

Storehouse

Bruce Wood

damariscove lands in good hands island

before colonists arrived at Jamestown or Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, European fisherman were plying the waters around Damariscove Island, salting their catch on the granite shore and enduring stark winters along the north-east coast. Long before that, Abenaki paddled canoes across miles of open ocean to fish here and gather eggs. And even before that, eider ducks, black gullems and greater black-backed gulls nested along the rocky shore.

Damariscove Island is an often overlooked key to the nation's early history, and an irreplaceable piece of Maine's fragile coastal ecosystem. The 210-acre island five miles off the coast of Boothbay has been under Nature Conservancy stewardship since 1966.

Every summer, the Conservancy has posted naturalists on the island to steer visitors away from the northern end of the island where the state's largest colony of notoriously skittish common eiders nest. No visitor to the island ever need feel disappointed, however, since Damariscove offers so many other attractions.

This summer, naturalists will be back as usual, but they will report to the island's new owner and steward, the Boothbay Region Land Trust. A forever-wild conservation

easement on the island will be held by The Nature Conservancy but the island is in good hands.

"We have a very detailed process we follow when considering transfer of a preserve," says Nancy Sferra, Director of Science and Stewardship for the Conservancy in Maine. "Of course, the key question we ask is whether the property will be managed and cared for to meet our original ecological goals. In this case, we know the land trust will do that as well as bring new energy and resources."

That's clear when speaking with land trust leaders.

"Ownership of the island carries real responsibilities for preserving its critical nesting habitats," agrees land trust president Bill Logan. The land trust recently raised more than \$322,000 as a stewardship endowment. In addition,

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first thoughts

Last month I traveled to Brazil with a host of trustees from the Maine Chapter where we had the great fortune to visit several Nature Conservancy projects. Along with the ambitious conservation work being done there, what impressed me the most was the sheer diversity of extraordinary plants and animals in the country.

Consider this: On one hectare of Brazil's Atlantic Coastal Forest, researchers have cataloged 450 tree species. To put that into perspective, the most diverse hectare in Maine might include 12 species.

We were lucky enough to see this biodiversity on display. We watch thousands of parrots returning in pairs to roost on a coastal island; we caught a fleeting glimpse of black-and-gold lion-headed tamarins swiftly swinging through the canopy; and we listened to the cacophonous sounds of the chaco chachalacas - which gets my vote for best name.

A starkly contrasting image to this natural beauty is my vivid recollection of the 40-mile, bumper-to-bumper procession of container trucks waiting to off-load soybeans at a nearby port. Recently cleared forests are being converted at an unfathomable rate so that soybeans can be grown and sent to Europe and China as cattle feed.

Today, only seven percent of Brazil's native Atlantic Coastal Forest remains. But I have hope when I realize that just 150 years ago nearly as much of New England's forests were cleared. Yet today, with hard work and good planning, New England's forests are recovering and flourishing.

continued on back

Executive Director
Mike Tetreault



damariscove island

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The Nature Conservancy has transferred a \$100,000 endowment toward the island's continued preservation.

The Nature Conservancy invited the land trust to take ownership of Damariscove two years ago. Since then, the Conservancy helped familiarize the land trust with the island's wildlife management issues, public access policies and long-term financial responsibilities. In consultation with the Conservancy, the summer of 2004 marked the land trust's first season managing the island, hiring and overseeing the work of the seasonal caretakers.

Damariscove Island is uninhabited except for summer residents of the former and now privately owned Coast Guard lifesaving station (seen at right in the distance) and the summer caretakers who steward the island and provide information to visitors. As can be seen at right, it is used by local fishermen, primarily to store traps but occasionally as a safe harbor in a storm.

"We are committed to maintaining the buildings and trails on the island and there are plans in the works to repair the island's old stone pier to provide a better work-



Local fishermen will find a good partner in Boothbay Region Land Trust which plans on restoring portions of the stone pier they use to store gear. Eider ducks, like the one opposite, will find no change in the management of their nesting grounds nor in the protections they depend upon.

ing waterfront for local lobstermen," says Boothbay Region Land Trust Executive Director Dawn Kidd who also sees an educational component fitting well with the protection of the island's natural assets.

new ways of getting together

We're looking forward to seeing Conservancy members more often and in more places.

After several years of study and a targeted member survey, we've decided to follow our members' advice and add a number of field trips and other program offerings around the state. Accommodating these changes while balancing our expenditures will require changes in our annual meeting format. With a lecture, business meeting and a Year in Review report, it will still be a great opportunity to hear what we've accomplished and what we think lies ahead.

So, rather than a single annual meeting weekend event, we will be offering a series of field trips and open houses throughout the spring and summer.

We hope you like this revised structure

and that you'll join us on one or more of these adventures. Please also look for field trip and other Maine Chapter information online at www.nature.org/maine.



Ian McAllister

to register

We will be accepting reservations on a first come, first served basis starting on May 2, 2005. Call our membership line at (207) 729-5182, ext 221. Space is limited on most trips. Once Conservancy staff have reserved a spot with you over the telephone, you will receive written confirmation including directions to the registered activity and any other important information you'll need to know for the day.



Bill Silken, Jr.

Great Wass Island Preserve Hike: Coastal Ecology Saturday, May 21, 10:00am – 3:00pm Beals

Great Wass Island, just a short drive over the bridge from Jonesport, offers a fascinating variety of habitats from stands of sinewy Jack Pine to large open bogs and beautifully diverse stretches of Maine's rocky coast. Science and Stewardship Director Nancy Sferra will introduce you to the plants and animals that have adapted to life in this spectacular preserve. She will explain how fog and wind shape this unusual habitat. This is a moderately strenuous hike of approximately five miles, often over tree roots and across granite outcrops. This hike is limited to 20 people.

The Canada/U.S. Partnership and Great Bear Rainforest

Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 – 8:00pm at Bowdoin College, Brunswick

Canada retains what most of North America has lost: large, fully functioning landscapes, from lush rainforests to Arctic tundra to vast northern plains. Within these landscapes, grizzly and polar bears still prowl, billions of breeding birds nest each summer and herds of caribou migrate in a spectacle rivaling the Serengeti. Still, threats abound. The Conservancy's Canada/U.S. Partnership Program began as an attempt to focus on protecting essential biodiversity spanning the U.S./Canadian border. Now our sights have broadened to include larger landscapes in the Boreal Forest and the Great Bear Rainforest. Join Tony Grundhauser, Director of the Canada Conservation Partnership, and Phil Hoose, Senior Conservation Planner to learn about these two groundbreaking projects.

Lands in Good Hands

We take a lot of pride in land transfers. That may seem surprising to some, but the Conservancy believes its mission - to protect the plants and animals that represent the diversity of life on earth - is for sharing.

Many of the holdings we transfer are those we never intended to hold, parcels on which we work with partners like the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Although we may take title temporarily, we believe from the start the wildlife agency would be the best steward. That's been true for a dozen and a half acquisitions in the Kennebec Estuary alone.

But we take even more pride in transfers such as Damariscove Island, because they demonstrate the growth and maturity of our land trust partners. Their capacity to assume stewardship is something we examine very closely. In recent years, such groups as Coastal Mountains Land Trust, Quoddy Regional Land Trust, the Town of Sebago, and Island Heritage Trust have met our tests. Usually the deed comes with key restrictions in place and a reverter clause should the recipient be unable to meet those requirements at any time.

When a holding has been donated to the Conservancy, we always seek approval. In the case of Damariscove, we spoke with the donors' son Ethan Parker in Las Vegas, and in addition to receiving his go-ahead, learned about his life on the island. For another example of a successful transfer, see page six.



The view of Damariscove Island harbor out the window of the tiny Natural History Museum.

Bruce Kidman

Damariscove is part of an archipelago the Boothbay Region Land Trust has been helping to protect. Other island properties owned and protected by the land trust include half of the 60-acre Indiantown Island (with a conservation easement on the other half), Lower Mark Island, Miles Island and the northern half of Spectacle Island. The land trust in partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Damariscotta River Association was also instrumental in permanent protection of Outer White Island.

In addition to its historic significance, Damariscove Island harbors the largest breeding colony of common eiders in the state. Each spring more than 1,500 pairs of eiders return to nest on the island's north end. For the birds' protection, that portion of the island is closed to visitors during their breeding season - April through August. The southern portion of the island is open to the public for a variety of low-impact uses, including hiking and picnicking.



Damariscove Island was donated to The Nature Conservancy by Mr. and Mrs. K.L. Parker in 1966, who wanted it to be protected and remain in its natural state for future generations.

Saco Heath Hike

Wednesday, July 20, 10:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00 – 3:00pm
(Two tours with 20 people per tour.) Saco

Truly one of Maine's unique natural ecosystems, the Saco Heath Preserve is the only boreal bog that supports Atlantic white cedar, a tree at the northern limit of its range in Maine. Over the course of several thousand years, two adjacent pools filled with peat and eventually grew together as a raised coalesced bog. Join our Director of Conservation Programs, Barbara Vickery, and botanist, Mike Auger, on an easy walk along a woodland trail to the heath where a boardwalk will lead you through a variety of peatland communities. Approximately 2.5 miles long, this is an easy walk along a woodland trail and boardwalk. Family friendly! (Please indicate which time slot you prefer when calling to register for this field trip.)



Bruce Kidman

Annual Business Meeting

Thursday, August 4, 4:00pm – 6:30pm
Maple Hill Farm, Hallowell.

Join us to hear the secretary's and treasurer's reports, to elect new trustees and to consider changes to current by-laws. Our Maine Chapter Executive Director, Mike Tetreault, will provide an annual review of Chapter activities and a look at what's to come. Keynote speaker to be announced. Open to Nature Conservancy members only.

Northern Blazing Star at Kennebunk Plains

Thursday, August 25, 9:00am – 11:00am and 12:00pm – 2:00pm. (Two tours with 25 people per tour.) Kennebunk

In late August and early September more than a hundred thousand stalks of Northern Blazing Star (*Liatris scariosa*) bloom at Kennebunk Plains. That's more stalks of this globally endangered purple flower than those that bloom everywhere else in the world combined! It is also home to a variety of grassland birds and even an endangered reptile, the northern black racer snake. Join Southern Maine Project Manager, Parker Schuerman, as we explore this spectacular flora and fauna on an approximately 3.5-mile family friendly walk. (Please indicate which time slot you prefer when calling to register for this field trip.)

see you there!

About Conservancy

Field Trips and Open Houses

Trips are held rain or shine – so please dress appropriately. Bring a beverage, plenty of water and lunch or snacks depending on the time of the day. Also bring binoculars, camera, field guides, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc., to make your day more enjoyable. Field trips will leave sharply at times indicated. No restroom facilities will be available. A member of the Maine Chapter staff will also accompany each trip. Finally, because there are often waiting lists on these trips, please notify us immediately if you will be unable to attend a trip for which you have registered.

call in the lumbermen



After nearly 30 years under the care of The Nature Conservancy, Seboeis River Gorge Preserve will have a new owner. The Patten Lumberman's Museum has accepted ownership of the 714-acre Preserve in Townships T5R7 and T6R7. Though deed restrictions will ensure the property continues to be

maintained as a natural area, opportunities for recreational and educational use will continue.

Seboeis River Gorge is an 8-mile long, 400-foot wide strip of land along both sides of the Seboeis River. The preserve was donated to the Conservancy by J.M. Huber Corporation in 1976. The two organizations have been worked for

the past two years to bring this idea to fruition.

While transfers of natural areas to local organizations have occurred throughout the Conservancy's history in Maine, this is the first time one has been transferred to a museum. The Patten Lumbermen's Museum's Board of Directors voted unanimously in August to accept the gift along with a stewardship endowment to assist with management costs. The Museum, which holds other properties in the Patten area, including a managed forest and the actual museum grounds, sees this acquisition as an extension of its mission to promote the history of lumbering in Maine. The Seboeis River was used extensively to float logs from the upper valley of the East Branch of the Penobscot River to mills downstream.

Patten Lumberman's Museum is located just west of Patten on the Shin Pond Road. Over the years, the museum has developed a number of logging exhibits and dioramas detailing the history of logging in Maine. Collections are housed in nine buildings, one a log structure made with hewn timber salvaged from two log houses built about 1840.

diversity is the key to a healthy planet ...

Biological diversity results in a healthier, more productive, more resilient planet. Diversity may do the same for your portfolio. Diversification generally results in a portfolio that is less susceptible to market volatility and, moreover, produces a greater return over time.

Unfortunately, many people have portfolios that contain only a few individual securities: for example, the stock of the company they work for, or a handful of "blue chips" inherited from a relative. Stocks in such a portfolio may be paying a dividend of only one or two percent. These folks probably know they should diversify their portfolios - but who wants to pay the capital gains tax due on the sale of securities that have appreciated significantly in value since originally acquired?



Tim Giddens

stewardship is forever - but you can play a part now

Volunteer monitors help our science and stewardship team care for preserves and make sure other protected lands are managed appropriately. If you'd be interested in helping at any of these sites, please call Nancy Sferra at 207-729-5181 x212 or email at nsferra@tnc.org.

Preserves

*(lands owned and managed by
The Nature Conservancy)*
Great Duck Island (Frenchboro)
Great Wass Island (Beals)
Alley Island (Trenton)
Mark Island (W. Penobscot Bay)
Placentia Island (Frenchboro)
Trout Mountain (T2 R9 WELS)

Falls Island (Trescott)
Halifax Island (Jonesport)
Little Eaton Island (Deer Isle)
Mt Abraham (Salem)
Outer Scott Island (Deer Isle)
Welch's Island (Sorrento)
Lane's Island (Vinalhaven)

Transfers

*(lands once owned by the Conservancy
but now transferred to conservation partners)*
Sebois River (T5 R7, T6 R7)
Forbes Pond (Gouldsboro)
Helliwell Preserve (Beals)

Easements and

Restricted Tradelands

*(lands on which management restrictions
have been placed)*
Coombs Neck (Vinalhaven)
Deep Cove Forest (Cooper)
Dyer Farm (New Sharon)

... and a healthy portfolio

A Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT) with The Nature Conservancy may be the answer. Donors contribute one or more securities to the Trust, qualifying for a charitable deduction based on their full fair market value. The Trust then sells the securities, paying no capital gains tax, and reinvests the full proceeds in a broadly diversified and professionally managed portfolio.

The Trust then pays the donor income for life, generally at a significantly higher payout rate than the dividend yield on stocks or the current interest yield on bonds. (Charitable Remainder Trusts can also be established to provide lifetime income for a donor's spouse, parents, adult children and combinations thereof.) Unitrusts provide variable, potentially growing income; Annuity Trusts provide fixed income.

At the end of the donor's life, the assets remaining in the Trust come to The Nature Conservancy to protect the diversity of Life on Earth, a truly living legacy.

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That kind of recovery does not just happen on its own.

There is a special recipe for success. The critical ingredients are strong partnerships, supportive public policies and funding, strong conservation leadership and the right balance between environmentally-sustainable and economically-viable solutions. Add to that mix a sprinkle of creativity and dash of determination and success will be within our reach.

Following this lead our colleagues in Brazil secured nearly \$20 million in carbon sequestration funding to purchase and restore tens of thousands of acres of Atlantic Coastal Forest. These properties are now managed by a Nature Conservancy partner.

Sound like a familiar strategy?

Here in Maine, we used tax-credits, refinanced debt, raised a blend of private and public funding, and added a healthy dash of moxie to complete the Katahdin Forest project. And as you will read in this issue, we too are entrusting our conservation obligations to worthy partners.

After my first seven months on the job, the next big conservation challenges are coming into focus, and we are busily preparing the ingredients.



Cathy Kerkan

Local farmer - Bahia, Brazil

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1 maine legacy

Thanks for your support!



Maine Chapter

The Nature Conservancy

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Putting The Nature Conservancy in your Will?

The Nature Conservancy should be named as: *"The Nature Conservancy, a nonprofit corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia, with a principal business address of 4245 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22203."* If you'd like the bequest to be used in Maine, please add this language: *"...to be used to further the purposes of The Nature Conservancy in the state of Maine."*