

Directions to the Preserve

From Route 15 in Deer Isle, turn onto the Sunshine Road at Mill Pond Mobil. Drive 1.2 miles and bear left at the fork onto Greenlaw District Road. Continue 0.9 miles to the parking area.

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST



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The Island Heritage Trust is a non-profit conservation land trust founded by local citizens in 1987 to help protect the environmental and scenic qualities, and wildlife habitat of Deer Isle and Stonington. Island Heritage Trust is in Heritage House, 420 Sunset Road, Sunset, next to the Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society. We welcome visitors and encourage you to become a member. It's easy! Just contribute check or some of your time. To receive more information and a free newsletter, please fill out this form and send it to our office.

I WANT TO BECOME AN IHT MEMBER.  
Enclosed is a check/money order made out to Island Heritage Trust, for my tax-deductible contribution of:

- ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ other \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I would like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ I would like to volunteer. Please call me.
- ☐ I would like to receive the IHT newsletter.

Please send me information about:

☐ Making a Bequest

☐ Conservation Easements

☐ Making a Donation of Land or a Bargain Sale

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST / SHORE ACRES PRESERVE



For Your Safety...

- The trail loop is 1.5 miles long. Allow at least one hour to enjoy your walk.
- Trails are rocky, uneven, and have many exposed roots. Walk with care.
- Keep dogs leashed out of consideration for other walkers, AND for the safety of the dog. There is old barbed wire in the woods off the trails. Please take dog poop home in a plastic bag.
- Do not walk across the salt marsh, as there are unexpected holes, water holes, and uneven ground. Stay on the shore trail.
- Plan ahead. This area has no toilet facilities. Be considerate: take solid human waste and tissues home in a plastic bag or container to avoid littering and polluting the ground water.
- Swim at your own risk.



## EARLY HISTORY

The “Early Settlers Map” of Deer Isle shows that by 1780, the area covered by the Preserve and the farm to the north of it had been settled by William Greenlaw. The pasture and cellar hole south of the preserve were owned by Benjamin Cole. Both families continued to occupy the properties until the 1930s. Around 1940, the Barter Lumber Company cut over the area for pulpwood, and sold the 100 acres comprising the former Greenlaw farm to the Hill family. In 2000, Judy Hill gave the 38 acre preserve area to Island Heritage Trust in memory of her parents, Clark and Marjorie Hill, who had hoped it would remain undeveloped. The name, Shore Acres, has been the name associated with this farm for several generations.

Before Europeans moved to this part of the coast of Maine, the Wabenaki people hunted in these woods and dug clams along the shore. (Artifacts of the Wabenaki on Deer Isle may be seen at the Historical Society, in Sunset.) Today, the clam flats are still productive. At low tide, you may see local clammers hard at work making a living from these flats. Healthy clam flats support a local fishery and will thrive if the waters are kept free of pollution from the land.

## NATURAL HISTORY

Wildlife is abundant in woods like these. The damp woods, with its large mix of hardwoods (varieties of birch, ash, aspen, oak, and maple) and softwoods (white pine, larch, red and white spruce,

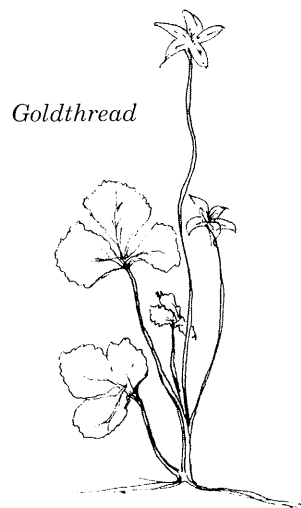
cedar, and balsam fir), provide good habitat for songbirds and hawks. You might see deer, rabbits, red squirrels, and foxes, too. Depending on the time of year, you will see different kinds of shore birds and waterfowl enjoying the richness of the clam flats and off-shore waters. Seals often bask in the sun on the off-shore ledges.

The land use history can be read in the vegetation. There are several remarkable *nurse stumps*, which look like circles of trees perched above the ground atop their roots (see illustration). In the 1940’s this area was logged. Shoots grew up from the stumps of red maple, ash, and yellow birch and grew into trees. The original “nurse stump” has rotted away leaving the trees perched in the air!

This moist woodland is also perfect habitat for a wide variety of mushrooms, mosses, ferns, and wildflowers. The Goldthread Trail got its name from the abundance of Goldthread, which flowers in the spring. Look for ground juniper, sheep laurel, wintergreen, bunchberry, wild cranberry, and blueberry too. When you come to the stone wall on the Stone Wall Trail, you will see spruces with huge lower branches that tell us these trees once flourished in the sunshine of an open meadow. This meadow was once the neighbor’s sheep pasture.

## THE ROCK

Shore Acres lies on the Oak Point granite, one of two granite bodies on Deer Isle. The Oak Point granite crystallized 371 million years ago during a mountain building episode that occurred when Europe crashed into North America. About 200 million years ago, rifting began, opening the Atlantic Ocean, and Europe gradually drifted back to where it is now. It is still moving away from us at a rate of about an inch a year.



The principal minerals in the Oak Point granite are a reddish *potassium feldspar*, a cream-colored *sodium feldspar*, and *quartz*. Two minor black minerals are *biotite* and *hornblende*. The granite bodies of Deer Isle formed at depths of 3 to 6 miles in the earth. Erosion during the past 370 million years has removed the overlying rocks, sand grain by sand grain.

## THE SHORE and ITS GLACIAL HISTORY

A continental ice sheet covered Deer Isle to a depth of 1 to 2 miles 18,000 years ago. This natural bulldozer scraped the land of Shore Acres clean. Rocks, frozen into the bed of the glacier, gouged, scratched and polished the granite surface. Look along the shore for ledges with rounded striated backs and steep, plucked lee surfaces facing roughly SSE, across Greenlaw Cove. These streamlined forms were molded as the glacier flowed toward the Gulf of Maine. As it melted, the ice also left a thin smear of silt, sand and gravel, which later weathered to become the thin soils of the preserve.

Sea level has fluctuated significantly. As the ice sheet melted, the sea level rose dramatically; areas close to Millinocket (now 75 miles inland) were once shore property. Later, in response to removal of the weight of the ice, the land rose so that, about 11,000 years ago, sea level was roughly 200 feet below the present level. Next it rose rapidly for about 6000 years, and then more slowly for the next 5000 years. Over the past century or two, it has been rising at a rate of 2 to 3 mm per year. You can see this along the shore where several mature trees “stand” on the beach with their roots reaching 10-15 feet back to the retreating bank. The salt marsh areas are also being eroded on their seaward side, while simultaneously growing higher as the marsh grass traps fine sediment.

Notice the unique grasses of the salt marsh areas. The grass species change systematically shoreward, from a more salt-tolerant species at lower levels to progressively less salt-tolerant species at higher levels. Salt marshes are important to shore birds and marine life as they provide

food and safe areas to nurture young. Please do not walk across the salt marshes.

## YOU CAN HELP PRESERVE THIS BEAUTIFUL AREA

- Day use only.
- No fires.
- Please keep dogs on leashes.
- Plan ahead. There are no toilet facilities.
- Trails are designed for foot traffic only. Walk single file on woodland trails to protect the fragile preserve areas.
- Carry out what you bring in (including left-over food, peels, food wrappers, containers, and tissues).
- Help the next hiker to enjoy the trail by not littering and by picking up any litter you see.
- Respect private lands and private driveways adjacent to the Preserve. If the parking area is full, consider visiting the nearby Tennis Preserve or Mariners Memorial Park.
- Please do not park on paved road.
- Please do not remove any plants or rocks.
- Please do not dig in clam shell middens along the shore.
- Keep groups small (12 or less). For larger groups obtain permission from IHT.
- To protect the trees, avoid stepping on tree roots as much as possible. On the shore, walk on rock or gravel to protect the beach plants.
- These trails are maintained by volunteers. Thanks for your help in keeping trails and picnic spots clean and clear.

## VIEW FROM THE SHORE

What is in this view? To your left (north) is Oak Point with Goose Island in the foreground. Through the passage between Oak Point and Campbell Island, the mountains of Mount Desert Island may be visible in the distance. To the south of Campbell Island is White Island and then several points and coves of Greenlaw and Stinson Necks. In some cases, the undeveloped shores that make up this view are protected by conservation easements, insuring that they will remain undeveloped in the future.