

2021

# ANNUAL REPORT



ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

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420 Sunset Road, Deer Isle, Maine 04627  
[www.islandheritagetrust.org](http://www.islandheritagetrust.org)





Barred Island

# THINK GLOBAL, ACT LOCAL

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2021 was a monumental year for Island Heritage Trust (IHT). We began to gather again in person and were reminded how vital and impactful the Trust's work continues to be. We completed the application process for Accreditation and were delighted to learn in early 2022 that our efforts were successful! IHT is now an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, a testament to our sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance, and ability to provide lasting stewardship of the lands we conserve.

While our work in land conservation may have a limited geographical area, it is clear that we are part of a larger international effort to protect critical open space, natural resources, wildlife habitat, and human health and recreation. Our protected off-shore islands provide "rest-stops" for migratory birds from Florida to Greenland, and our inter-tidal zones provide habitat and food sources for fish migrating from places like the Chesapeake Bay. Supporting IHT's work not only supports land conservation and environmental education in our local community but also the greater system of interconnected and protected ecology that is critical around the globe.

The extensive ocean shoreline is a key feature of what makes our service area so special. Located in the vital transition zone of land, an island archipelago, Penobscot Bay (the second-largest bay on the East Coast), and the vast Gulf of Maine out to the Atlantic Ocean, our community is witnessing the widespread consequences of our land-based decisions. At IHT, we're thinking about the impact of our choices.

- How do we work with other organizations and individuals to ensure we consider the ripple effects of our actions?
- How do we protect fresh drinking water on an island with rising seas and salt-water intrusion into groundwater?
- How does strategic land conservation impact our local fisherman and the largest lobster industry in the country?
- How do we address invasive plant management while understanding the ecological shift resulting from a changing climate?
- How do we seek out indigenous voices to further inform our work and better respect the natural history of these lands?

These important questions will continue to guide us into an uncertain future. With the goal of excellence in all we do, we are buoyed by your continued confidence and support. Thank you!



**BILL WIEGMANN**  
Board Chair



**JULIA ZELL**  
Executive Director



## ACHIEVEMENTS

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2021



1. Intern Audrey Pyper



2. School Nature Trail



3. Maine Conservation Corps at Shore Acres

**1.** We were awarded a recipient of the Richard G. Rockefeller Conservation Internship program through Maine Coast Heritage Trust, providing us funds to take on a paid intern for ten weeks of the summer. Audrey Pyper joined us from Bowdoin College and had a chance to learn from every facet of the organization, from trail work and education to administration and fundraising!

**2.** The School Nature Trail continued its expansion in 2021 and approval for the third phase was initiated. Future plans include a new wheelchair-accessible section of boardwalk and outdoor classroom and educational signage that includes braille lettering. These important additions join the current classroom and extensive boardwalk and should be completed in 2022.

**3.** Maine Conservation Corps joined us to build new bog-bridging at Shore Acres preserve. With their help, we completed over 500 feet of bridging along the Goldthread Trail in just one week! The new bridging transformed the visitor experience and improved safety. This effort was funded by generous Giving Tuesday support.

# NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Island Heritage Trust has become an accredited land trust through the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, the culmination of years of work by many volunteers and staff members. This monumental achievement feels timely as IHT celebrates its 35th Anniversary in 2022.



The accreditation seal is awarded to land trusts meeting the highest national standards for excellence and conservation permanence.



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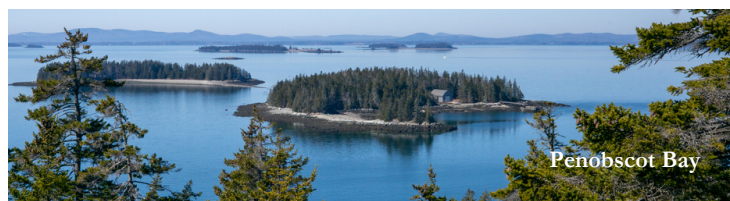
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Billion Oyster Project  
Blue Heron Wellness Center  
Blue Hill Inn  
Boston Society of Architects  
Boyce's Motel  
Burnt Cove Boil  
Camden National Bank  
Conary Island West Trust  
DBA Safe Arbor Tree Service  
DI-S Elementary School  
Dowstudio  
Driftwood Kayak  
Due North LLC  
Energy Futures Group  
Fifield Lobster Company  
Friends of Nature  
Geology Discipline,  
University of Minnesota  
Georgia Stone Industries  
Greene Ziner Gallery  
Inn on the Harbor  
Island Fishing Gear &  
Auto Parts  
Island Pilates  
Island Workforce Housing  
JSA Trust  
Long Cove Sea Farm  
Maine Coast Heritage Trust  
Maine Community  
Foundation  
Mainescape  
Mark Bell Pottery  
Myers Maine Trust  
Nervous Nellies Jams & Jellies  
Oceanview House Antiques  
Opera House Arts  
Pencoyd Foundation  
Reach Performing Arts Center  
Ron's Service, Sales and  
Autobody  
SGA  
Sheep Island Realty Trust  
Soft Touch Skin Care  
Spruce Harbor Associates  
Stonington Paddle  
The Island Agency  
Three Half Press  
Tomboy Construction  
Two Lions Bed & Bath

# OUR MISSION

**Island Heritage Trust 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.**



**The names listed in this report reflect gifts & pledges from the 2021 fiscal year,  
which ended October 31, 2021.**





# PUBLIC ACCESS LAND

## IHT PRESERVES OPEN FOR USE:

1. Bowcat Overlook
2. Causeway Beach
3. Church Land
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:

12. Barred Island  
*The Nature Conservancy*
13. Crockett Cove Woods  
*The Nature Conservancy*
14. Holt Mill Pond  
*Town of Stonington*
15. Edgar M. Tennis Preserve  
*Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands*

## OFF-SHORE ISLANDS OPEN FOR USE:

16. Bradbury Island
17. Carney Island
18. Whig Island
19. Polypod Island
20. Mark Island
21. Wreck Island
22. Round Island
23. Millet Island



Lily Pond Park

4

PRESERVES CO-MANAGED BY IHT

21

MILES OF PROTECTED SHOREFRONT

21

OFF-SHORE ISLANDS CONSERVED BY IHT

25

PRESERVES OWNED BY IHT

38

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

1,450

ACRES OF PROTECTED LAND



## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

In 2021, IHT received a grant through Maine Coast Heritage Trust to host a paid intern. Audrey Pyper joined us for ten weeks of the summer and started a weekly Hiking Club, which continues to this day. Martha Bell, our Environmental Educator, and volunteer Katy Reinhart joined the hikes to contribute naturalist and local knowledge and continued to lead hikes through the winter as weather permitted. Martha also led dozens of school and Camp Kooky field trips to our preserves throughout the year.

We also saw the return of some of our regular and beloved Walks & Talks programs, including Kids in Nature. Other programs were in collaboration with Island organizations, such as March's "Fire and Ice" skating event at the Lily Pond with Healthy Island Project and the Island Community Center. We also partnered with both local libraries and highlighted new sections of the School Nature Trail during a pumpkin carving event in October.

## BY THE NUMBERS:

# 30+

COLLABORATIVE  
WEBINARS & EVENTS

# 30+

CONTRIBUTING INDIVIDUALS  
& AGENCIES TO THE  
SCHOOL NATURE TRAIL

# 50+

IHT WALKS & TALKS

# 500+

STUDENTS SERVED

**Island Heritage Trust and Environmental Educator Martha Bell were awarded the Maine School Management Association's 2021 MSBA Business Friend of Education Award.**



Creating Healthy Oceans Project



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT:

# STEWARDSHIP

An energetic Giving Tuesday effort raised \$9,000 for bog-bridging at Shore Acres Preserve, which allowed us to apply for a Maine Conservation Corps crew to join us to complete over 500 feet of bridging in just one week! This drastically improved safe access and visitor experience along the Goldthread Trail. This also afforded IHT’s Trail Tuesday volunteers an opportunity to learn from seasoned professionals and develop new skills they can apply to IHT workdays and on their own properties.

Alex Drenga, Stewardship Director, took advantage of collaborative partners, such as Maine Island Trail Association, to monitor and care for our properties and conservation easements. With the help of Stewardship Assistant Terry Real and more than 30 volunteers, IHT’s trails and beaches are getting more care and attention, including continued invasive plant management. We have seen marked success in reducing the amount of Black Swallowwort at Lisa Tolman Wotton Nature Preserve and Japanese Barberry at Shore Acres Preserve. Increased funding support has allowed us to tackle larger projects by hiring local specialists and contractors to maintain our meadows and begin larger-scale forest management projects.

We have heard from many of you how wonderful your experiences on the trails have been of late – thank you!



Trail Tuesday at Barred Island



Island Cleanup Day



Trail Tuesday at Shore Acres

BY THE NUMBERS:

**30+**  
STEWARDSHIP  
VOLUNTEERS

**35**  
TRAIL  
TUESDAYS

**22+**  
PARTNER AGENCIES  
& INDIVIDUALS



## TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS: \$1,476,751

NET ASSETS  
W/ DONOR  
RESTRICTIONS

\$877,038

NET ASSETS  
W/O DONOR  
RESTRICTIONS

\$567,571

LIABILITIES

\$32,142

## TOTAL REVENUE: \$502,707

DONATIONS  
& GRANTS

\$463,461

INVESTMENTS

\$44,900

OTHER

(\$6,284)

PROGRAM  
SERVICES

\$630

## TOTAL EXPENSES: \$391,390

FUNDRAISING

\$80,036

MANAGEMENT  
& GENERAL

\$62,268

PROGRAMS

\$249,086

# 2021 FINANCIALS

COVID-19 concerns continued to affect our 2021 activities, canceling events like the Shore Dinner and Ice Cream Social and causing activities like the Walks and Talks and Wings, Waves, and Woods Festival, to be limited in their scope and frequency. The award-winning education programs for school children continued, as did stewardship activities ranging from trail maintenance and development to bog bridging, invasive plant species eradication, and brown tail moth curtailment. The engineering study on the Lily Pond dam continued.

Our 2021 revenue, including contributions and special events, exceeded \$502K, an increase over last year of 16%. Revenue included special fundraising for a boat, grants from Maine Coast Heritage Trust for an intern and new signage, and the forgiven PPP loan. We had 739 donors in total, a 5% increase, with 135 new members and 52 contributions from Donor Advised Funds.

Our expenses were \$391K, increasing by 20% over the prior year but only slightly over Budget. This reflects the Board's commitment to aligning salaries with industry standards and providing health insurance benefits. This year we paid a stipend to staff to offset health insurance expenses in preparation for moving to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement in FY22.

Our net income for FY21 exceeded \$111K, 4% over last year. We are privileged to be able to set aside funds for future needs and meet the requirements of a growing organization.



Scott's Landing





# STAFF

**Julia Zell**, Executive Director

**Martha Bell**, Environmental Educator

**Alex Drenga**, Stewardship Director

**Pat Gross**, Bookkeeper

**Jacob McCarty**, Development Associate

**Terry Real**, Summer Stewardship Assistant

**Noël Ruth**, Outreach Manager

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Bill Wiegmann**, Chair

**DeeDee Hartnett**, Vice-Chair

**Karen Hill**, Treasurer

**Mickie Flores**, Secretary

**Abby Barrows**

**Dave Bayley**

**Sue Chamberlain**

**Elke Dorr**

**Anna Goff**

**Jeff Hartnett**

**Douglas Wilson**

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School Nature Trail





ISLAND  
HERITAGE TRUST

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*Open Minds*

Edgar M. Tennis Preserve