

Maine Legacy

Storehouse

Winter 1998

The Nature Conservancy

Seeing Through
Nature's Eyes
Page Six

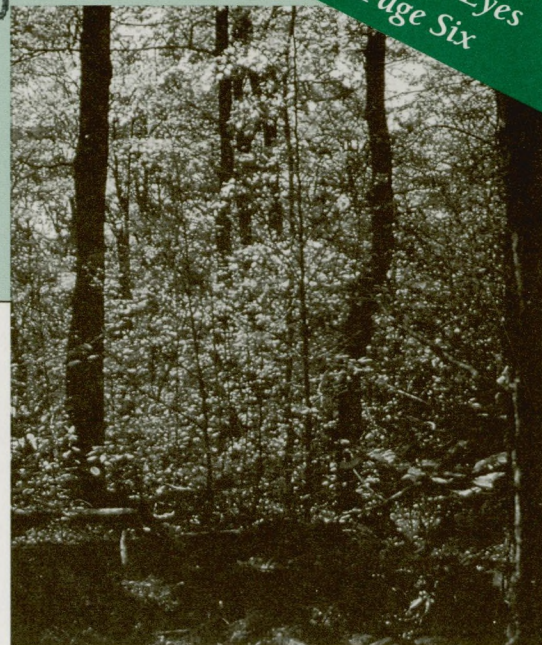
Forested Peninsula

Above a tangled maze of roots and hollows, fallen logs and broken branches, six saplings stand straight in a row. They are an arresting sight: order within a forest of tall and tumbled trees where Nature alone decides what stands or falls.

One could guess that these began as hopeful seeds released from cones of the hundred-year-old hemlock trees nearby. They sank their tendril roots along a moist, rich mound of moss and humus, marking the length of a single tree which had lain decomposing many years upon the forest floor. And the light, into which the young trees now grow, penetrates the forest canopy through the very hole torn open - as if by foresight - when that nurse log first fell.

This densely forested peninsula, which nearly bisects Cathance Lake in Cooper, has many such stories to teach about life within a forest left to its own devices. And many more generations will have the opportunity to learn them within this 721-acre forest, thanks to the Bailey Wildlife Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and a 67-year tradition of private stewardship by two Maine families.

In 1930, when the Pike and Alden families looked across Cathance Lake at this peninsula, many of the forest stands had not been harvested in some 30 years. Moses Pike purchased the land with its six and a half miles of shoreline on behalf of the families. Together they watched as loons nested in its coves, area fishermen pulled their boats ashore and the forest followed its uncharted course.



The 721-acre peninsula dominating Cathance Lake in Cooper, will stay forever wild.

This commitment to conservation was passed on to eleven heirs from Maine to Thailand. They concluded that as their families grew and shares were further subdivided, the challenge of maintaining these lands in their natural state would become ever more complicated.

With this in mind, they have explored conservation alternatives with The Nature Conservancy over the years. And with their permission, the Conservancy introduced the Bailey Wildlife Foundation to this maturing Downeast forest. Together with the families, the conservation partners agreed upon a new way of fulfilling the tradition of stewardship.

Already a supporter of land protection in Maine (at the Waterboro Barrens Preserve), the Bailey Wildlife Foundation moved decisively: a \$425,000 grant to the Conservancy is the largest in the Foundation's history. In turn, The Nature Conservancy committed to raising the remaining \$151,000 to complete the purchase. A National Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant of \$75,000 has brought our fund-raising challenge



BILL SILLIKER JR.

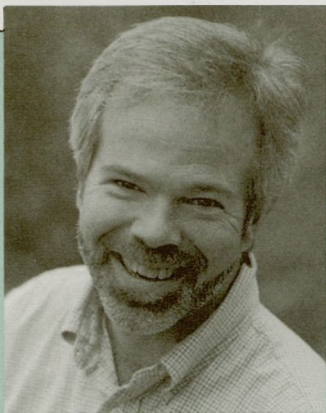
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The Director's Column

by Kent W. Wonnack



In this issue of *Maine Legacy*, we introduce you to a work in progress. It is called *Conservation by Design* and the article appearing on pages 6 and 7 describes its origins and its importance. In short, it establishes a new way of measuring conservation success, using a yardstick that is much more ambitious and far less forgiving.

Seeing Through Nature's Eyes will describe why we believe it is important to look at habitat on a broader scale in large naturally defined areas we call ecoregions. These ecoregions ignore state boundaries and even national

borders. Instead, they are defined by the patterns of nature.

We will evaluate the importance of sites based on their ecoregion-wide importance as well as their importance within Maine. The key concept, I think, is that we

will be able to set our priorities much more strategically. Every project will be seen in this larger context and contribute to a larger vision.

Conservation by Design marks a new beginning for The Nature Conservancy, a change of tremendous importance, not just for our organization, but, we fervently hope, for conservation worldwide. In addition, we have set our sights on protecting significantly larger sites and landscapes. We will do this, in part, by leveraging the interest

and resources of partners through the kinds of community-based work underway in Cobscook Bay and around Mount Agamenticus. At Mt. A, for example, our work has included traditional land acquisition but has also involved work with other landowners to establish management plans that will protect elements of the larger landscape.

Despite these new emphases, there is much that is not changing. For instance, our mission remains focused on protecting the plant and animal habitats that together represent the richness of earth's bounty. Guided as always by the best conservation science, we continue to focus our on-the-ground protection efforts on specific sites where protection will make a significant and lasting difference.

We continue to work in the non-confrontational manner that has been

Forested Peninsula

continued from page one

down to \$76,000 for the coming months.

Today, the Bailey Wildlife Foundation holds title to the property while the Conservancy holds a forever wild conservation easement. Both organizations look forward to working in partnership to protect this naturally evolving forest and have agreed that traditional uses important to local residents, such as hunting, hiking and fishing, will continue.

That continuity of protection and neighborliness is very satisfying to the families. Moses Pike's daughter, Mary Collegeman, travels back to Cathance Lake every summer from her home in Washington State. The forested peninsula is among her earliest memories. Her father had purchased it just months before she was born.



BARBARA VICKERY

The peninsula is dotted with small wetlands, adding to its diversity and beauty.

"I have lived by or visited the lake every year for my 66 years," she says. "And I always make for the peninsula first thing and fetch up on one of those rocks along the shore. The peninsula has survived as a remnant of the great northern forest. It is healthy and beautiful and untouched..

"I like to plunge into the forest. I always find something new. One year I remember striking off and the walking was very rugged. For balance, I reached out to this large moss-covered boulder and my hand just went down and down and down. I'd never seen moss so deep and so rich.



Cathance Lake shore

so successful over the years and we continue to enlist partners from all walks of life. We will also continue to work through our decentralized structure of offices and within the political boundaries that best serve human governance.

In other words, we continue to seek better ways to accomplish our mission and reward your trust.

"I am glad it will remain open to the public. We've had some very good neighbors who have been kind and helped us protect the land from harm. They value what this undeveloped shoreland with its rocks and sandy stretches and deep coves means to the quality of the water and the quality of their lives.

"And I'm glad for the loons" Mary Collegeman says with a smile. "I've watched over the years as they've extended their nesting habitat from Loon Cove to Loon Point and on along the shore to the east. They've been good neighbors too."

Head of tide on the Abagadasset River.



GEORGIA HALL

Head of Tide Abagadasset River

Deer tracks, dark cloven imprints in the early winter snow, lead to the shore of the Abagadasset River. A gently rising tide buckles the coating of ice which has glazed the estuary, sending low resonant pings along the marshy shoreline. Midstream and unfazed by the sounds of cracking ice (or of hushed human voices nearby), a great blue heron stands, gray as dusk and rigid as statuary, waiting for an unwary fish to swim beneath its sharp and ready beak.

Under the snow near water's edge, a suite of rare plants awaits the spring: Estuary monkey flower (*Mimulus ringens*), Pygmyweed (*Crassula aquatica*), and Estuary Bur-Marigold (*Biden hyperborea*) among them. It is about the plants the human voices murmur.

These belong to Fran Leyman and John Detweiler, who have placed over 1,700 feet of Abagadasset River frontage in Bowdoinham under conservation easement with the Friends of Merrymeeting Bay. Along with Betsy Ham, Executive Director of Friends of Merrymeeting Bay, and Will Brune, Assistant Director of Land Protection for the Conservancy, they have made their way through boot-deep snow to inspect boundary markers to finalize



Life beneath the ice.

WILL BRUNE

the conservation easement on this stretch of the Abagadasset.

Snow was on no one's mind when this story began last summer: the Conservancy had written landowners along the tidal river seeking permission to enter their property to inventory the vegetation in this part of the Merrymeeting Bay watershed (the river is one of seven that feed Merrymeeting Bay). Leyman and Detweiler readily granted that request, as did others, but they believed they could do more.

Their deep charitable sale of the easement covers 41 acres at head of tide, where uplands of red pine, oak and maple are cut by ravines slicing to the Abagadasset. At the base of the ravines, at the water's edge, the rare plants, which occur only in estuaries and have their greatest concentrations in Maine in these Merrymeeting Bay environs, will emerge next spring.

Within the easement, the couple has reserved a building lot well away from the marshland plants and the river. The Conservancy provided the land trust funds to cover the nominal costs of the easement. And now, as these conservation partners and other members of the Maine Wetlands Coalition plan work around the nationally significant resources of Merrymeeting Bay, this conservation easement will provide an early anchor to the land and its people.

Adding Acres

Additions to Nature Conservancy preserves are important for a variety of reasons. Some, as in the case of Ayers Brook Preserve, help protect the the natural processes on which these habitats depend. Some, like the addition to Barred Island Preserve, aid our stewardship efforts. And others, Big White Island is a current example, secure increased ownership interests, providing greater assurance that we will be able to protect these sites into the future.

Ayers Brook

Ayers Brook Preserve is a growing part of a nationally significant wetland, the Passadumkeag Marsh and Boglands, recognized as a national natural landmark a quarter century ago. More recent studies have rated the eccentric bog here as Maine's most outstanding example of this peatland type - and Maine may be the only state in the country to have eccentric bogs.

Conservation success here has grown, essentially, out of the generosity of area landowners and the ability of the Conservancy to work cooperatively

with a range of landowner concerns. Since the original donation of a 500-acre tract in 1995, six of the next seven parcels have been acquired as gifts. Even the lone purchase was a very generous charitable sale.

The most recent additions will bring the total area protected at this unusual wetland complex to approximately 2,075 acres. They also link previously protected tracts, making the preserve

a single contiguous unit.

Bell Bronfeld of New York has donated two tracts totaling 578 acres, while another landowner is preparing to donate some 350 acres.

The wetlands provide habitat for the extremely rare Tomah mayfly (*Siphonisca aerodromia*) which is found in limited numbers in only nine locations in Maine. Over the years, the Conservancy has helped protect two other



NICK BECKER

Winter frosts the shoreline of Ayers Brook Preserve.

1998 Field Trips

1. *Snow dependent* Crossing Saco Heath on Skis

Saco, Saturday, February 14;
9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Shake off the winter doldrums, strap on those cross country skis and rediscover Saco's urban wilderness

in winter. Naturalist and veteran ski trippers Nate Greene and Ken Rice lead this off-boardwalk exploration of the heath's forest and wetlands. Strenuous.

2. *Snow dependent* Ski the Pitch Pine Forest

Waterboro, Saturday, February 21; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a moderately strenuous cross country ski trip through the pitch pine scrub oak barrens - one of only 20 major pine barrens remaining in the world. Join Southern Maine Preserves Manager Nancy Sferra as you ski the softly rolling terrain of this unique ecosystem

3. Snowshoe Indian Point-Blagden

Bar Harbor, Saturday, February 28; 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Experience the fascinating winter world of Indian Point-Blagden as Steward Doug Radziewicz leads a snowshoe excursion through the coniferous forests and rocky shoreline of our Mount Desert Island preserve. He'll point out tracks of winter-active wildlife and discuss their cold-weather adaptations.

Field Trip Reservation Guidelines

Reservations: A must. PLEASE CALL (207) 729-5181 during business hours. Space is limited to 15 persons per trip and phone reservations are accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis. If space is available when you call, you will be asked to send in the fee. **Fee:** Non-refundable \$15 per person, adult or child. Trips will be held rain, shine or snow - so please dress appropriately. Restroom facilities are not available. Bring a beverage, lunch or snacks depending on the time.

Tomah mayfly habitats: 15 miles along the Mattawamkeag River (4,119 acres); and a four mile stretch (1,425 acres) of wetlands and woods along Mattagodus Stream.

Marsh, Sparrow and Broad-wing Hawks are common sights at Ayers Brook. Merganser, Ring-neck and Black ducks breed along the Passadumkeag River, Ayers Brook and Cold Stream. Beaver lodges and muskrat dens can be seen and abundant signs of deer, raccoon and mink.

Vegetation is diverse, with upland forests transitioning to cedar swamps, and then to deep layers of sphagnum mosses supporting wetlands of leather-leaf, rhodora and cottongrass. Sedge meadows edge the streams. Beneath the waters, rare yellow lampmussels have been spotted. Along with the Tomah mayfly, these are dependable indicators of water quality.

Barred Island

In contrast to the hundreds of acres added to Ayers Brook Preserve, a two-acre addition to the Barred Island Preserve in Deer Isle may seem small at first. Not to us. To begin with, although we own a partial interest in 47 adjacent acres, Barred Island is but two acres itself. The property just

donated by David and Mary Ruggieri of Punta Gorda, Florida is particularly important for two reasons. First, it adds to the preserve a tract of land over which the road to Barred Island has passed with permission of the Ruggieris. Ownership allows the Conservancy to make long range plans for access and trail maintenance. Second, and perhaps most important to visitors, this attractive parcel is in direct line of sight from island outlooks. Had it become a house lot, a reasonable possibility, those views would have been diminished.

Big White Island

Big White Island is one of eight islands The Nature Conservancy protects around Vinalhaven. The Conservancy's ownership in the 25-



Barred Island Preserve



Big White Island Preserve

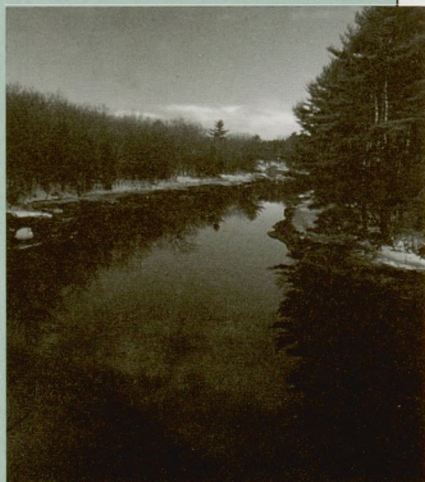
acre island has grown over the course of thirty years through three equal donations of undivided interest. Austin Lamont began the process in 1968 with his gift of a 25% interest. Charles Cunningham left another 25% interest to the Conservancy when he died in 1979.

This winter Margo and David Heap of Greenwich, CT donated their 25% undivided interest, raising the Conservancy's share to a 75%. undivided interest in this spruce-fir covered island. While there are no trails on Big White or its preserve neighbor Big Garden Island, there are protected landings and a walk on the rocky shore may yield a view of the osprey nesting there.

4. Birding along the Kennebunk

Kennebunk, Saturday, May 16; 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Be among the first to welcome Maine's returning songbirds this spring as Nancy McReel shares her extensive knowledge of things ornithological. Robert Butler will explain the history of the Kennebunk Land Trust's 200-acre Butler/Marshall Preserve, before and after its transfer from the Conservancy to the land trust.



Butler/Marshall Preserve

Have You Heard the Good News?



The gift annuity rates have gone up!

If you're over 50, consider making a gift that will provide you income for life and create a living legacy. Call our field office for details.

PHOTO © DIANE E. CHENAU/PHOTO CONTEST '97 HONORABLE MENTION

Pick up a road map and what do you see? A colorful jumble of lines, unbending highways, squiggly byways and sharp-edged political boundaries.

Urban areas appear in un-urban shadings of yellow and pink; rivers and lakes a pale, uniform blue. And scattered everywhere are place names that tell nothing about the place. These unnatural maps get most of us where we want to go - most of the time.

They don't get us any closer to protecting the great variety of the natural world. And so we are creating other maps, natural maps. These maps spread before us large areas each with common patterns of climate, topography, hydrology, vegetation and wildlife.

Such areas, called *ecoregions*, pay no heed to state lines or national borders. Their amorphous shapes are narrow or broad, large or small, in response to natural phenomenon rather than political happenstance. And because each captures plant and animal life common to a certain set of natural features, they provide a more reliable context in which to evaluate how well we are protecting native habitats. Most importantly,

We have taken an unblinking look at how well we are meeting our mission.

they help conservation planners decide what we need to do next.

Are We There Yet?

And that's the point. This fascination with maps is not an end in itself. It is but one outcome of top to bottom Conservancy-wide soul searching.

Over the course of recent years we have taken an unblinking look at how well we are meeting our core mission of protecting biological

Seeing Through Nature's Eyes



BARBARA VICKERY

diversity on earth. For an organization that has experienced tremendous growth and unprecedented success in land conservation, one might expect

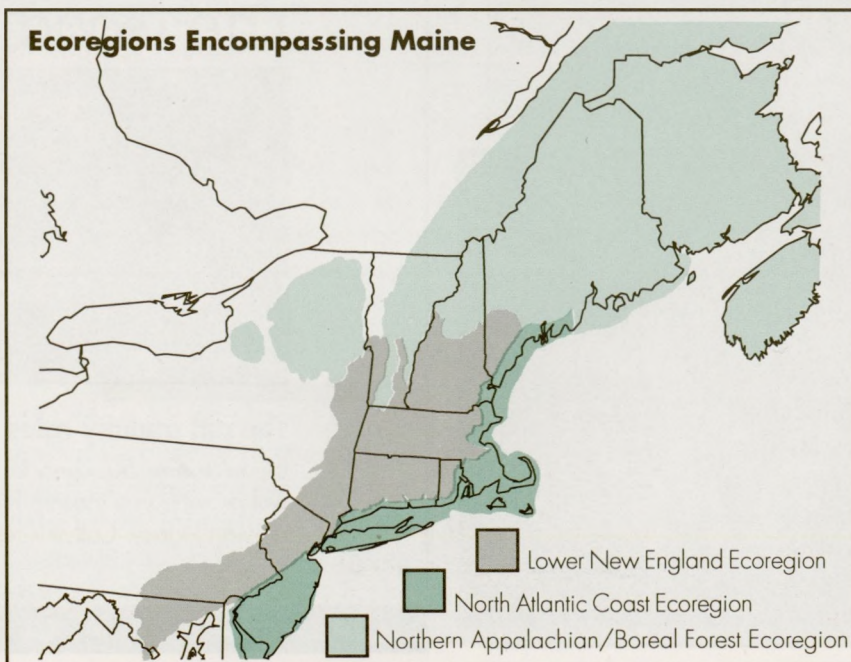
this self assessment to result in broad smiles and hearty handshakes all around. We have, after all, protected over 10 million acres in the United States (including modest success in Canada). In many states, such as Maine, we have been able to play a leading role in a constellation of dedicated and purposeful land trusts. And The Nature Conservancy has helped international partners protect an additional 59 million acres, primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These are powerful statistics and we are proud that they represent real and growing progress, the kind our members and supporters expect. But in evaluating our progress, we weren't asking whether we had rung up impressive numbers: we asked ourselves if, by any measure, our efforts constituted success against our core goal of preserving the plants and animals that represent the diversity of life on earth.

State-of-the-art wasn't good enough.

And while we could congratulate ourselves on a state-of-the-art effort, we concluded that the forces of extinction, extirpation and pervasive habitat degradation were outracing the

Ecoregions Encompassing Maine



THE NATURE CONSERVANCY SPATIAL INFORMATION DATABASE/MAINE CHAPTER

For planning purposes, the Conservancy has divided the United States into 53 ecoregions, large areas with common natural features and dynamics. These provide a real-world context in which to evaluate the health of native plants, animals and natural communities - and more efficient ways to protect them. Three such ecoregions overlap the political boundaries of Maine.



BARBARA VICKERY

forces of conservation and preservation. As we feared, widespread indications of public complacency are wildly out of sync with what is happening in the natural world. The sobering news: the Conservancy - and all our environmental partners - need to work much harder and much smarter.

Conservation by Design

In short, state-of-the-art wasn't good enough. We had to set new standards for land conservation. The result is a framework for mission success we call *Conservation by Design*.

Two major concepts characterize the plan. One, already referred to, is use of ecoregional planning. This will allow states to look at their list of potential protection sites in a broader and more meaningful context. In evaluating two sites of roughly equal statewide significance, wouldn't it make the best sense to spend our members' next dollars on the one that also held regionwide significance?

The second concept is something of a paradigm shift. Consider the statistics quoted above: they tell us how many acres we have protected and where. Then ask yourself, how many acres will we need to protect and where? It's a

*Public complacency
is wildly out of sync with
what is happening in the
natural world.*

choice between looking backwards to see how many miles we've traveled, the traditional measurement, and looking forward to see how many miles we need to go before we reach our destination, our goal. *Conservation By Design* chooses the latter. For the first time,



BRUCE KIDMAN

we intend to articulate what it will take in concrete, measurable terms to accomplish our conservation mission. We will have a vision of success.

For members, this means that you will be able to hold us accountable for explaining how our protection work moves us toward that goal. Big acres will always make good newsprint. But acres and actions that truly add the next most strategic piece to our conservation puzzle will matter far more.

In Maine our advantage is also our challenge. Unlike so many other states, Maine still has good examples of most of the 100+ natural communities representative of our state's landscape. We still have the opportunity to preserve viable, intact natural areas - if we act soon.

Which do we protect first? The ecoregional approach will help us decide. The knowledge that a certain pine barren or floodplain forest is also important within a broader context will help guide our priorities.

The work necessary to implement *Conservation By Design* is a work in progress; will always be a work in progress and one to be shared with our many partners. Ultimately, we will need to share its message with many others outside the conservation movement as well, for our society will be defined not only by what we choose to save but by what we refuse to destroy.

*Three images
from three
ecoregions that
reach into Maine:
the Lower New
England, the
North Atlantic
Coast and the
Northern
Appalachian/
Boreal Forest. But
which is which?*



Tom's of Maine - Last fall, the Environmental Federation of New England presented Tom's of Maine the first Environmental Friend of New England award. The Nature Conservancy, a member of the Federation, nominated Tom's of Maine for this award.

John Divillars, Director of Region I of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (left) and Carolyn O'Brien, executive director of the Federation (second from right) were on hand as Bridget Chase, the Conservancy's Director of Development for Maine, (second from left) presented this well deserved award to Nancy Rosenzweig of Tom's of Maine (far right). Tom's of Maine is a founding member of the Corporate Conservation Council of Maine.

"When most people think of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, they think of hatcheries, wildlife management and fishing guidelines. But when those of us at The Nature Conservancy think of the Department, we think of individuals. For us, the Department is a composite of familiar faces, capable, helpful and engaged."

Kent Wommack, in presenting the Maine Chapter's 1997 Conservation Partner of the Year award to IF&W at our Annual Meeting in Northeast Harbor last October. In this case, we modified the award to read *Conservation Partners* to recognize the many agency staff we work with on a daily basis.

"She has played a pivotal role in successful federal, state and nonprofit conservation partnerships to protect wetlands and islands of great value for fish and wildlife in coastal Maine; provided leadership, offered technical assistance, authored grant proposals, and coordinated with other partners to successfully protect thousands of acres in the Lower Kennebec River and Machias Bay."

Work Days

We can't recall a Nature Conservancy work day that has been less than fun and productive. Here are three opportunities to help us keep our streak alive.

LaVerna Preserve

Saturday, April 18, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

We will be dismantling part of and securing the remainder of an old building at the site of our new parking area. Basic carpentry skills required. For information and sign-up, please contact Kyle Stockwell at 729-5181 or e-mail at kstockwell@tnc.org

Saco Heath Preserve

Saturday, April 25, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Annual trail maintenance workday to repair the trails and boardwalk at Saco Heath. We will also be replanting some pine trees and repairing fences at the restoration site on the heath - lots to be done. For information and sign-up, please contact Nancy Sferra at 490-4012 or e-mail at nsferra@psouth.net

LaVerna Preserve

Saturday, May 16, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

We will be working at our new parking lot, removing debris, clearing vegetation, and building a fence. And on the preserve proper, clearing trails and putting up signs in order to prepare the preserve for its reopening this coming summer. For information and sign-up, please contact Kyle Stockwell at 729-5181 or e-mail at kstockwell@tnc.org

From an award presented, also at the Annual Meeting, to Roberta Jordan, the Maine Chapter's Director of Land Protection, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for her ongoing work on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan on behalf of the Maine Wetlands Coalition.



LaVerna Preserve

The allure of Maine islands is as beguiling and intangible as an ocean fog. Once we step ashore, salt-laden air seems to fill our lungs more deeply while smells, pungent and fresh, intensify our senses. Here the rattling roll of rounded stones in the surf, the shrill cries of wheeling seabirds and the hiss of the retreating tide are like echoes out of time.

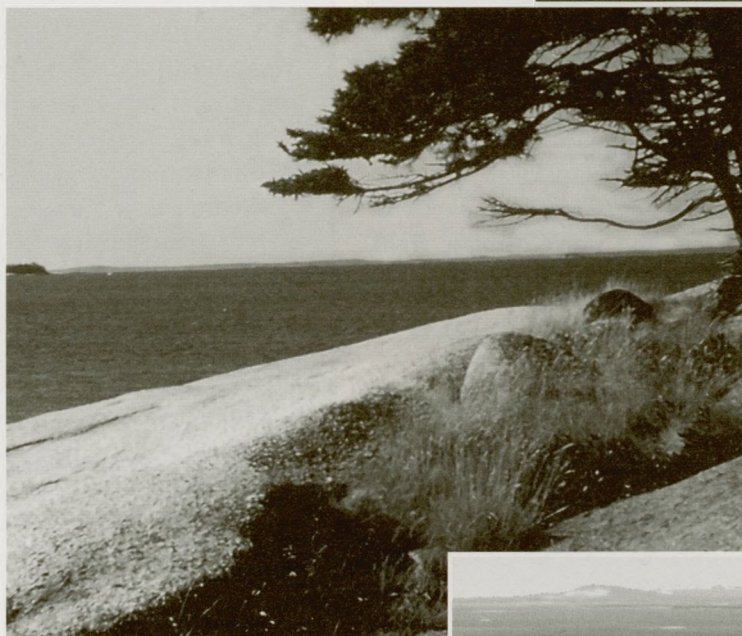
The mystique of Maine islands is palpable, but their fragility is no myth. Since the 1963 acquisition of Turtle Island in Winter Harbor, The Nature Conservancy has protected nearly 110 islands along Maine's coast. Some were acquired only in the nick of time. Others, however, had benefitted from years of private stewardship by conservation-minded owners.

One example of conscientious private stewardship was Margaret Hundley's care of 20-acre Millet Island off Stonington. She watched over the island in life and made provisions for its continued protection in her will. Upon her death last year, the island came to the Conservancy.

In considering the best way to continue her stewardship, the Conservancy took a new look at its holdings in the 50-island Merchant's Row archipelago. In addition to Millet, these included 80-acre Wreck Island and 46-acre Round Island, as well as conservation easements held on three privately-owned properties, Big Coombs, Second and Shingle Islands. What would these islands need to assure their continued protection? Was the Conservancy the best or only possible steward?

Our answers led to an organization with which we already had a strong working relationship: the Island Heritage Trust, a local land trust serving Deer Isle and surrounding islands. Transfer of the three islands and three

Lands In Good Hands



M. M. SMITH



KYLE STOCKWELL

Neighboring islands in neighborly hands: The Nature Conservancy has passed title to Millet Island (above), Wreck Island (left) and Round Island (below) to the Island Heritage Trust. The islands are in Merchant's Row off Stonington.



conservation easements expands Island Heritage Trust's responsibilities dramatically just at the time the land trust is ready to grow.

"The transfer of ownership and responsibility pleases us immensely," says Stan Myers of Blue Hill, president of the 10-year-old land trust. "This will provide greater visibility for us and for conservation work in this area. For local landowners, I think the confidence placed in us by The Nature Conservancy ought to underscore the fact that the Island Heritage Trust is a good conservation partner for our neighbors.

"The most obvious direct conservation benefit to these islands is that we are bound by the same stewardship

goals as the Conservancy but we will be closer at hand. If there is a problem, we're going to know of it right away. And, with our new storefront office in Deer Isle, we will be easy to find."

Thanking Our Friends



KYLE STOCKWELL

Once you understand that it's a new outhouse at Sebobeis River Gorge Preserve that Land Steward Kyle Stockwell sits atop, you just know we passed up some pretty tempting captions! We send our thanks to Al Elis, left, and Stan Goodnow, right, for helping to build it (and for helping Kyle back down).

Good causes attract good people. Our supporters and volunteers prove it. Our most sincere thanks go to **Dana Michaud**, who each year monitors a rare orchid site in Norridgewock, checking their numbers and condition, maintaining landowner contacts and submitting terrific reports; **Nancy Sferra** for donation of an extension ladder; **Don Rahn** for a 14 foot aluminum extension ladder and a book of nautical charts; **Jon Erickson** who has been working hard as volunteer field trip coordinator (already looking ahead to our September 12 Annual Meeting trips around Cobscook Bay); **Shannon-Allie Murphy** and **Samantha Cafferata** who work several half-days each week keeping the office organized; **Dianne Williamson** and **Karen Zacharias** who are the core of Wednesday Volunteer Nights at the Brunswick office; **Jim Hamlin** for donation of tools and maintenance work on the pumper unit we use on prescribed burns; **Nate Greene** for help with installation of groundwater monitoring wells at Saco Heath; **Elizabeth and Tim Spahr**, **Marsha Letourneau**, **Anne Lombard**, **Jim Hamlin**, **Bill Taylor**, **Ken Hutchins**, and **Linda Bates** for help with seed collecting at Kennebunk Plains - and all the other volunteers who make land conservation in Maine such a successful team sport!

Looking For Volunteers

Have you got what we need? We're looking for a **volunteer sign painter**, someone with artistic talent, to make two large preserve signs and a number of smaller signs. We'll supply all materials and basic designs. We hope the volunteer will have access to a tablesaw to cut plywood.

With the addition of a conservation easement on Hog's Neck in Cooper (see page one), we will need a **conservation easement monitor**. Also Downeast, we are looking for a **preserve steward** for a Cobscook Bay island, and for **preserve stewards** and **easement monitors** for a number of islands in the Great Wass Archipelago off Jonesport. Please call Tom Rumpf at 729-5181 if you can help.

Meanwhile, our friends at the Maine Natural Areas Program (within the Maine Department of Conservation) also have a number of interesting volunteer opportunities. They are looking for **conservation interns** with some course work in natural sciences, natural resource management or environmental studies; computer experience and familiarity with topographic maps. Tasks are varied and could include: management of rare species information; review of herbarium records, journal articles and field forms; support of field staff in obtaining landowner permissions to survey land; and research of existing conservation lands. These positions are appropriate to students seeking credit and to individuals simply seeking to make a meaningful contribution to the inventory and protection of Maine's natural resources. Please contact Sarah Holbrook at 287-8044.

Wish List

We are looking for the following items in good condition. Can you help?

- wheelbarrow;
- gas-powered weed trimmer;
- gas-powered chainsaw;
- bow saw;
- first aid kits;
- hand saw (for lumber);
- iron pry bar;
- hacksaw;
- coping saw;
- carousel slide trays.

If you would like to donate any of these items, please call Sue Downs at 729-5181.

Thanks.



NICK BECKER

Winter at Ayers Brook Preserve



KENT WOMMACK

It's Never Too Late

Thanks to well over 1,000 old and new Maine Chapter members, response to our 1997 Annual Appeal has been tremendous. Our goal is an ambitious \$500,000.

With nearly 75 percent of that amount in hand as of the end of December, we are especially pleased to report that a large number of supporters took their lead from our Board of Trustees (who more than doubled their contributions) and increased their gifts this year. Over 65 members were able to contribute \$1,000 or more.

All of this is wonderful news since the bottom line is not simply dollars raised, but, more importantly, land protected.

If you haven't had a chance to contribute yet, it is not too late - and we would be honored to count you as a part of our success. You can join in by mailing a check to our office in Brunswick (address on page 12). If you would like to charge your gift or make a gift of securities, please call 1-800-639-2921. *Thank you very much.*

Memorials

Arthur Davison
Billie Flanagan
Donna Gangloff
Ms. Jean R. Carleton
Doris Salem
Ms. Dorothy Rae Cote
Dr. Andrew Johnston
Ms. Deborah Bailly
Edith Baron Blumenthal
Charles and Sarah Sanford
Eugene O. Dauphin, Jr.
Lewis and Jean Frank
Henry Doane
Susan and Henry Keller
Irving Randall
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick P. Andrews
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Bushie
Ms. Betty E. Curley
Ms. Mary A. Fairley
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Where There's A Will

Will Brune joined the Maine Chapter staff in November as Assistant Director of Land Protection. Will's work will include expanding many of our existing preserves and working with partners to bring additional land into conservation ownership and protection throughout southern Maine.

Although new to Maine, Will is not new to the Conservancy. Previously, he worked for the Adirondack Chapter focusing on the acquisition of 17 miles of the upper Hudson River corridor. For the past three years, Will has been working as a land protection specialist for the Little Traverse Conservancy, a large land trust in northern Michigan.

"Conservation is as much about people as it is about land," says Will. "There are issues of trust and opportunities for friendship in my work. When a project is completed, I get to share with landowners a



Will Brune on the frozen Abagadasset River

deep sense of accomplishment and satisfaction in the legacy they are leaving for future generations."

Will has worked in commercial fisheries off Alaska, is a licensed flyfishing guide - and builds wooden boats. He holds a BA in Environmental Studies from St. Lawrence University.

Early Warning System

Circle your calendar. The Maine Chapter's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 12, 1998 at Cobscook Bay. This will be a great opportunity to make a full Downeast weekend of it since the area's annual Salmon Festival will be held the following day. With that much going on, it may not be too soon to think about reserving a room.

**1998 Annual Meeting
To Be Held At Cobscook Bay**

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