2019

ANNUAL REPORT

ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

420 Sunset Road, Deer Isle, Maine 04627
www.islandheritagetrust.org
While this annual report looks back at our 2019 fiscal year (November 1, 2018 – October 31, 2019), we must acknowledge the current state of the world. The year 2020 has proven to be extremely challenging. The global COVID-19 pandemic forced us to close Heritage House and cancel in-person programming and events; our Executive Director, Paul Miller, resigned to return home to Rhode Island; and the Board of Trustees decided to defer our application for Accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission until 2021. The unprecedented health crisis and resulting economic uncertainty, as well as calls and protests seeking social justice, have caused us to look inward to scrutinize our own values and practices.

Through all these challenges, we are incredibly inspired by the generous support we have received. Our donors have stepped up in a major way, with increased giving and additional gifts of support, and our volunteers have kept asking how they can help. These challenging times have reminded many that public and safe access to the outdoors is crucial, as they have sought refuge in our trails, shoreline, and islands.

In retrospect, we achieved a range of significant milestones in 2019. Highlights include:

- Together with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Blue Hill Heritage Trust, we completed the land acquisition project at Caterpillar Hill, preserving the iconic view.
- The trails and parking area were completed for the new Church Land Preserve off King Row in Deer Isle with the assistance of our Tuesday Trail Crew volunteers.
- A collaborative effort brought the first phase of the Deer Isle - Stonington Elementary School Nature Trail to completion.
- The bathhouse at Lily Pond Park was completed, wrapping up the new Quaco Road access and trails project.
- The Board of Trustees adopted our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan.

While we look back at 2019 with gratitude and pride, we are confident that we will continue to meet the current challenges and emerge even stronger. Thank you for all your support. You are the reason we are able to provide educational programming and conserve the distinctive landscapes and resources of Deer Isle, Stonington, and the surrounding areas.

BILL WIEGMANN
Board Chair

JULIA ZELL
Executive Director
The trail provides extensive learning opportunities, an outdoor classroom, and a change of scenery for the students. The project has required the collaboration of students, countless volunteers, DISES science teacher, Mickie Flores, and IHT’s Environmental Educator, Martha Bell (pictured left).

1. In collaboration with Blue Hill Heritage Trust and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, 32 acres of land were purchased in Sedgwick, along Route 15. The critical purchase was part of a two-decade effort to save the spectacular views from Caterpillar Hill. Visitors to the area are treated with one of the best lookouts in the state, and with additional land, the partners have expanded the view and space for safe parking. Deer Isle residents cherish the moment when they spot the island from the top of the hill, knowing they see a special place: home.

2. The first phase of the School Nature Trail, which connects the Deer Isle-Stonington High School and Elementary School was completed. The extensive bog bridge was put in place, allowing passage through the red maple swamp.

3. The infrastructure project surrounding the Lily Pond Park was completed with the construction of the public bathhouse. This multi-use building houses a toilet and a changing room, a welcome resource to the many visitors who frequent the Lily Pond to swim, picnic, fish, and walk. The Lily Pond Park project previously included the new creation of a new parking area on Quaco Road and a broad, flat, and accessible trail that leads to the beach.

ACHIEVEMENTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019

1. Demolition at Caterpillar Hill

2. Construction of the School Nature Trail

3. The Bathhouse at Lily Pond Park

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PUBLIC ACCESS LAND

IHT PRESERVES OPEN FOR USE:

1. Bowcat Overlook
2. Causeway Beach
3. Church Land (pictured right)
4. Crystal Cove
5. Lily Pond Park
6. Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve
7. Pine Hill
8. Reach Beach at Gray’s Cove
9. Scott’s Landing
10. Settlement Quarry
11. Shore Acres

PRESERVES CO-MANAGED BY IHT:

1. Barred Island
   *The Nature Conservancy*
2. Crockett Cove Woods
   *The Nature Conservancy*
3. Edgar M. Tennis Preserve
   *Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands*
4. Holt Mill Pond
   *Town of Stonington*

OFF-SHORE ISLANDS OPEN FOR USE:

1. Bradbury Island
2. Carney Island
3. Mark Island
4. Millet Island
5. Polypod Island
6. Round Island
7. Whig Island
8. Wreck Island

CHURCH LAND

In 2019 we completed Church Land Preserve, a 47-acre parcel accessed from King Row in Deer Isle. Meander through the forest's thick carpet of moss and ferns, exposed granite ledges, and glacial erratics. Visitors can spot vernal pools and wildflowers in the spring and enjoy the incredible display of color in the fall. The trail leads to the shores of the Lily Pond, with two optional cut-offs to shorten or lengthen the hike.

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<th>PRESERVES OWNED BY IHT</th>
<th>PRESERVES CO-MANAGED BY IHT</th>
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<th>OFF-SHORE ISLANDS CONSERVED BY IHT</th>
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<th>MILES OF PROTECTED SHOREFRONT</th>
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Whitman Family Foundation

Mark Island

The names listed in this report reflect gifts & pledges from the
2019 fiscal year, which ended October 31, 2019.
2019 FINANCIALS

PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS: $198,521

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED ASSETS: $568,509

UNRESTRICTED ASSETS:
- FIXED ASSET: $186,444
- OPERATIONAL RESERVE: 68,554
- OTHER: $47,925

TOTAL NET ASSETS: $1,069,953

TOTAL REVENUE: $338,929

- DONATIONS & GRANTS $295,862
- PROGRAM SERVICES $15,396
- INVESTMENTS $15,191
- OTHER $12,480

TOTAL EXPENSES: $340,715

- FUNDRAISING $54,568
- STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION $207,530
- ADMIN $78,617
IHT contributes to the well-being of the island community by conserving its distinctive landscapes and natural resources, maintaining public access to valued trails, shoreline, and islands, and by providing educational programming for all ages.

MISSION STATEMENT

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