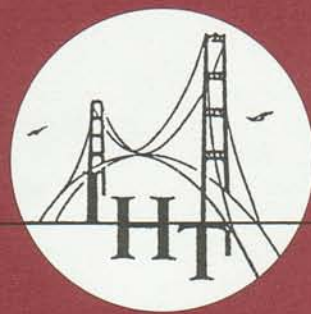


ISLAND HERITAGE TRUST

The Conservation Land Trust of
Deer Isle and Stonington, Maine, and Surrounding Islands



Volume XIII, No. 1

Spring 2003

Emily Muir's Lasting Legacy Includes Crockett Cove Woods

Emily Muir, artist, architect, island citizen, died on March 19 at 99 years of age. Each of us will remember Emily in our own way, from personal acquaintance, from her original paintings and sculptures, or from exposure to the many ways in which she enhanced island life. She was a small woman – all who recall her, when well into her 80's she marched in the July 4th parade with a message of hope for peace, will remember her tiny stature – but her spirit was large. Her impact on the community of Deer Isle was enormous – in the lives of citizens, in the institutions important to island life, and in the look of the island and the health of its environment.

Emily made a gift to the town of Stonington of Bill Muir's statue of a stonecutter. It stands on the waterfront of Stonington Harbor, a strong reminder of the importance of granite-cutting in the history of the town.

She had a large part in helping Haystack School find land when it needed to relocate from Liberty,

Island Heritage Trust

Mission Statement

The mission of the Island Heritage Trust is to conserve significant open space, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, natural resources, and historic and cultural features that offer public benefit and are essential to the character of the Deer Isle area.



PHOTO BY PETER RALSTON

Emily Muir, artist, architect, and beloved island citizen in a photo taken in 1986 at her home in Stonington by her good friend, Peter Ralston, of the Island Institute.

Maine. She was involved in founding the Island Nursing Home, as well as serving on the School Board and the Stonington Planning Committee.

One significant contribution to the quality of the environment of the island was her development of houses designed to a natural setting on Crockett Cove, and her subsequent gift to The Nature Conservancy of Crockett Cove Woods Preserve.

In the 1960's as development on the island grew, Emily looked with dismay at houses that were being built on the shore of Deer Isle. At that time, when a new house was built, all trees on a site were cleared and the house was situated prominently on the land. Emily had another idea. Being a "doer" as well as a thinker, she purchased land at Crockett Cove, imagined houses

that nestled in the woods, hugging the land, in harmony with their surroundings, then built them. She designed ingenious, multileveled structures of stone and wood, which conformed to the shape of the ground, decorated with indoor planters and unique pebbled mosaics. Each of the 46 houses was different. Each showed Emily's artistic eye.

In 1975 she donated to The Nature Conservancy a large parcel amounting to 97 acres of the woods at Crockett Cove. This became Crockett Cove Woods Preserve, located off Whitman Road in Stonington, with a nature trail for the use and enjoyment of the island community, the preservation of a very spe-

Continued on page 3

President's Letter

It's never a quiet week – or winter – here in our Maine version of Lake Wobegone. Snow filled the woods, ice filled the coves, and even the Reach skimmed over. Now birds are arriving, salamanders seek the vernal pools, and Ann Hooke has prepared the Walks & Talks schedule for another season. The Maine State Museum is holding an archaeological field research program on Deer Isle this summer, so we are highlighting Deer Isle archaeology in this year's Walks & Talks events.

We were relieved to receive notification that the application for two salmon pens off Little Deer Isle was temporarily withdrawn just before we filed a Letter of Testimony. We remain committed to supporting the public trust of sub-tidal waters and submerged lands, especially in the vicinity of conserved lands. The Land Committee completed two conservation easements. We have some exciting land protection projects in



PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

Roger Hooke crossing the sea ice on Long Cove to visit Sawyer Island last February.

the works for 2003 that are still confidential.

The Education Committee has donated sets of Finders field guides to classrooms, the elementary school library, and town libraries. We are working with teachers on field trips and a nature trail. The Committee continues work on informing the public on invasive plant species. As part of our ongoing community outreach, the trust will again participate in the Lupine Festival.

The Stewardship Committee has completed guidelines for management of our owned properties. We are cooperating with The Nature Conservancy and the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and

Wildlife on how best to protect the nesting Bald Eagles on Barred Island.

In April, the Board held a strategic planning retreat prior to redefining our staff needs. But even with increased staff assistance, we will remain a volunteer organization. Our committees are by no means limited to Trustees, so whether you work with axe or pen, whether you are a year-round or part-time resident, we welcome your ideas and expertise. Finally, all our efforts are limited chiefly by time and money, thus we acknowledge your donations with gratitude.

Ken Crowell

Curbing Invasive Plants on Deer Isle

Often one's first impression of non-native, invasive plants is their beauty—a marsh with graceful spikes of Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), the vines and orange seeds of Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*) on a fall wreath, the fullness of bamboo (Japanese Knot Weed, *Fallopia japonica*) covering an abandoned slope, or the prickly, red-seeded Japanese Bayberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), whose leaves have turned red and orange in the fall.

Each of these plants have the potential to take over native habitats, choking out native plants and bird and wildlife habitats. The result is reduced biodiversity with losses at many levels.

Stop by the IHT office for identification cards from the Maine Natural Areas Program, or call directly (207-287-8044). We should try to get



PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE

Ken and Marnie Crowell showing invasive plants and resources to control them.

rid of plants before they set their seeds in late summer. If you choose to dig up the plants, always plant something else where the soil has been broken, as seeds of these invasive plants are very aggressive. While herbicides are often used as a last resort, they are the most effective

means of control. Products such as Roundup, Rodeo, Accord, and Garlon 3A are the least toxic, and their residue in the soil is inactive.

In one season, **Bamboo** can grow to be nine feet tall. If you dig up the plant, destroy all roots. Cutting stems in early spring, re-cutting throughout the season as new shoots emerge, and using herbicide in the cut stems will be more successful. **Bittersweet vines** should be cut at the roots. Remove the vines in the fall to prevent damage to the supporting plant. Apply herbicides to the cut stems.

Control **Barberry** by digging it up and burning the plant to destroy the seeds. **Purple Loosestrife** grows in a few of Deer Isle's wetlands and is most easily controlled by hand pulling, being careful to get all the roots.

Report the sites of these plants to the IHT office (207-348-2455) so that we can focus our eradication efforts where plants grow on the property of willing landowners.

Emily Muir's Foresight a Gift to Deer Isle

Continued from page 1

cial wooded environment. Emily had made other gifts for conservation in the form of islands. She gave Wreck Island, off Stonington, to The Nature Conservancy, which later transferred the deed to IHT as owners and stewards. She sold Russ Island to the Island Institute at a bargain price, and it now serves as a beautiful picnic spot, a schooner stopover, and a kayak-landing for Deer Islanders and visitors alike.

The Preserve created at Crockett Cove Woods is a heavily wooded one. The trees of the forest are those common to Deer Isle woods – white and red spruce, balsam fir, white birch, and in the wetter areas, larch and white cedar. The prominent feature of the woods is the thick layer of moss and lichen over granite ledge. The cool, moisture-laden winds from the ocean form a “coastal fog forest,” the perfect conditions for the growth of moss and lichen. Forty-five species of lichen have been identified on the Preserve, three of which are uncommon or rare in the U.S.

It is these wonderful, mossy and lichen-covered woods, Emily Muir's gift to the residents and visitors to the island, which we treasure. We honor her foresight in preserving them for posterity.

Peg Myers

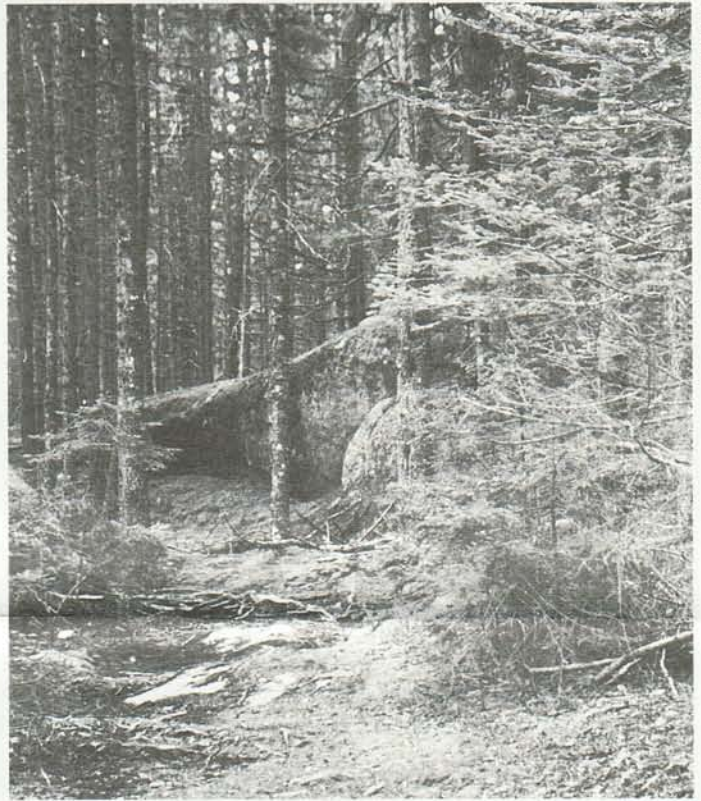


PHOTO BY JEAN WHEELER

The moss and lichen-covered rocks of Crockett Cove Woods, which was donated to The Nature Conservancy by Emily Muir in 1975.

“Leave No Trace” Encourages Good Stewardship Practices

During the winter the IHT Stewardship Committee's “Core Group” has completed our Stewardship Policies. These detailed policies apply to properties owned by the IHT, and they form the basis for the brief Use Codes on signs and brochures.

We hope that you will find the General Use Code (for mainland properties) and Off-shore Island Use Code understandable and easy

to follow. The Use Codes urge that you *Leave No Trace* of your visit, and point out ways to accomplish that goal, such as pack out all trash and waste; day use only (no camping); limit group size to 6 preferably but a maximum of 12 for mainland sites and 10 for off-shore islands; leave pets at home (except Shore Acres, the Settlement Quarry, and the Tennis Preserve where leashed dogs are permitted); kindle no open fires; keep to established trails, ledges, and rocks; and keep far away from islands with nesting seabirds or eagles and from seal pupping ledges.

As you visit the preserves you may notice some changes. This summer both Wreck and Round Islands are listed with Maine Island Trail Association (MITA) for day use. It is hoped that our team stewardship effort with MITA will reduce the inappropriate uses of these islands.

We know that many of you take it upon yourselves to pick up any trash you find, to report to the office any problems you observe, and to re-

mind visitors it is important to comply with the Use Codes.

With the continuing increase in the number of visitors to all public lands, land managers recognize the need for up-to-date and complete policies on which to base protective Use Codes. Many of our policies are similar to those of The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Leave No Trace, and the Maine Island Trail Association, so you may already be familiar with them.

If you would like to discuss any particular policy or Use Code with the Stewardship Committee, please contact the IHT office, at 207-348-2455 or e-mail, ihttwo@prexar.com.

We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Diane Walker

PHOTO BY ANN HOOKE



Stan Ingram, Ken Crowell, and Max McCormack discussing route of new trail at Barred Island Preserve.

Become an IHT Member

Interested in IHT membership? Contact us at 207-348-2455 or P.O. Box 42, Deer Isle, Maine 04627 to volunteer, or contribute.



2003 Spring and Summer Walks & Talks

Sponsored by Island Heritage Trust, Stonington Conservation Commission,
Deer Isle Conservation Commission, and Deer Isle Walking Trails Group

For information, reservations, and changes due to weather: Call 348-2455

Thu. June 5 Ice Age and the First Americans on Deer Isle. Talk by Professors Harold Borns and David Sanger of the University of Maine. Reach Auditorium. 2:00 p.m. Open to all. Co-sponsored by Hudson Museum Friends, Island Heritage Trust, Deer-Isle Stonington High School, Island Education Fund, Deer Isle-Stonington Historical Society, and Deer Isle Adult Education Program.

Sat. June 7 Birds and Bird Calls for Beginners. Led by Diane Walker. Held at Holt Mill Pond Preserve (park and meet at Island Medical Center) at 7:00 a.m. Rain date June 8.

Sat. June 14 Gardening with Native Woodland, Field, and Marsh Wildflowers. Led by Marshall Rice, Sr. and Lindsay Bowker. Held at Cove Meadow (off route 15A near Deer Isle-Stonington town line). 9:00 a.m. Rain date June 17.

Sat. June 28 Common Trees of Deer Isle. Walk led by Max McCormack at Shore Acres Preserve. (Greenlaw District Road in Deer Isle). Meet at 9:30 a.m. If you wish, you may bring twig & leaf samples of your own trees about which you would like to learn more. Rain date June 29.

IHT ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

The Island Country Club, Wed. July 16, 7:00 p.m.

Guest speaker: Dr. Steven Cox of the Maine State Museum,
"Moving with the Seasons: Prehistoric Native American Settlement
on the Central Maine Coast." All welcome!

Sat. July 5 Mosses and Lichens of Crockett Cove Woods. Walk led by botanist, Fred Olday. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at south entrance of Crockett Cove Woods off Whitman Road in Stonington. Rain date July 7.

Fri. July 18 Deer Isle the Way It Was. Illustrated talk by Bill Haviland. At Sunset Parish House, just south of Sunset Post office, at 7:00 p.m.

Sat. July 19 Hardy Farm Visit. Walk the old Hardy Farm and Causeway Beach area with Bill Haviland. Meet at the Causeway Beach at Deer Isle end of Causeway at 9:30 a.m. Rain date July 20.

Fri. July 25 Care and Culture of Your Small Woodlot. Talk by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. Held at Sunset Parish House in Sunset (just south of Sunset Post Office) at 7:30 p.m.

Sat. July 26 Care and Culture of Your Small Woodlot. Walk led by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden, (opposite Sunset Post Office) at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon, or bring lunch and participate in further observations and discussion. Rain date July 27.

Wed. July 30 Old Quarry Charters Boat Tour and Picnic for IHT members. Boat tour of IHT islands and island easements with picnic provided on an island. Depart 9:30 a.m. and return 2:30 p.m. Cost \$30 (includes lunch). New members welcome! Rain date July 31. RESERVATIONS NECESSARY: call 348-2455.

Fri. Aug. 1 Introduction to the Geology of Deer Isle. Talk by geologist Roger Hooke. Held at Sunset Parish House, just south of Post Office in Sunset, at 7:00 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 2 Glacial Geology Field Trip of Deer Isle Area. Joint Blue Hill Heritage Trust/ Island Heritage Trust Event. Walk led by Roger Hooke. Meet at Mariners Memorial Park in Deer Isle at 9:00 a.m. Trip ends at Caterpillar Hill in time for a picnic lunch. Rain date August 4.

Mon. Aug. 4 The Ecological Significance of Salt Marshes. Talk by marine biologist, Bob Knowlton. To be held at Sunset Parish House, just south of Post Office in Sunset at 7:00 p.m.

2003 Spring and Summer Walks & Talks

Wed. Aug. 6 Salt Marsh Ecology of Holt Mill Pond. Morning walk led by marine biologist, Bob Knowlton. RESERVATIONS NECESSARY: call 348-2455.

Fri. Aug. 8 Bedrock Geology Field Trip Around Deer Isle. Walk led by Roger Hooke. Meet at Settlement Quarry parking area off Oceanville Road. Wear hat with brim. Back by 1:00 p.m. Rain date August 9.

Tue. Aug. 12 Kayaking on Holt Mill Pond. Led by Ken Crowell. Meet at South Deer Isle Bridge at 10:30. High tide 11:51 a.m. Rain date August 13.

Thu. Aug. 14 Annual Polypod Island Picnic. Meet at Polypod Island for a picnic around noon. High tide: 1:20 p.m. Rain date August 15.

Mon. Aug. 18 Migrating Shorebirds of Deer Isle. Meet at parking area across from Sunset Parish House at 9:00 a.m. Led by Chip Mosely and Ken Crowell. Extra binoculars available. Rain date August 19.

Wed. Aug. 20 The Indians of Deer Isle. Talk by Bill Haviland, retired archaeologist and Deer Isle historian. Held at the Sunset Parish House at 7:00 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 22 Rejuvenating our Coastal Spruce-Fir Forests. Talk given by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. To be held at Sunset Parish House, just south of Sunset Post Office at 7:00 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 23 Spruce-Fir Forest Walk. Walk led by Max McCormack, retired professor of forestry. Meet at Sunset Memorial Garden opposite Sunset Post Office at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon, or bring lunch and participate in further observations and discussion. Rain date August 24.

Sat. Sep 6 Early Fall Walk with a Naturalist. Walk led by botanist Sally Rooney. Meet at the Tennis Preserve (Tennis Road off Sunshine Road) at 9:30 a.m.

We Need Your Help in Caring for Properties

As the weather warms up, we all look forward to visiting favorite IHT properties, discovering new ones, and introducing guests to interesting and beautiful places here on Deer Isle and on off-shore islands. Island Heritage Trust owns 8 properties, including 5 off-shore islands. These preserves, totaling 280 acres and 4.5 miles of shoreline, are open to the public. We welcome the opportunity to protect and care for our growing number of properties, but we can use your help.

YOU CAN HELP US care for these properties. We count on volunteers like you to help us remove winter storm debris, repair trails, pick up trash, revise brochures and ensure they are available at trail heads, and protect the eagle family on Barred Island from stressful intrusions.

Stan Ingram, our staff stewardship person, usually removes large blow-downs. We then organize work "parties" for less strenuous chores. Members with boats offer to take a work group to an island to remove trash carried in by the tide. Helping with various stewardship activities offers an opportunity to see old friends and meet new ones. We encourage you to call the IHT office to let us know what you would like to do to help. For specific preserves, contact Ken Crowell, steward of the Barred Island Preserve (348-6065), Ann Hooke, steward of Shore Acres Preserve and the Settlement Quarry (348-2455), Barbara and Ralph Seeley, stewards of the Tennis Preserve (348-2559), and Flora and Henry Krinsky, stewards of Crockett Cove Woods Preserve (367-2674).

Diane Walker



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On behalf of Island Heritage Trust we thank each and every one of you for your generous support of our work. Donors whose gifts were received between January 1, 2002 and April 28, 2003 are included. If we have omitted your name, please let us know so we can correct the error

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Reflections from the New Interim Executive Director

After being president for two years, I have now stepped into the staff position of Interim Director for the Trust. This gives the Board time to make strategic plans and important choices about the best way to maintain dedicated commitment to our mission. Fortunately, the Trust has received two capacity building grants from the Unity and Davis Foundations for a total of \$15,000 to assist in this process. Part of these awards will support a survey of members to give you a chance to express your priorities for the Trust's efforts. We hope you will choose to participate in this survey.

The larger island community has also made some comments in the last few months that underline the importance of our mission. Public opinion surveys completed by the Stonington Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Healthy Island Project both gave strong support to protecting wildlife habitat, scenic views, wetlands, forest, and agricultural land. However, in the Stonington Comprehensive Plan questionnaire the biggest reason given for Stonington's rural way of life being threatened is "People from away

buying land" (32% of respondents).

Public access to the shore is also mentioned repeatedly as being of importance to this island community. There has been a long history of sharing shore access and of sharing caretaking of the land. The dramatic increase of "No Trespassing" signs on traditional roads and pathways is discouraging. In developed areas on the mainland, these signs are often necessary to maintain privacy and security. Here on the island they decrease security. If you are a seasonal or year-round resident, consider alternatives to no trespassing signs as "Clammers please park here," "House occupied, hunt with care, please do not litter," "Winter walkers welcome," or "Request owner permission before trespassing." Take the initiative to meet neighbors and use friendly signs that tell people how you want them to treat your land.

If you are a seasonal resident, you will find a drop in vandalism and a willingness to "keep an eye" on your land while you are away as your neighbors have a deep love for this island. Those of us who have the good fortune to own shore property owe the hard-working fisher-

men and clammers, who give the island its distinct character, ready access to the shore.

These comments reflect the broadening of activities and interests at the Trust of being good neighbors. While there are several exciting land protection projects in process, we are also increasingly involved with community and educational projects. We welcome your questions, and your interest in becoming a volunteer in the office, on the trails, on committees, as writers, educators, or consultants. Stop by and visit us in the office in Deer Isle village!

Ann Hooke

Consider A Bequest

Leave a legacy for generations to enjoy. For more information call IHT at 207-348-2455 or write to us at 3 Main Street, P. O. Box 42, Deer Isle, ME 04627.

Two Important Easements Added Last Winter

Over the past winter, we have added two significant and unique easements to our protected land. Each is important beyond its actual size because its location.

EAGLE ISLAND

Bill Ginn and June LaCombe have donated the first-ever easement covering 17 acres on beautiful Eagle Island in East Penobscot Bay. Eagle Island, with more than 300 acres, is largely undeveloped. A lighthouse on the northeast point is a major element in the vista from the western side of Deer Isle. We hope that the leadership shown by the Ginn family will encourage other landowners on Eagle Island to begin thinking of conservation easements so this island can maintain its traditional rugged, undeveloped character for future generations. This easement does not provide for public access so we ask that you respect the privacy of the owners who have generously agreed to restrict development of their property.

36-ACRE FARM PROPERTY

IHT has been given a conservation easement on a 36-acre tradi-



PHOTO BY GORDON RITTMAYER

View along beach of Eagle Island easement, recently donated by Bill Ginn and June LaCombe.

tional Maine farm, which is unique in that it is surrounded by the Tennis Preserve. This farm, with its open meadows and picturesque traditional farmhouse and barn, faces Southeast Harbor. With this easement, 147 contiguous acres of land are protected from excessive development.

Please keep in mind that while the Tennis Preserve is open to the public, this farm property is not part of the preserve and the easement

does not provide for public access.

In the 14 years the IHT has been in existence, we have regularly reported on new easements, gifts, and purchases that have protected acreage and shoreline. Sometimes, however, a chart can be much more informative than numbers. The charts below show how the efforts of IHT volunteers have been successful in fulfilling our core mission of protecting land from overdevelopment.

