

Woodley Osborne, *Chair*

Pete Dane, *Treasurer*

Ken Crowell

Elke Dorr

Linda Glaser

Nancy Gross

Ken Kleeman

David Porter

Ellen Rowan

Steve Rowan

Peter Sly

Diane Walker

Douglas Wilson

Newsletter

Elke Dorr

Ann Hooke

Marissa Hutchinson Sandra Ward

Woody Osborne

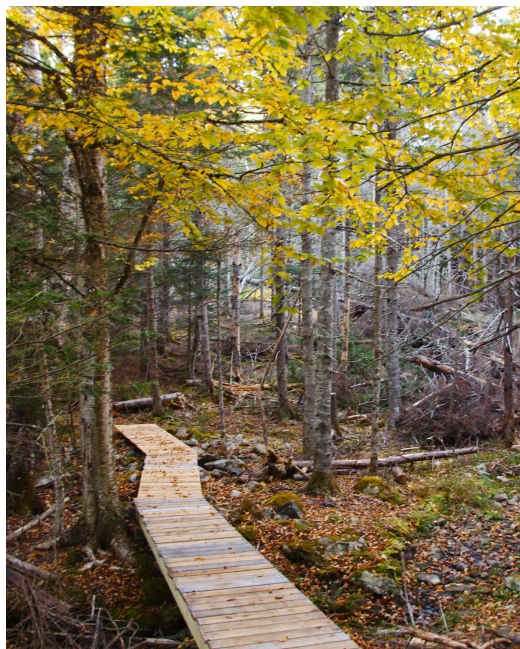


ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

P.O. Box 42
Deer Isle, ME 04627
207-348-2455

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit 76
Bangor, ME



Lisa Tolman Wotton Preserve Tim Henderson

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
- ◆ 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.



Mrs. Conte's 1st & 2nd Grade Class Field Trip to Scott's Landing