

What is special about this place?

We know from the archeological finds that Indian people camped along these shores for up to 2000 years. They probably spent their winters here. The strong tidal currents and fertile sea provided an abundance of fish and shellfish for the Indians to harvest.

In more recent times, deeds from the 1790's show that this land was settled by Elijah Toothacher. Some of his descendents are buried in the cemetery. Later, the Pickering and Davis families farmed here. Around 1914, the artist Chase Emerson, for whom the Deer Isle library is named, purchased the farmhouse on the shore. Finally, the Tennis family purchased the property in 1944.

As you walk the trails, look for evidence of the people who lived here. Notice how the forest changes as you visit different parts of the Preserve, reflecting their use of the land. Take some time to sit quietly on the shore as the ancestors of this land did. Notice how far out to sea you can see – and consider how bold a landmark this shore has been for generations of mariners and fishermen seeking the safety of Southeast Harbor.

Care of the Preserve

Maintenance of the preserve is a cooperative effort of the Island Heritage Trust (IHT) and the Maine Department of Conservation (Bureau of Parks and Lands). IHT also prints and distributes the trail brochure and arranges for the sale of the "Deer Isle Walking Trails Map," which benefits the stewardship efforts of IHT.

We encourage you to make a contribution to the Gerhard Riethmuller Stewardship Endowment Fund for the Tennis Preserve.

The Edgar M. Tennis Preserve

was established through the generosity and vision of Dr. Edgar M. Tennis and his family. It was his wish that the land and shore that he loved be made available to the public, that its natural beauty be preserved, and that it remain Forever Wild. In 1972, he gave approximately 100 acres to the State of Maine to be used for walking trails, education, and research. An additional 15 acres was given to the State by his daughter. In 1996, she gave approximately 30 more acres to the Preserve. Both of these additions are protected by conservation easements held by the Island Heritage Trust.

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST



As a private, non-profit land trust, the Island Heritage Trust works with landowners in a variety of ways, including setting up conservation easements to protect land from further development, to fulfill its mission 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."

The Trust offers public walking trails, access to the shore, and low-impact recreation on its 20 owned properties, including Settlement Quarry, Pine Hill, Shore Acres, Scott's Landing, Polypod, Wreck, Bradbury, Mark, Sheep, Round and Millet Islands, and Causeway and Reach Beaches.

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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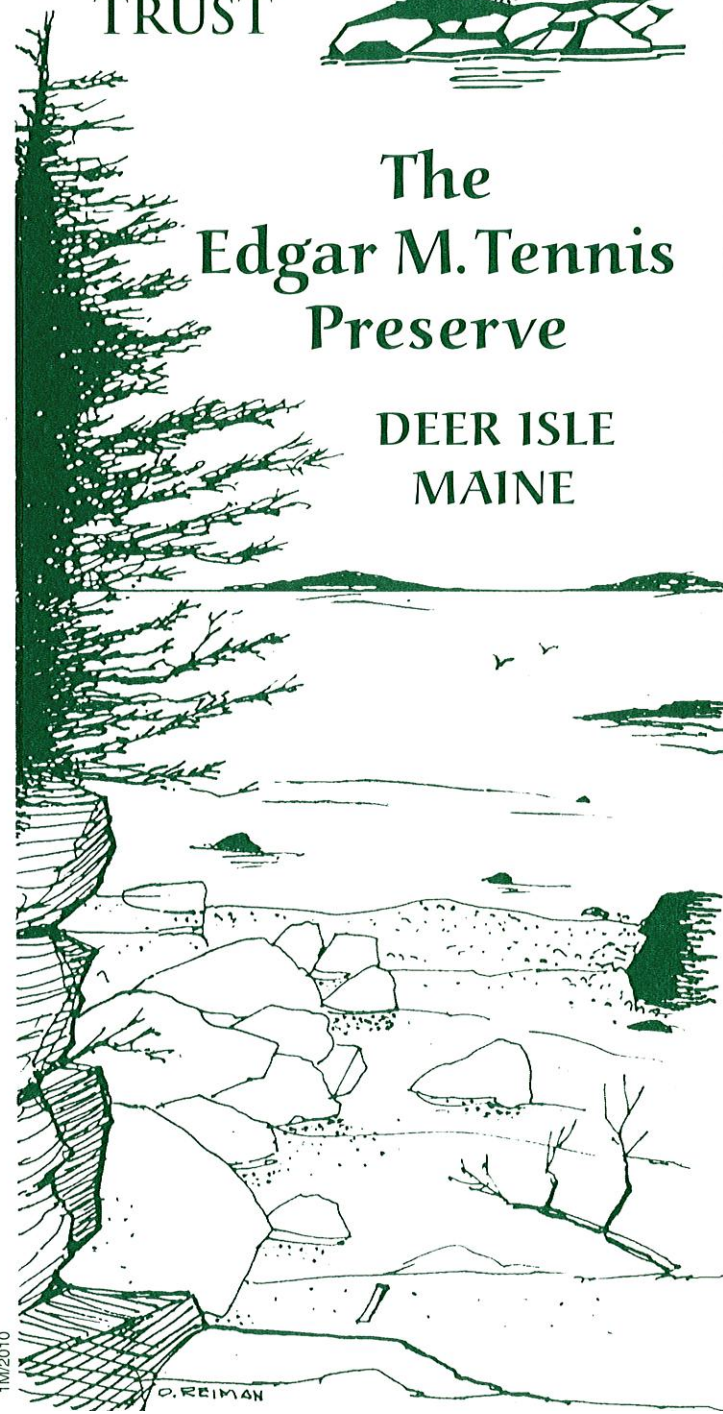
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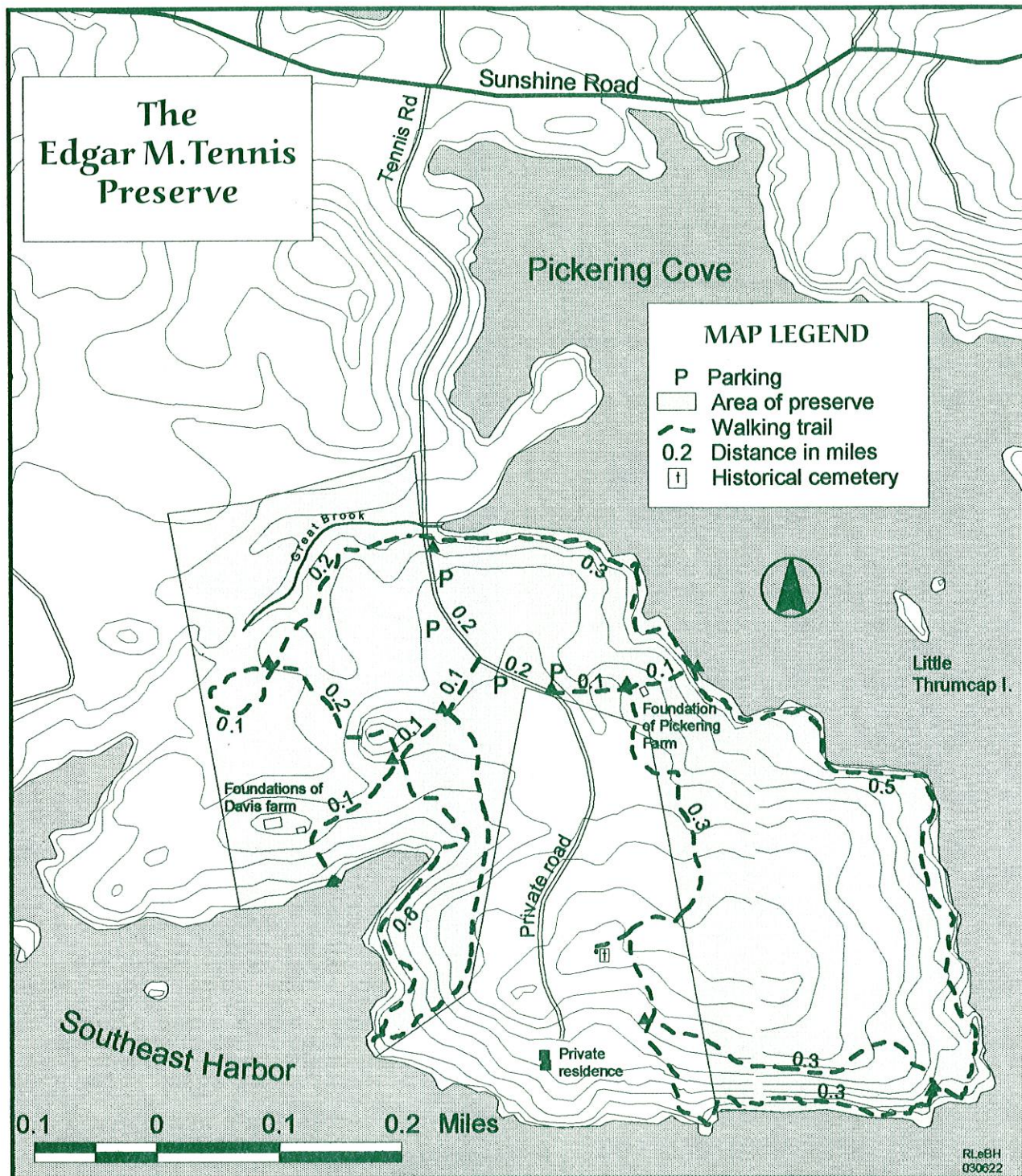
ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST



The Edgar M. Tennis Preserve

DEER ISLE
MAINE





Ways to Protect this Preserve

- ◆ Please stay on the trails.
- ◆ Walk with extra care; there are many roots and rocks.
- ◆ Please keep dogs on leashes.
- ◆ Please respect private property.
- ◆ No motorized vehicles or mountain bikes.
- ◆ The Preserve is open for day use only.
- ◆ No camping or fires permitted.
- ◆ Please take trash home.
- ◆ Take nothing but photographs. Please do not remove rocks, plants or archeological materials.
- ◆ The cemetery is of historical interest and is located on private property. Please treat it with respect.

What to look for

- ◆ Hawks and woodland birds.
- ◆ Winter ducks in off-shore waters.
- ◆ Listen for wood frogs in the spring.
- ◆ Eagles and ospreys along the shore.
- ◆ Seals resting on Toothacher Ledge.
- ◆ Old apple trees left from farm days.
- ◆ Wild flowers and many kinds of trees.
- ◆ Polished rocks with glacial striations.

Directions to the Preserve

Driving south through Deer Isle village on Route 15, turn left onto Sunshine Road across from Mill Pond Mobil. Follow Sunshine Road for 2.5 miles. Turn right on Tennis Road. Follow it to the Preserve.

Parking is limited. To protect fragile fauna, please park off roadway in designated spaces. If full, please return at another time.