



From the Executive Director • Paul Miller

Here we are. Where are we going?

I'm now well into my second year as your ED, and have seen first-hand two action-packed summers fly by. My first summer was a whirlwind: meeting many of you, all our walks and talks, and getting to know the staff and how the organization works. This past summer was the same in many ways, but there was a fundamental difference. Life is about change, and Island Heritage Trust is not immune.

We now have a *complete* staff, perhaps for the first time in our organization's history. But this did not come easily. In fact, except for Martha (who has assured me she isn't leaving anytime soon!), IHT has experienced an almost complete staff turnover in only a year and a half. We now have a new Development Director, Volunteer Coordinator & Office Manager, Land Steward, and Executive Director. Ok, perhaps I'm not officially new any longer, but a lot of the time it still feels new to me. You can learn more about us in the next article, "*Meet Our Staff!*".

So here we are. The largest staff IHT has had in its 30+ year history. We now have the capacity to meet our obligations as a *professionally staffed*, community-based land trust. This is incredibly exciting.

Our new Land Steward, Tenley Wurglitz, is full-time. This is a precedent in itself. IHT hadn't yet had a full-time steward. Our core mission is protecting and monitoring conservation lands. It takes a lot of time just to conduct the legally required annual monitoring of fee lands and conservation easements. Add to that land stewardship, writing baseline reports, updating management plans, keeping trails open, fighting the war on invasive plants... well, you get the idea. I look forward to working with Tenley on developing a stronger stewardship program; stronger because of the already strong base we have to work with thanks to our previous stewards and volunteers.

Jake McCarty came on board at the end of September in a newly created position, Volunteer Coordinator & Office Manager. Another precedent here folks, and I cannot emphasize more how important his position is. It was designed to free up some of the responsibilities that were formerly being done by the rest of us. Yes, we all pitched in to do what was required to keep the Trust running, but now that Jake is here, we can all focus better on what we have in front of us in our respective purviews. Also, Jake is working on developing an actual *volunteer program*. In addition to running the office, he is responsible for recruiting, training, tracking and celebrating our growing team of dedicated volunteers. Have you ever come to the office wanting to volunteer, and we weren't prepared with anything for you to do? Well, we are fixing that.

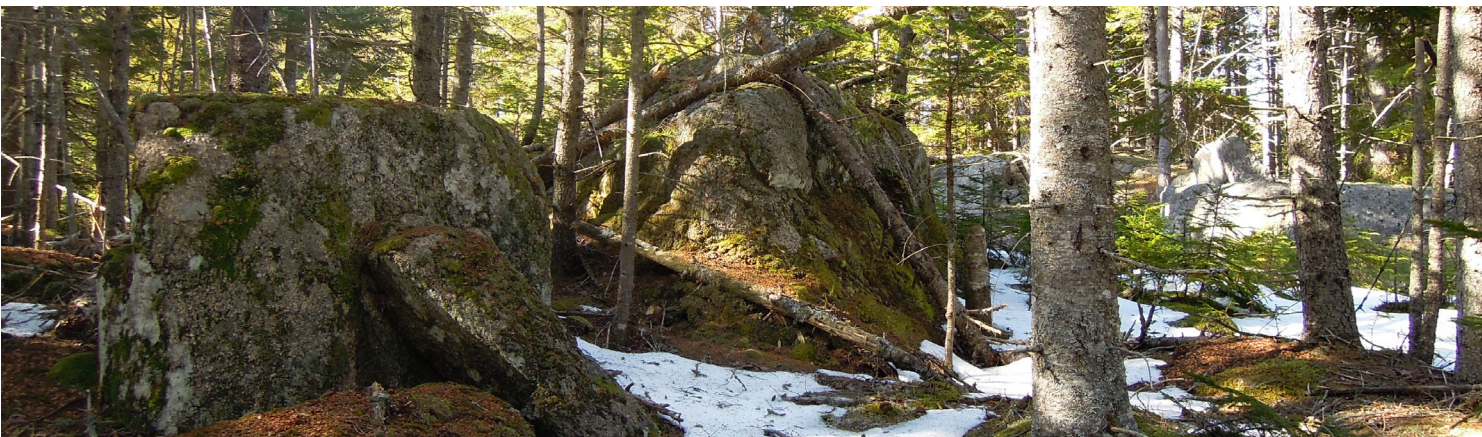
Now that Jake is here, Julia can focus on development. She agreed to work in the capacity of both Development Director and in the role Jake now plays when she was hired in April, and she did so extremely well (Thanks Julia!). She now has a new office and can actually focus *full-time* on development. Yes, another precedent for IHT.

Where are we going? We are going into the future, prepared! I expect this new staff will work together in a professional, productive, and fun manner as we strive for excellence. And I anticipate synergy: we will, together, have a combined effect that will make Island Heritage Trust as strong a community organization as it can be. Strong and enduring like the bedrock that is the backbone of this Island.

And before I forget I'll leave you with our new tagline; I hope that you love it as much as we do:

Open Space. Open Minds.

Paul Miller



Meet Our Staff!

Although IHT will always rely on volunteers, both to get its work done and to remain engaged with the community, it has also reached an unprecedented point in terms of the breadth and depth of its staff—a group of energetic people committed to its mission. In addition to Paul Miller, now midway through his second year as Executive Director, Martha Bell, who continues as our Environmental Educator, and Pat Gross who serves as part time Bookkeeper, Julia Zell has joined the Trust as Development Director and Jacob McCarty has come on as Volunteer Coordinator & Office Manager. In addition, Tenley Wurglitz recently joined the Trust as Land Steward. And finally, we are fortunate indeed to have Terry Real serving for six months each year as Summer Steward.

Julia arrived in April and has hit the ground running, energizing our development efforts at a critical time of growth. Julia graduated from the Massachusetts College of Art & Design in 2014 and continues to have a passion for the arts. A New Englander raised in Vermont, Julia was drawn to Deer Isle after taking a blacksmithing class with IHT Board member Doug Wilson. She worked at Haystack and then as a carpenter while exploring her options for a more permanent position. As part of a coterie of young people committed to life on the Island, she will be broadening the Trust’s connections to the community.

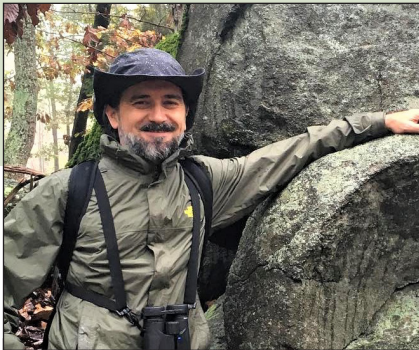
Jacob McCarty also graduated from college in 2014, with a business minor. After two years working in office management, Jacob, like Julia, was drawn to Deer Isle, where he most recently worked as a sternman on a lobster boat. He brings to the Trust a love for its work and a lively and engaging personality. He’s likely the first person you will see when you come to visit IHT’s office or shop.

In contrast to Jacob and Julia, Terry Real, IHT’s Summer Steward, comes to us with a long career behind him. Like Jacob and Julia, Terry has a devotion to Deer Isle, having come here on his honeymoon nearly thirty years ago. Terry retired in 2018, after practicing law for more than 35 years in New York, Connecticut and South Carolina. As Summer Steward, Terry worked enthusiastically to clear and blaze four new trails this past summer, while also cleaning up blow downs, installing new signs and building walkways on IHT’s preserves.

In addition to these newcomers, Paul Miller and Martha Bell continue to ably serve the Trust. Paul has brought a deep commitment to our work both in terms of day to day management, and in adding greatly to our walks and talks programs—bird walks, nature walks and the like. He has also made a number of important connections to the community, among other things by becoming a member of the Island’s Shellfish Conservation Committee. For her part, Martha continues her wonderful work with the Island’s young people, exposing them to the natural beauty of the Island during the school year and over the course of the summer. Her work remains an invaluable part of the Trust’s connection to the community.

Now for the first time since its founding some thirty plus years ago as an all-volunteer organization, the Trust is fully staffed. This is a dramatic change, which reflects the Trust’s growth and expanding responsibilities, as well as its significant role in community life, and its coming of age as a mature, vital and permanent presence on the Island. It is hard to overestimate the promise this holds for IHT’s continuing evolution. •

- Woodley Osborne *Former Board Chair*



Paul Miller



Martha Bell



Julia Zell



Jacob McCarty



Tenley Wurglitz



Terry Real

From My Perspective:
by George Powell -

Chair of the Shellfish Conservation Commission (The Clam Committee!)

People have always harvested softshell clams on Deer Isle; both for personal use and as a way to make a living. Yet,when people think of the heritage of this Island they think of the great sailors who crewed yachts and won races, the vast fishing fleet that fished offshore, the quarries that built monuments in New York and Washington, and of course lobster. Yet, through it all, Islanders have dug clams. Clamming has been a starter job, a way to earn money for that first truck, boat, to pay for collage, or get into lobstering. It is an occupation woven into the culture of this Island and its economic impact is well over a million dollars. Last year, between Deer Isle and Stonington, 634,357 pounds of clams were landed. That is 9% of all softshell clams landed in Maine.

Shoreline access is a major concern, not only to clambers but to the towns. Over the years fewer people have come to the Island to live and work harvesting shellfish. Houses that used to be lived in year round are now only occupied in the summer; and that connection to the fishing and shellfish harvesting culture of the Island is sometimes lost. Many of the new landowners don’t feel comfortable with letting people cross their property; and that tension has created ever-decreasing access to the clam flats. Although summer residents are important to both towns on the Island, paying taxes that keep the towns in the black, they don’t always understand the importance of shoreline access. IHT has been a vital partner in building relationships with landowners and securing access in perpetuity. •



Farewell to David Vandiver

The Trust bid farewell to Stewardship Director David Vandiver at the end of July, with a potluck gathering in honor of his conscientious and steadfast service. After almost 4 years working the trails in weather fair and foul, monitoring and documenting easements, clearing new trails and maintaining the old ones, building some of the best walkways and bog bridges in IHT history, and completing volumes of necessary paperwork, David retired to pursue his own caretaking business.

Arriving at a time when the Trust was undergoing a significant expansion of its holdings, David often worked alone or with a cadre of volunteers and summer interns on work that was never done. When storms brought down trees making trails impassable, David was on the job working to clear them, so visitors could enjoy unencumbered hiking.

A deeply spiritual man, David loves the natural world he stewards so well. At the Trust’s annual meeting in 2018, he spoke thoughtfully of his great love of the outdoors and how, for him, it provides a kind of healing. He concluded with these inspiring words: “... the wild world has never lost its power to reach out and touch me just the way I need it to. When I see the thousands of names that accumulate on our sign-in sheets at the kiosks ... I know our work is done. May it keep on being done.”

It is with much gratitude for his faithful service that we wish David much success and fulfillment in his newest pursuit. •



David Vandiver and wife Marianne (Elke Dorr)



Stewardship News

Three new and exciting IHT walking opportunities are ready for visitors: at Lily Pond Park, Shore Acres, and the Church Land Preserve on King Row. While many people think of Lily Pond only as a place to swim in the summer or skate in the winter, it now also offers a 3-season, scenic walking trail. With a flat trail bed that is wheelchair and stroller friendly, the new trail loops from the parking area off Quaco Road, and meanders through a lovely beech tree forest. It ends near the restroom, a short distance from the main trail that originates at the Quaco Road parking area and which leads to the beach. An easy half-mile walk is created by using the loop trail in combination with existing trails to the beach and the old parking area at Deer Run, then returning to Quaco Road parking. You can even sit and rest on the benches at the beach and enjoy the gorgeous views of the pond. Notice, too, that dogs on leashes are permitted year-round.

The newest trails on Shore Acres Preserve (off Greenlaw District Road) pass through the generous 30.9-acre donation made by Mary Offut and Brian Clough. The pleasures the new trails offer include the woods, shores and meadows of what was historically the Benjamin Cole, Jr. farm abutting the original Shore Acres property. Among the noteworthy sites is a magnificent wolf oak tree that stands in what was formerly a meadow.

And last, a not-yet-officially open preserve has been created at the Church Land property on King Row, just beyond the cemetery. As this forest has not been cut in the last 60 years, there is a very nice open, even-aged stand of mixed conifer-deciduous forest with a thick carpet of moss and ferns. The well-marked trail leads from the parking area all the way down to the shores of the Lily Pond.

To learn more about wolf trees, log onto: <https://northernwoodlands.org/articles/article/a-place-for-wolf-trees>; or <https://www.americanforests.org/magazine/article/wolf-trees-elders-of-the-eastern-forest/> •



Scenes from another successful Ice Cream Social at the Lily Pond.

Summer’s End

Fir trees are still standing
conifers conferring

Delicious deciduous green licks
the sky before lightning runs across the horizon

Birch trees—those lean, worn-out teenagers
on the evolutionary scale— are good company

Grey, skinny, skeletal pine branches
angle downward and clench their fists

Where there is life left at the very top of the tree
green grits its teeth, anticipating the distance

between its place in the light
and where it will become spongy and horizontal—

a soft foot bed for lone deer who
crack sticks with hooves that brush the baby
evergreen in their soft, mossy nursery

Later in evening, the fox slips through
grasses that grow over ledges

Water falls from the slate roof into crevices
Granite boulder with a mossy nose snubs the tide
When it is too far away it becomes a stagnant light.
-Ann K. van Buren

A Family Affair

The Walkling family – Robert, Julia and son Andrew – have a long history on Deer Isle. As Julia tells it, her grandfather, Charles Robinson, began camping on Isle au Haut, in the ‘90s – the 1890s, that is. One summer, intending to sail to Isle au Haut, he and a friend got caught in a dense fog, made for South Deer Isle instead, and camped on Polypod Island (now owned by IHT). Her grandfather would go on to buy a woodlot on Warren Point, where he built the family camp that draws them all back each summer, and from which they have a clear view of Polypod. With some additions and changes over the years, but not too many, the camp still retains its rustic nature. Like her forbears, Julia and her family still burn kerosene to light their lamps and for cooking. She noted that she’s been coming to the beloved family camp for as long as she can remember and added that her father’s first summer there was in 1907, when he was a 4-year old boy.

About her support of IHT, Julia remarked that with shoreland being increasingly bought for private use, that she really likes “to see some land preserved, so more people can enjoy it.” She is also concerned, she said, that with an increase in building comes “the increase in light pollution, diminishing our views” of the night sky’s wonders. Not only do she and Robert support IHT, but also their local land trust in Brunswick, Maine, where they make their year-round home.

Andrew Walkling, a professor at Binghamton University in New York, is, like his parents, a generous and faithful supporter of the Trust. When he came to decide which charities he would support, he said, “IHT immediately came to mind; it was an obvious choice for me.” He said IHT “always impressed me in terms of how much it does with its resources.” He noted his appreciation of the Trust’s “extensive outreach initiatives, its education component, its commitment to the clamming community, and how preservation is woven into the fabric of all IHT’s work.”

The recent summer was a particularly happy confluence of his week-long stay and IHT events. The Shore Dinner took place while all three – Andrew and his parents – were at the family camp together and able to attend the Trust’s popular, annual event to which Andrew proudly wore his early IHT tee-shirt. Also proud of having hiked all IHT’s preserves one summer, Andrew remarked that this summer he got up at 5:00 am on the day of his departure for New York, just so he could hike the Trust’s newest property, Church Land, before making the long drive back home. “What I regret most,” he said, is “that I have so little time [here] in summer. I’d love to volunteer, maybe help [maintain] some of the trails.” In the meantime, he said, he continues “to feel very confident in sending in my donation every year and only wish I could do more.” •



The Walkling family at IHT’s 2019 Shore Dinner: (from left) Andrew Walkling, his mother Julia Walkling, and his father, Robert. (Elke Dorr)

In Memoriam

Diane Walker

October 2, 1931 - September 13, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Diane Walker, a devoted member of our IHT family. Diane’s contributions to the Trust’s evolution over the years, from its early days as a fledgling organization to its current stature as a mature and valued community resource and significant protector of the island’s natural environment, are immeasurable. Having served faithfully as a board member on both the Land and Stewardship Committees, Diane also also served as an interim chair of the board.

Beginning with her involvement in 1964, in a letter-writing campaign launched from her dining room table to help protect the Grand Canyon, Diane’s active engagement on behalf of environmental causes never waned. She wrote letters to members of Congress, federal agencies, and the New York Times, defending the Grand Canyon against encroachment. As a self-described volunteer social activist, Diane was not only passionate about the environment, but also about women’s reproductive freedom and rights, and about civil rights in general. In her many endeavors she was not only tireless, but determined and always remarkably well informed. Believing wholeheartedly, according to her husband, Ian Walker, that “our future and that of our children and grandchildren is dependent on the change we try to bring about day by day,” Diane acted on and practiced what she espoused.

Bill Haviland, whose own long history with the Trust also includes his role as chair of the board, recalled that Diane “was quite successful,” in “straightening out our finances,” during a difficult transition period. He added, “... so when I succeeded her as president [now called chair], I had only to continue what she had begun.” Bill went on to comment that Diane “has always been well prepared ... you could count on Diane to catch [any errors].” He also praised her “institutional memory and her “wonderful sense of humor.”

An intrepid adventurer, she took her “life-time dream trip” in 1973, when she rafted through the Grand Canyon and, according to Ian, had to be fished out by a guide when her raft overturned. Among her many interests, gardening and birding were foremost. Long a member of the Island’s Evergreen Garden Club, she also served as its president for several years. An enthusiastic kayaker, she and Ian enjoyed lengthy paddles in their double kayak, venturing among the many offshore islands around Deer Isle.

Diane is survived by husband Ian, a daughter and three sons, as well as four grandchildren; and another daughter and two sons and three more grandchildren on Ian’s side. Bill Haviland spoke for IHT as well as all who knew Diane in saying, “We all miss her.”



Island Heritage Trust Staff

Paul Miller, *Executive Director*
Julia Zell, *Development Director*
Martha Bell, *Environmental Educator*
Tenley Wurglitz, *Land Steward*
Jacob McCarty, *Volunteer Coordinantor & Office Manager*
Terry Real, *Seasonal Stewardship Assistant*

Board of Trustees

Bill Wiegmann, *Chair*
Woodley Osborne, *Past-Chair*
Karen Hill, *Treasurer*
Elke Dorr
Mickie Flores
Stephen Rowan
Doug Wilson
Bert Yankliun

Newsletter

Elke Dorr
Ann Hooke
Woodley Osborne

Tidings

To All Our Volunteers At Island Heritage Trust:

“I’ve been so lucky to be welcomed into this warm and dedicated organization. I truly look forward to meeting you in the upcoming seasons. I have been told of your inspirational teamwork and I can’t wait to join you in the next exciting chapters of IHT history. Please feel free to contact me, even if it’s just to say ‘hello’.”
- Jacob Mccarty, Volunteer Coordinator & Office Manager

SAVE THE DATE: Wings, Waves & Woods - May 15-17, 2020

Join us for our annual birding festival; more details coming soon!

DISES Nature Trail Officially Complete! (photos below)

Our Environmental Educator, Martha Bell, has been working for over three years now with Mickie Flores and the Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School to complete the nature trail and outdoor classroom. With the help of a grant from *Friends of Acadia*, and many volunteers: Martha, Mickie, and the students completed the trail in early October. To celebrate, a ceremonial parade was held at the beginning of the school day on October 18th, and our local state representative, Genevieve McDonald, was in attendance. She later shared the following:

“This morning I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon for the Grand Opening of the Nature Trail at Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School. *There is nothing greater we can do for our children and our planet than to instill an early love of the outdoors and an appreciation for the environment.* Thank you to Island Heritage Trust, DISES and all the volunteers and contributors who made this project possible.”

- Genevieve McDonald, 10/18/2019



Students on Parade - 10/18/2019



IHT staff visits the completed trail

Thank You To Our Amazing Volunteers!

Bob Allen
Miriam Antich
Joni Banks
Abby Barrows
David Bayley
Anne Beerits
Peter Beerits
Roger Bergen
Bonnie Bochan
Tara Broderick
Phelps Brown
Babette Cameron
Linda Campbell
Connie Carroll
Steve Cox
Ken Crowell
Marnie Reed Crowell
Danielle D’Auria
Martha Dane
Pete Dane
Rebecca Daugherty
Michael Daugherty
Brighid Doherty
Sarah Doremus
Elke Dorr
Joe Dorr
Allen Downs
Bob Duchesne
Sandi Duchesne
Lee Fay
Mickie Flores
Darby French
Wally Garroway
Kathy Githens
Rick Githens
Linda Glaser
Phil Glaser
Michael Good
Nancy Gross
Lisa Hanley
Cathy Hart
Diana Hartnett
Jeff Hartnett
Bill Haviland
Karen Hill
Ned Hill
Ann Hooke
Roger Hooke
Marissa Hutchinson
Jo Jacob
Davida Kellogg
Miriam King
Joy Kleeman
Ken Kleeman
Ben Levek
Val Libby
Mike Little
Penny Lueders
Devra Marcus
Judy McCaskey
Ray McCaskey
Joan McVey
Missy Mial
Glen Mittelhauser
Nancy Morris
Mary Offutt
Roger Olson
Woodley Osborne
Gail Plotts
Jim Plotts
David Porter
Carolyn Raedle
Connie Rosenblum
Andy Rosenthal
Jane Rosinski
Ellen Rowen
Steve Rowen
Adair Ruff
Jim Ruff
Gordan Russell
Ron Schwartz
Paul Trowbridge
Ann van Buren
Tom van Buren
Diane Walker
Carol Walsh
Carolyn Walton
Chick White
Jim White
Bill Wiegmann
Ann Williams
Brad Willis
Doug Wilson
Jackie Wilson
Bert Yankielun
Nadia Zonis



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ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST



The Conservation Land Trust of Deer Isle & Stonington, Maine

Early Morning

I woke to low tide in the cove.
A blue heron waded on its edge
A gull flew in circles until it dropped
the clam on the rock,
Then dove to retrieve its meal.
Walking the dogs at a second cove,
A great white egret stood on a
partially submerged stone,
As other seabirds flew over and swam
around it.
Shortly, the egret flew away.

-Nicholas Dickon Reppucci, PhD
(Poem written in a workshop led by Ann van Buren)



Tennis Preserve (photo by Woody Osborne)